



NEWSLETTER

LEISURE EDUCATION

Mar/Apr 2026



FOR EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE

ENRICHING LIVES
THROUGH
INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION,
RECREATION, AND
HEALTHY LIVING
OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Special Events
- Night Activities
- Special Olympics
- 2026 Membership Information
- Monthly Calendars
- Registration Form
- LEEP Legends Managers
- LEEP Apparel Order Form

SPECIAL events

Breakfast at NaKato

Join LEEP for a fun community outing breakfast at NaKato in North Mankato! Participants will enjoy a delicious breakfast while spending time with friends in a relaxed and social setting. This is a great opportunity to practice community skills, enjoy good food, and start the day with laughter and connection. Estimated amount to bring for food and drink is \$20.

Saturday, March 7 | Meet at NaKato
9:00 am - 10:30 am | Limit: 15



Bowling & a Bite at the Wow!Zone

Get ready for a fun time with LEEP bowling and having a meal at the Wow!Zone. Participants will enjoy 2 games of bowling with friends, then refuel with a tasty snack or meal. This exciting outing is perfect for socializing, friendly competition, and having a blast in a welcoming, energetic environment. Participants will pay for their lunch and drink. Estimated amount to bring for food and drink is \$25.

Sunday, March 15 | Meet at Wow! Zone
11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Limit: 10



Games & Pizza with Warrior Red

Get ready for a night of fun and games with LEEP and our new friends in Winnebago, MN! Participants will enjoy playing cornhole, cards, and board games with friends, plus a delicious pizza dinner to keep everyone fueled. LEEP will provide transportation for those who register, making it easy to join the fun. Don't miss this evening of games, laughs, and great company!

*If you require 1-on-1 staff support during the activity you will need to drive separately.

Wednesday, March 18; Wednesday April 15
Meet at LEEP | 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm | Limit: 8

Swimming with LEEP

Join LEEP for a fun and refreshing evening at the YMCA pool! Participants will enjoy open swim time in a safe and supportive environment, perfect for practicing swimming skills, building confidence in the water, and simply having fun with friends.

Sunday, March 22
Meet at Mankato Family YMCA
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Limit: 10



Two-Night Pottery Workshop

Get creative with LEEP at our two-night pottery workshop! On the first night, participants will shape and create their own pottery pieces, exploring different techniques and letting their imagination shine. On the second night, everyone will return to paint and decorate their creations, bringing their pottery to life with color and personal flair. Join us for this hands-on, artistic experience and take home your very own unique masterpiece! **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND BOTH NIGHTS!!**

Tuesday, March 24; Tuesday, April 21
Meet at Lincoln Community Center
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 8



Dinner at Pub 500

Join LEEP for a fun evening out at Pub 500! Participants will enjoy a delicious dinner in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere while spending time with friends. This is a great chance to socialize, try tasty food, and enjoy a night out in the community with your LEEP friends. Estimated amount to bring for food and drink is \$25.

Wednesday, March 25 | Meet at Pub 500
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | Limit: 14



Dinner at Pagliai's Pizza

Join LEEP for a fun evening out at Pagliai's Pizza! Participants will enjoy a delicious pizza dinner while spending time with friends in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to socialize, enjoy tasty food, and have a fun night out with your LEEP community. Estimated amount to bring for food and drink is \$25.

Tuesday, April 28 | Meet at Pagliai's Pizza
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm | Limit: 14



Breakfast at Weggy's

Start your day with friends at LEEP Breakfast at Weggy's! Participants will enjoy a delicious breakfast in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere while socializing and spending time with friends. It's a perfect way to connect with your LEEP community and enjoy a tasty meal together. Estimated amount to bring for food and drink is \$20.

Saturday, April 4 | Meet at Weggy's on Campus
9:00 am – 10:30 am | Limit: 20

Night Activities

Birthday Bingo

Join us for birthday bingo! As usual, there will be great prizes and lots of friendly competition. **Be sure to tell us when you register if your birthday is during the month so we can celebrate with you!**

Tuesday, March 3; Tuesday, April 7 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 30



National Dr. Seuss Day

Celebrate National Dr. Seuss Day with a fun and whimsical event full of creativity and laughter! Participants will enjoy Dr. Seuss-inspired activities, books, movie and a snack. Come dressed as your favorite Dr. Seuss character or wear your silliest hat, and get ready for a day that's as fun and fantastic as a story straight out of Whoville!

