

HIDDEN VALLEY HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT'S NEW AT HIDDEN VALLEY CAMP?

WINTER/SPRING 2018

LAWRENCEHIDDENVALLEY.ORG

YURT NATURE CENTER TAKING SHAPE WITH SEASONAL HAPPENINGS DISPLAY

Thanks to a new display in the Yurt "Nature Center", troops can now find out what to look for in nature each time they visit the camp. The brainchild of local naturalist and author Ken Lassman, each month features a written description of what is happening nature, from flowering plants to nesting birds or tracks in the snow. Each month also features several picture collages of these animals and plants, mostly taken right at Hidden Valley by our great photographer and frequent hiker, Jim Bresnahan.

And to make it more interactive, troops are encouraged to add their own observations. Blank posters allow for girls to add their own photos, observations, drawings or poems. The seasonal display can also be found on the LHVC website AND the Service Unit Facebook page, and users can add their photos there as well. Over time, these photos will represent a vast scientific record of the changes of the seasons, and the variations or changes over the years.



The display runs in a circle around the top of the yurt walls, representing the revolving circular pattern of the sun creating the never ending cycle of the seasons. A night sky photo is included for each month.

EXPLORING THE HABITATS OF HIDDEN VALLEY

Although still available for troop use (think meetings, craft station, large sleepovers), a Nature Center is slowly taking shape inside these circular walls. Besides the Seasonal Display noted above, the KU Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Outreach Committee (KU EEB GSO) has partnered with us to create educational displays reflecting the habitats of Hidden Valley. Featuring streams, wetland, prairie, and woods, each poster explains the inner workings of the various habitats, and the plants and animals that reside there. Kits are being made up that leaders can use with their troops to engage in activities to explore each habitat, including field guides, manuals for the activities, and supplies, such as nets, binoculars, tree and leaf identification booklets, and much more. We hope to have most of this in place by summer. The KU EEB GSO hosts several regular workshops for Girl Scouts, including "Meet a Marine Biologist," "Bug Badge," "Be a Paleontologist," and "Nature Walk with KU Naturalists" (more details here: https://www.gsksmo.org/en/eventsrepository/2050/university_of_kansas.html), and are available to lead troops in field trips at the camp. The lead student, Emily Arsenault, will be a special guest at the February 5th Service Unit meeting to explain what they can offer through their educational outreach and partnership with Girl Scouts.

New Assistant Camp Manager Intern

We are proud and excited to introduce Olivia Childress as our latest intern for the Assistant Camp Manager position this year! Olivia began her volunteer job in late September, and will continue this spring semester gaining KU credit through the Service Learning Center. A junior at KU, Olivia is working towards a degree in Environmental Studies, pursuing the Conservation Pathway. She is interested in learning more about native plants, and one of her special projects will be researching and creating plant ID cards for the wildflowers planted in the pollinator gardens at the wetland. Please help us welcome Olivia to our Hidden Valley Family!



Olivia (left) is the newest addition to the Hidden Valley Family.

Save these Dates for Spring Workdays:
April 14, 1-4 pm
June 2, 8-11 am

**GS TROOPS
CONTINUE TO
CONTRIBUTE TIME TO
HIDDEN VALLEY
CAMP!**

Troops have made great showings at our recent workdays, and we sincerely appreciate the team efforts, energy and laughter they bring to the Friends-sponsored workdays! Many troops have also been conducting service projects on their own, from burning brush and stocking woodpiles to cleaning and weatherizing the cabin and more. Additionally, several troops are engaged in special projects, including trail signage and installing a bat house with an educational display. Contact the Camp Manager for YOUR service project now!



Scouts and other volunteers gather for s'mores & hot cocoa during the November workday.



Young scouts add grasses to the wildlife blind during the November workday.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DAY CAMP 2018:
A BLAST FROM THE PAST!**

Day Camp sessions have been set for June 11-15 and June 18-22. On-line registration (via the <https://www.lhvcamp.org/day-camp> website) begins March 1 and close May 1, or when session becomes full. Additional information will be posted on this site in January and February, and on the "Girl Scout Day Camp at Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp" Facebook page. For more information, contact the Director, Lysette DeBoard, at HVdaycamp@gmail.com. Stay tuned for important details! This popular (and cheap!) summer activity fills up fast. Last year brought nearly 400 young girls to the two five-day sessions, and over 80 regular and rookie aides and 140 adults assisting! We are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers for this all-volunteer camp throughout the week, including medically trained people who are willing to help out (MD, LPN, RN, EMT, Paramedic, etc.).



A fire truck spray is always a highlight the last day of camp!

**LAWRENCE HIDDEN VALLEY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS**

Hidden Valley Camp is owned and managed by the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee (LHVC), Inc., whose mission is to support the local Girl Scout movement. LHVC held their annual meeting at the November 6, 2017 Service Unit meeting in Lawrence, and elections were held for the 12-member board of directors. Board members must be registered adult Girl Scouts in Douglas County and serve a 3-year term. Retiring from the board was Diane Church, Judy Inverarity & Mary Murphy. Elected to the board were Nancy Smelser, LuAnn Hodges, Lysette DeBoard and Margaret Verhage, joining Ann Marie Boncella, Lauren Buskirk, Jeff Bandle, Kyra Flummerfelt, Gail Meier, Sharon Reynolds, Jessica Hensley, and Joanne Altieri. LHVC meets every other month beginning in January, and will elect their officers and committee chairs then. Their full annual report, contact information, and other pertinent news can be viewed on their website.

**BRICK 4 BRICKS FUNDRAISER...KEEP BUYING
THOSE PERSONALIZED BRICKS!**

The latest Brick 4 Bricks fundraiser will support the building of a new, LARGE fireplace/grill at Southern Shade Shelter. Think about all those canceled campfires and cook-outs over the years that could simply be switched over to a convenient covered area during rain! Please consider a year-end donation to the project by purchasing a troop brick with a custom-inscribed message, or perhaps your families would be interested in purchasing one with their daughters' name. Order forms can be found on the website. \$50 for registered Girl Scouts; \$100 for all others.