Hidden Valley in the Era of COVID-19

“Social distancing, self-isolation, abundance of caution...”- all very common phrases now in our everyday lives. So, what does this mean to a place like Hidden Valley? Quite a bit, as it is turning out. Girl Scout troops have been told to cease troop activities through the end of May, and colleges have sent their students home. Therefore, all service projects by GS and KU students, as well as our big April 18 workday have been cancelled. This represents the loss of nearly 500 hours of volunteer service this spring alone, with routine maintenance and many special projects all on hold.

One positive note is that the Honeysuckle Warriors have been able to continue their work, as social distancing is quite easy within 40 acres, and all seem to appreciate the opportunity to get outside and do something worthwhile. We work in our own areas, and there is no reason for us to get close to one another. Much of their other volunteer opportunities have dried up, since keeping a safe distance is too difficult for many non-profit situations.

Volunteers are Still Welcome at Hidden Valley Camp!

We are now seeking individuals and family groups (those that live together), that would like to get outside for fresh air, exercise, and a sense of doing something worthwhile, to contact us for their own service project. The camp manager and a few board members are available to meet individuals and small groups one at a time to explain a specific project and get you going, all at a safe distance. From our workday alone, we have about 10 distinct project areas representing 100s of different chores...something for all ages and abilities! We hope this can provide families a welcome change to their home-stay routines, while helping us keep our camp the best it can be.

If you are interested, please email Durand at durandi@sunflower.com for more details and to sign up for a specific time slot. We will tailor the jobs according to your ages and amount of time desired. It can be scheduled for weekdays or weekends. Most projects can be done in an hour or less, although we can certainly provide more! We will also be receiving a shipment of saplings to plant in mid April.

Other Ways to Help

We’d like to take this time to remind you of other ways you can continue to help us. Of course, keeping up your membership is of vital importance. If you are shopping at Dillon’s please keep in mind that you can designate Friends of Hidden Valley to receive a small percentage of your total through their Rewards program. We also have an Amazon.Smile account for your on-line shopping. For details on how to set up these accounts, please visit our website: https://www.friendshv.org

And, please remember to shop at the Merc in May and say “round up please!” at the checkout stand!