Thursday, March 5 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 25



Night Activities

Walking Club



Easy low-impact walking is a great way to get healthier. Plus, you can chat with all your LEEP friends while walking. Dress for the weather and wear shoes that you can walk in for a long time. We will meet by A & W in the mall. Questions about weather on the day of? Call 507-387-5122 and PRESS 3.

Tuesday, March 10; Tuesday, April 14 | River Hills Mall
5:00 pm – 5:45 pm | Limit: 20

Spring Craft Night | Easter Craft Night

Spring is in the air, and LEEP is hosting a fun and relaxing themed craft nights! Participants will have the chance to get creative with seasonal crafts inspired by flowers, bright colors, and new beginnings.

Thursday, March 12; Tuesday, March 31 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20

St. Patrick's Day Cookie Decorating

Get ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a fun and festive LEEP Cookie Decorating Event! Decorate delicious cookies with your friends using themed frosting and toppings, enjoy eating two cookies during the event, and take two cookies home to share (or keep!). Be sure to sign up right away for this popular activity—it fills up quickly!



Tuesday, March 17 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20

Youth Night

Introducing LEEP Youth Night, a brand-new program designed just for teens! Youth ages 12 to 19 are invited to join us for an exciting evening filled with games, activities, social time, and plenty of fun. Each Youth Night will feature a mix of engaging group activities, creative projects, and opportunities to make new friends in a positive, welcoming environment.

ALL ARE WELCOME! REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
LEEP MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED!

Thursday, March 19; Thursday, April 16 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20

Popcorn & A Show



Enjoy a relaxing night out with friends at LEEP! We'll gather around the big screen and sound bar for a fun show, complete with hot, buttery popcorn. Don't forget to bring your own closable water bottle and get ready for a cozy evening together!

Thursday, March 26; Thursday April 23 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm | Limit: 30

Karaoke Night



Get ready to take the stage at LEEP karaoke night! This exciting evening is all about music, laughter, and celebrating your inner star. Participants can choose from a wide selection of songs and sing a solo, a duet with a friend, or cheer on fellow performers as they show off their musical talents.

Thursday, April 2 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20



Coloring Book Night

Come express your creative side, relax, and enjoy time with LEEP friends as you color!

Thursday, April 9 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20



May Day Basket Craft Night

Celebrate spring with LEEP by making May Day baskets! Participants will have fun creating May Day baskets using colorful supplies, flowers, and festive decorations to share with Mankato Youth Place kids. NEW this year—take one home with you! This hands-on activity is a great way to get creative and enjoy the change of seasons!

Thursday, April 30 | LEEP
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm | Limit: 20



Please call the LEEP office at 507-387-5122 if you are interested in participating in any of the sports below!

THERE ARE NO 2026 STATE COMPETITIONS FOR THESE SPORTS

DUE TO MINNEAPOLIS HOSTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONALS THIS SUMMER!!

BASKETBALL (HALF-COURT AND FULL-COURT UNIFIED)

Get ready to hit the court! Join us for another exciting season of Special Olympics basketball. Athletes will develop their skills, practice teamwork, and build confidence while preparing for upcoming competitions. Whether you're working on passing, shooting, or defensive skills, this program is the perfect place to grow and have fun. Half-court is 3-on-3 and full-court is 5-on-5 with unified players. Season runs Mondays, March 9 - June 1. Practice times are Mondays at 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. at LEEP. **Basketball regionals are on Saturday, April 18 at Gustavus Adolphus College (times TBD).**



SWIMMING

Dive into a great season of Special Olympics swimming with LEEP! Athletes will work on developing their strokes, building endurance, and strengthening overall swimming skills in a supportive and fun environment. Whether you're just learning or training to compete, this program offers something for swimmers of all levels. Season runs Tuesdays, March 3 - April 28. Practices are at 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Mankato East High School pool. **Swimming regionals are on Sunday, April 12 at Rochester Recreation Center (times TBD).**

TRACK & FIELD

Get ready to run, jump, and throw with LEEP and Special Olympics track & field! This is a fun and inclusive opportunity to build skills, stay active, and be part of a supportive team while training and competing alongside your peers. Whether you're new to track and field or have participated before, all ability levels are welcome. Sign up today and join us for a great season of movement, teamwork, and fun! Season is Wednesdays, April 8 - May 27. Practices will be on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Mankato East High School's track. **Track & field regionals are on Saturday, May 16 at Janesville/Waldorf/Pemberton School District (times TBD).**

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

Join us for LEEP's NEW PROGRAM

YOUTH

**MARCH 19TH &
APRIL 16TH
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

**AT LEEP
1315 STADIUM ROAD**

NO LEEP MEMBERSHIP
REQUIRED!

