

HIDDEN VALLEY HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Newsletter: March, 2012

Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp was established in 1956, for the use of local Girl Scouts, through funds provided by the Bromelsick Estate. It is managed by The Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, inc., whose membership is comprised of all adult registered Girl Scouts in Douglas County.

Located at 3420 W. Bob Billings Pkwy, the 40 acres of urban wilderness offers troops a chance to explore nature up close, walk streams, get muddy, develop outdoor skills, and have adventures with unique and lasting memories that can only found in the out-of-doors.

Reservations are available for meetings, hikes, cookouts, ceremonies, service projects, overnights and more.

WHAT'S NEW AT HIDDEN VALLEY?

More composting toilets have arrived! The "Dogshed" of Dogwood Forest now sports three brand new composting toilets for your pleasure! Thanks to a cost-share between the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee (LHVC) and The Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV), the solar-operated, vented toilets were installed last summer, and walls were built to separate the bathroom from the rest of the storage shed, with access through the people door on the north side. The key to the bathroom can be found in the cabin kitchen drawer right of the sink, color-coded green (both a single key and attached to the yurt key).

Lisa Parnell's Junior troop #3329 adopted the finishing details of the project for their Bronze Award. They designed and installed tarp "stall walls" and shower curtain "doors", and added toilet paper holders and trash receptacles. They also began construction of the leachate system, which the camp manager finished off. They learned how the special toilets function and wrote up usage instructions. Co-leader Jeanette Walther led the girls in this worthy project. During the November 13 workday, Jeannette offered tours and instructions of the new bathroom to attending troops, and all toilets were initiated! The girls in the project were: Sydney Dilley, Allison Day and Claire Walther, with several other girls in the troop assisting. Thank you Troop #3329 for your help!

As with all composting toilets, daily usage must be limited, or they will become overloaded and not work properly. These toilets are rated for "vacation use" for 6-8 people. Since there are three, this is perfect for an average troop of 12-18 girls and their leaders and assistants during an overnight or weekend of use. However, it is of utmost importance that each toilet is used equally. It is recommended that after going over the special use instructions with the girls, to number off each user in three's, and use only the associated numbered toilet.



These toilets also have unique use, maintenance, and cleaning requirements. The instructions are posted clearly on the back wall, above the supplies. Only single-ply toilet paper is to be used, found in the red & white cooler, and a special cleaner. Please help us keep these toilets working properly by carefully following the instruction (that means that as fun as it is, *the turn crank is ONLY to be turned at the end of a full day of use!*)

New to Hidden Valley? Contact the camp manager, Durand Reiber for a private camp-wide tour! 785-865-4657 or durandi@sunflower.com

The Lawrence Hidden Valley Board of Directors

held their annual elections in November, and appointed the following officers and

committee chairs: Jeff Bandle: Chair; Cheri Drake: Vice Chair and Policies & Procedures Chair; Judy Inverarity: Treasurer; Traci Fullerton: Secretary;

Mary Beth Petr: Site Committee and Challenge Course Chair; Kyra Flummerfelt: Equipment & Reservations, Bromelsick Chair and Nominating Chair; Lucy McAllister: Archives Chair; Debra Burns: Finance Chair; Jordana Arnold; Public Relations Chair; Margaret Verhage: Scholarship Chair; and Ann Marie Boncella. There is one vacancy on the board; please contact Kyra if interested. www.lawrencehiddenvalley.org

Special Thanks to these troops for volunteering at Hidden Valley this winter:

***Kristy Teskas' BR/JR troop#1915** cleaned up several fire rings and mulched while having their fall meetings at the camp.

***Cindi McCrackens' Cadette troop#7460** mulched saplings around Coralberry unit site.

***Dianne Thomas' Troop#7531** picked up many bags of trash along 15th st and in the woods.

***Kyra Flummerfels' cadettes & seniors** burned several piles of stockpiled brush.

Many other troops participated in the September and November Work-days; we thank all of you for helping to keep our camp beautiful!

If you have performed service at the camp this year, be sure to check out the following:

LHVC offers *free* custom **Ar-ca-loo-ka Patches** for service *and* fun at the camp (LHV website).

The **Friends of Hidden Valley** offers **Troop Rewards** to troops attending workdays and conducting service projects on their own. Deadline: April 1, 2012.

"Friends" also offers two **Mariana Remple Scholarships** to older girls; deadline April 30. Check the Friends website for requirements and forms. www.friendshv.org

SPRING FLING

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 22, 2012


SERVICE – CELEBRATE - DEDICATE!

Hidden Valley Spring Flings only happen about once every three years, so be sure to attend this one! Scouts will arrive according to age levels, and begin with service projects, including a tree planting initiative in honor of Earth Day. Our celebration will highlight the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting, and our dedication will be the unveiling of the first installment of custom-inscribed bricks for the patio of Ar-ca-loo-ka Cabin. The first phase of the *Brick for Bricks* fundraiser will be used for the eventual replacement of the chimney, which is slowly crumbling from the outside. Although the deadline for ordering bricks in time for this installment and dedication has passed, bricks can be ordered *any* time of the year, for annual installments. Registered Girl Scout Troops and leaders can purchase bricks at half price, for \$50. Individuals...parents, grandparents, friends... can order bricks for \$100. Please help us pass the word around! Whether you purchase a brick or not, please come help YOUR campsite be the best it can be, and enjoy food, fun, friendship and more. Details and registration forms can be found at the LHVC website (see below).

Hidden Valley Day Camp 2012: "Cirque de Scouting"

The dates of this circus-themed camp have been set: June 11-15 or June 18-22. Help is *always* wanted, and this is a great opportunity to get other parents including dads involved, so please pass the information on to your families! For more information on how to get involved, contact the Director, Erin Bird: ekbird@sunflower.com

A registration event for troops and families will be held on March 27, from 6-8pm at First Presbyterian Church. For registration forms, aide training information, or adult volunteer positions, go to the LHVC website. www.lawrencehiddenvalley.org Registration Deadline is April 23.

<p><i>Did you know the Yurt of Dogwood Forest is available for meetings and overnights, with convenient access to water and toilets? Check it out! "It's like a huge slumber party!"</i></p>	
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Hidden Valley Calendar

Work Days: Spring Fling: April 22; Trail Maintenance: June 2, 8am-noon
Brownie Play Day: May 5; 10am-12:30pm. "Brownies Aren't Afraid to Get Muddy!" Director: Vicki Case: lovetocrop@gmail.com. Watch for details.