

Soren I. Bjornstad  
601 Garfield Ave.  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Phone: (219) 462-3301  
Email: [soren.bjornstad@gmail.com](mailto:soren.bjornstad@gmail.com)

## Education

Valparaiso High School (Valparaiso, IN) Class of 2013  
**Diploma** (expected): Core 40 Academic Honors  
**GPA**: 4.26 (as of September 2013)  
**SAT composite**: 2310

## Future Plans

**College**: St. Olaf College (MN) or Luther College (IA)

**Likely Major**: Computer Science

I would eventually like to have a job that uses my computer expertise, whether in programming, support, design, administration, or something else entirely.

## Employment

- I take care of people's cats while they are on vacation, sometimes for as long as a week or two at a time.
- I often repair computers or give people training or advice on computers.
- On a more formal basis, I do online technical support for a free and open-source program called Anki (a tool for memorizing information). The job primarily consists of daily work answering emails and forum posts and dealing with bug reports and support requests on the bugtracker. My employer is Damien Elmes ([resolve@ichi2.net](mailto:resolve@ichi2.net)).

## Activities

- **Cross-Country**: In 6th and 7th grade I was on the middle school cross-country team.
- **Key Club**: In 9th and 10th grade I was a member of the VHS Key Club.
- **Theater**: I have done sound and other technical work for two plays produced at my church, one in 2008 and the other in 2010.
- **Youth Group**: I am a member of my church's youth group, which meets every Sunday as well as participating in larger activities such as week-long mission trips every summer.
- **The Technical Geekery**: I have a computer-related website called "The Technical Geekery" (<http://www.thetechnicalgeekery.com>) which provides simple, everyday tips for using computers and information about them. I have been writing these tips in some form since sixth grade. I write a new article for it every week.
- **Independent Computer Study**: I have studied basic computer programming on my own and through a summer camp my sixth grade year. I also keep up with computer technology, researching whatever I need to know to do things like set up and administer my own web server or automate the emailing of reports.
- **Orchestra and Violin**: I play the violin in my high school Chamber Orchestra and take private lessons. I also play for the worship service at my church every week (improvisation on hymns, accompanying the choir, and occasional prelude/similar solo pieces). In the summer of 2012, I

attended the month-long Lutheran Summer Music camp.

- **Voice:** I am a member of my church choir. In sixth grade I performed as the soloist boy Jesus in Valparaiso University's premiere production of *The Innocents*, an oratorio written by two faculty members. I was also a member of the choir and worked on solo repertoire at Lutheran Summer Music.
- **Science Olympiad:** From 6th to 9th grade I competed in middle school Science Olympiad, where our team won first place at every regional competition and fourth or fifth at every state. In 10th and 11th grade I opted not to join the high school division but instead to coach several events for my former team, which I plan to do again this year.
- **Church Council:** I am a voting member on my church council, an assembly which meets monthly and deals with the day-to-day operations of the church. I am the chair of the Computer Committee, which does things such as upgrading computers, installing, repairing, and managing the wireless network, and maintaining the website.

### **Awards / Honors**

- Gold Rating at 3 State Solo & Ensemble Competitions (violin)
- Lutheran Summer Music Merit Scholarship Recipient
- 2010 Northwest Indiana Symphony Young People's Competition winner
- Midwest Academic Talent Search Recognition Award recipient
- National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist (Finalists not yet selected)