NIGHT

Youth ages 12 to 19 are invited to join us for an exciting evening filled with games, activities, social time, and plenty of fun! Each Youth Night will feature a mix of engaging group activities, creative projects, and opportunities to make new friends in a positive, welcoming environment.

Don't miss out, registration required!
Call (507-387-5122) or Email (Info@mankatoleep.org)



LEEP's NEW \$20 Monthly Membership

LEEP is excited to introduce its new **\$20 monthly membership**, created to make participation in LEEP programs/sports easier, more affordable, and more accessible for everyone. For just \$20 per month, participants will have access to nearly all LEEP activities—including most social events, recreation programs, and Special Olympics participation. This new structure replaces individual event fees and provides members with consistent, predictable monthly pricing. Please remember that **REGISTRATION FOR ALL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/PROGRAMS/SPORTS IS STILL REQUIRED! ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED IF PARTICIPANTS ARE REGISTERED.**

By simplifying the payment process, LEEP hopes to welcome more participants into the LEEP community while helping current members manage their monthly budgets with ease. This model reduces financial barriers, encourages greater involvement, and ensures that everyone has the opportunity to stay active, connected, and engaged.

Special Olympics

LEEP membership is required for participation in SO. In addition, participation in Special Olympics will now be a flat \$50 per athlete per calendar year - no matter how many sports the athlete participates in! This fee will be charged when the athlete registers for their first sport of the year. If an individual only wants to participate in one sport and no other LEEP activities/events/sports, the cost is \$200 (with no monthly membership).

LEEP Elegance

Pricing for LEEP Elegance will be announced at a later date and shared in the LEEP newsletter. Member tickets will cost less than non-member tickets.

Activity/Event/Program Access

LEEP Members: Free admission to all night activities, most special events, and most LEEP dances such as Valentine's Day, Boo Bash, etc.

Scholarships: Available for memberships and activities/events/programs/sports with additional costs. Forms can be found online or in the LEEP office.

Billing & ACH Information

To be more efficient, LEEP is transitioning away from regular credit/debit card, cash, and check payments. To make budgeting easier, memberships will be processed through ACH on the 10th of each month (quarterly and annual ACH payment options also exist).

- Each membership includes **one free ACH transaction per calendar year** (starting a new membership counts as the free transaction).
- Additional ACH changes will incur a **\$50 fee per transaction**.
- To end ACH payments, members must notify LEEP **in writing at least 30 days before the next scheduled withdrawal**.
- Scholarships will be available for monthly memberships and other events/activities that have additional costs (forms are available online or in the LEEP office).

**All forms—including membership, ACH, and scholarship—are available at:
www.mankatoleep.org/membership and at the LEEP office**

NEW LEEP APPAREL

Visit leep26.itemorder.com
to order your LEEP Swag

Order online in 4 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go to leep26.itemorder.com
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card
4. Wait excitedly to receive your LEEP gear shipping out by April 13th.



Scan Me!

Questions?
Kathryn Thomas
(507)387-1690
kathryn@bstark.com



 **BStark & Co.**



Comfort Colors
Long Sleeve Tee
\$34.00
6 Colors



Comfort Colors
Long Sleeve Tee
\$38.00
3 Colors



Port & Co Core Fleece
1/4-Zip Pullover Sweatshirt
\$34.00
2 Colors



Sport-Tek Long Sleeve
Ultimate Performance
\$31.00
5 Colors



BELLA+CANVAS
Fleece Full-Zip Hoodie
\$44.00
7 Colors



BELLA+CANVAS
Fleece Full-Zip Hoodie
\$48.00
7 Colors



Port & Co Core Fleece
Hooded Sweatshirt
\$33.00
7 Colors



Port & Co Core Fleece
Hooded Sweatshirt
\$37.00
7 Colors



Mercer+Mettle Everyday
Performance Polo
\$34.00
9 Colors



Sport-Tek Dri-Mesh
Pro Polo
\$40.00
10 Colors



BELLA+CANVAS Heather
CVC Short Sleeve Tee
\$23.00
6 Colors



BELLA+CANVAS Heather
CVC Short Sleeve Tee
\$27.00
4 Colors



Sport-Tek Wind Pant
\$44.00
3 Colors



Port Authority Low-Profile
Snapback Trucker Cap
\$20.00
2 Colors

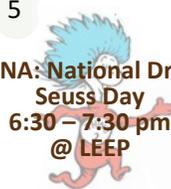


Port & Co Core Fleece
Sweatshirt Blanket
50" x 60"
\$26.00
4 Colors



Port & Co Oversized
Fleece Sweatshirt Blanket
65" x 85"
\$37.00
9 Colors

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 SO: Power Lifting Wrap Party 3:00 - 4:00 pm @ YMCA	3 NA: Birthday Bingo 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ LEEP SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	4	5  NA: National Dr. Seuss Day 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ LEEP	6	7 SE: Breakfast at NaKato 9:00 - 10:30 am @ NaKato
8	9 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	10 NA: Walking Club 5:00 - 5:45 pm @ River Hills Mall (Near A&W) SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	11	12 NA: Spring Craft Night 6:30-7:30 p.m @ LEEP	13	14
15  SE: Bowling and a Bite 11:00 am - 1:30 pm @ WOW!Zone	16 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	17 NA: St. Patrick's Day Cookie Decorating 6:30-7:30 p.m @ LEEP SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	18 SE: Games & Pizza w/ Warrior Red 5:00 - 8:00 pm Meet @ LEEP	19 NA: Youth Night 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ LEEP	20	21
22 SE: Swimming with LEEP 1:00 - 3:00 pm @ Mankato Family YMCA	23 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	24 SE: Pottery Workshop (Night One) 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ Lincoln Community Center SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	25  SE: Dinner Out 5:30 - 7:00 pm @ Pub 500	26 NA: Popcorn & A Show 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ LEEP	27	28
29	30 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	31 NA: Easter Craft Night 6:30 - 8:30 pm @ LEEP SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School				

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:

LEEP - 1315 Stadium Rd, Mankato
Mankato East High School - 2600 Hoffman Rd, Mankato
Mankato Family YMCA - 1401 S. Riverfront Dr, Mankato
NaKato - 253 Belgrade Ave, North Mankato
Pub 500 - 500 S. Front St, Mankato
River Hills Mall - 1850 Adams St, Mankato
Wow!Zone - 2030 Adams St, Mankato



OFFICE PHONE:
507-387-5122



EMAIL:
INFO@MANKATOLEEP.ORG

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 NA: Karaoke 6:30 – 7:30 pm @ LEEP	3	4 SE: Breakfast at Weggy's 9:00 - 10:30 am @ Weggy's
5 	6 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	7 NA: Birthday Bingo 6:30 – 7:30 pm @ LEEP SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	8 SO: Track & Field 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	9 NA: Coloring Book Night 6:30 – 7:30 pm @ LEEP	10	11
12 SO: Swimming Regional Tournament Time TBD @ Rochester Rec Center	13 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	14 NA: Walking Club 5:00 – 5:45 pm @ River Hills Mall (Near A&W) SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	15 SE: Games & Pizza w/ Warrior Red 5:00 - 8:00 pm Meet @ LEEP SO: Track & Field 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	16 NA: Youth Night 6:30 – 7:30 pm @ LEEP	17	18 SO: Basketball Regional Tournament Time TBD @ Gustavus Adolphus College
19	20 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	21 SE: Pottery Workshop (Night Two) 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ Lincoln Community Center SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	22 SO: Track & Field 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	23 NA: Popcorn & A Show 6:30 – 8:00 pm @ LEEP	24	25
26	27 SO: Basketball 6:30 - 7:45 pm @ LEEP	28 SE: Dinner Out at Pagliai's Pizza 5:30 - 7:00 pm @ Pagliai's Pizza SO: Swimming 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	29 SO: Track & Field 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ East High School	30 NA: May Day Baskets 6:30 – 7:30 pm @ LEEP		

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:

LEEP - 1315 Stadium Rd, Mankato
Gustavus Adolphus College - 800 W College Ave, St Peter
Lincoln Community Center - 110 Fulton St, Mankato
Mankato East High School - 2600 Hoffman Rd, Mankato
Pagliai's Pizza - 524 S Front St, Mankato
River Hills Mall - 1850 Adams St, Mankato
Rochester Rec Center - 21 Elton Hills Dr NW, Rochester
Weggy's - 1600 Warren St, Mankato



OFFICE PHONE:
507-387-5122



EMAIL:
INFO@MANKATOLEEP.ORG

March

X	CODE	DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	
NIGHT ACTIVITIES				
	NA	3/3	Birthday Bingo	
	NA	3/5	National Dr. Seuss Day!	
	NA	3/10	Walking Club	
	NA	3/12	Spring Craft Night	
	NA	3/17	St. Patrick's Day Cookie Decorating	
	NA	3/19	Youth Night	
	NA	3/26	Popcorn and A Show	
	NA	3/31	Easter Craft Night	
SPECIAL EVENTS				
	SE	3/7	Breakfast at NaKato	
	SE	3/15	Bowling & a Bite @ WowZone!	
	SE	3/18	Games & Pizza w/ Warrior Red	
	SE	3/22	Swimming with LEEP	
	SE	3/24	Pottery Workshop Night 1	
	SE	3/25	Dinner out at Pub 500	
X	CODE	DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	FEE
SPECIAL OLYMPICS				
	SO	Mondays	Basketball	\$50
	SO	Tuesdays	Swimming	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:				
2026 FORMS				
2026 Membership Form				
2026 ACH Form				
2026 Scholarship Form (if applicable)				

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

If you have any questions about the new membership system, registrations, Special Olympics, or anything else, please call the LEEP office (507-387-5122) or email info@mankatoleep.org and we would be happy to talk to you!

To make sure you're signed up, please call the LEEP office (507-387-5122) or email info@mankatoleep.org and we will confirm your registration.

April

X	CODE	DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	
NIGHT ACTIVITIES				
	NA	4/2	Karaoke	
	NA	4/7	Birthday Bingo	
	NA	4/9	Coloring Book Night	
	NA	4/14	Walking Club	
	NA	4/16	Youth Night	
	NA	4/23	Popcorn & A Show	
	NA	4/30	May Day Baskets	
SPECIAL EVENTS				
	SE	4/4	Breakfast at Weggy's	
	SE	4/15	Games & Pizza w/ Warrior Red	
	SE	4/21	Pottery Workshop Night 2	
	SE	4/28	Dinner out at Pagliai's Pizza	
X	CODE	DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	FEE
Special Olympics				
	SO	Mondays 3/9 - 6/1	Basketball	\$50
	SO	Tuesdays 3/3 - 4/28	Swimming	
	SO	Wednesday 4/8 - 5/27	Track & Field	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:				
2026 FORMS				
2026 Membership Form				
2026 ACH Form				
2026 Scholarship Form (if applicable)				

SEEKING 2 TEAM MANAGERS FOR

LEEP Legends 2026

Interested? Call the LEEP office. We will do a drawing among those interested!

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

LEISURE EDUCATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE
1315 Stadium Rd, Ste. 101
MANKATO, MN 56001

**Non-profit
US Postage
PAID
Mankato, MN
56001
PERMIT #300**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH INCLUSIVE RECREATION,
SPORTING, AND HEALTHY LIVING OPPORTUNITIES.

PROUD PARTNER OF:



Greater Mankato Area
United Way

*This newsletter is also available
on the LEEP website at
www.mankatoleep.org*

BECOME A 2026 leep MEMBER **programming with no limits**

LEEP provides leisure education, recreation, and healthy living opportunities for people with different abilities. The monthly membership fee is \$20. As a LEEP member, an individual will have access to most programs offered by LEEP including night activities, special events, and Special Olympics. Current LEEP members were sent a mailing with all 2026 forms. These forms—including membership, ACH, and scholarship—are also available online or in the LEEP office. All forms may be returned to the LEEP office at 1315 Stadium Rd Ste 101, Mankato, 56001; returned in person; or emailed to info@mankatoleep.org.

JOIN LEEP TODAY!

**COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP & ACH FORMS AND RECEIVE MEMBER BENEFITS!
MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND MOST LEEP EVENTS IN 2026!**

