



Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.

The mission of the Friends of Hidden Valley is to provide support to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc., in programs, development, maintenance, and goals that promote and benefit Hidden Valley Camp.

Spring 2021 | www.friendshv.org | [Facebook.com/friendsoflawrencehiddenvally](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflawrencehiddenvally)

November Work Day

“Get the CVOID-19 waiver to the parents BEFORE the workday.” This statement set the tone for our Workday on November 5, 2020 but did not damper the spirit of our volunteers or the amount of work completed. We were careful to follow Douglas County COVID guidelines to safely complete projects to prepare the Camp for winter. Hidden Valley as well as Friends of Hidden Valley Board members planned and executed a careful plan to ensure our volunteers’ safety.

The Workday at Hidden Valley attracted 103 volunteers, including 36 Girl Scouts and 12 adult leaders. We had a group from KU and volunteers from Free State High School National Honor Society. There were also LHVC and FHV Board members as well as Honeysuckle Warriors, and other volunteers.

Girl Scouts sanded, cleaned, and managed to paint half of the archery shed. There was so much debris on the shed that there was not enough time to paint all. It needs a good power washing and then paint. Other Girl Scouts worked with Camp Manager Durand Reiber and the Honeysuckle Warriors in Dogwood Forest. The Friends of Hidden Valley Christmas Tree to be donated the Annual Festival of Trees which benefits the Lawrence Children’s Shelter was decorated with our theme being COVID and nature at Hidden Valley.

We practiced social distancing, and all wore masks to comply with COVID guidelines; however, you could still see the smiles in the eyes of our volunteers and Girl Scouts as they enjoyed a fun afternoon outside on a beautiful day.



Friends! The April Work Day will be Saturday, April 17 | 1:00-4:00

Our efforts will focus on the high grounds! Camp Entrance, Flagpole Hill, and Redbud Shelter areas. If there are enough volunteers, we will also work on the Memorial Butterfly Garden and fire rings nearby. Sign-in will be near Evelyn’s Attic (the Cache). How much we get done depends heavily on how many people come to work. Friends and members of the public may sign-up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a4a92aabfcce9-apr>. Scouts should sign-up at the link provided through the service unit. This will be a COVID-safe workday—masks are required at all times. We love our volunteers and encourage everyone to participate! The jobs aren’t difficult and you can get outside and experience (again) the lovely outdoors of the camp.



Bronze, Silver, Gold Awards Leave Their Mark

Every Girl Scout goes above and beyond to make a difference in her community and the greater world. The skills and experiences she gains along the way are recognized with the highest awards in Girl Scouting; the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

The Bronze Award recognizes Junior Scouts who gain important leadership skills by taking action with others to improve their communities, Cadettes earn the Silver Award when they flex their leadership muscles by doing research and taking action on issues of their choice. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. To earn this unique award, Seniors and Ambassadors don't just change the world for the better, they change it for good by tackling issues dear to their hearts while driving lasting change in their communities and beyond.

Hidden Valley Camp benefits from the efforts of girls pursuing these awards and we look forward to featuring them in the newsletter. The first project to feature is Pinwheel Grove, a hammock village located on the west side of Butterfly Alley, across from the tree house. Laura Teska received her Gold Award for the design and creation of this unique feature with space for eighteen hammocks on two levels.



The process of creating Pinwheel Grove included hands-on work such as clearing the space of brush and saplings. Much of Laura's work was identifying and coordinating resources from the broader community. She located a source for utility poles, their delivery and an auger for setting them securely. Each pole is seated three feet in the ground and designed to increase in stability as they are used. Laura also raised funds and solicited donations to cover the cost of the project. There are labels on the hammocks recognizing the scout troops, individuals and local businesses who donated to the project.



In addition to hammocks, scouts in Pinwheel Grove will find games and suggestions from Laura for making the most of their stay in this new and exciting feature at Hidden Valley.

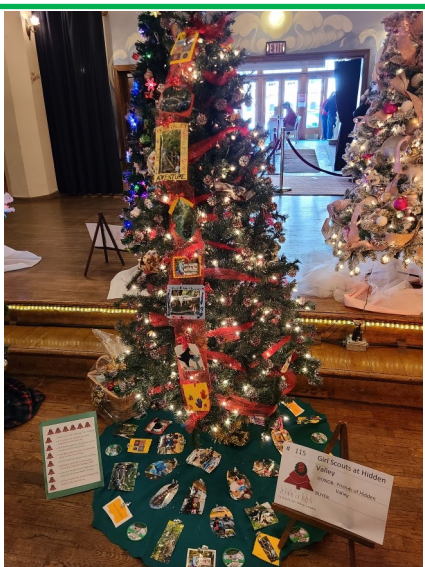
Judy Wilson 1941-2020

Judy Wilson was a Friend of Hidden Valley in the truest sense, as the original Chair for the Friends *subcommittee* of the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee in the early 1990s. It was during this time that Judy answered the call to develop more support and funding for Hidden Valley Camp. Using her vast knowledge of Friends support organizations, she led the committee in brain storming in 1992, as we planned our way to our first official membership drive in 1997.

As the young organization grew and began organizing annual workdays at the camp, she helped lead the committee through the incorporation process to become an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit in 1999. She served as Chair on the first executive committee, and also edited our early newsletters. When a fellow board

Festival of Trees

Thanks to the scouts and volunteers who created the Girl Scouts of Hidden Valley tree for the 2020 Festival of Trees.



Spring at Hidden Valley

Sunlight is on the move: between March 1 and May 1, we gain an hour and one half of daylight. With more sunlight comes warmer temperatures, spring rains, the plants wake up, all creating ideal conditions for animals of every type to give birth and raise their young. This means if you see a squirrel, rabbit, skunk, opossum, raccoon, muskrat, coyote or bobcat on a Hidden Valley hike, chances are excellent that they are tending to a family of young ones in addition to scurrying away from you. Deer have fawns in late May and early June. Most songbirds are breeding and laying eggs in April and May, while owls, eagles and hawks are already raising their young, having started nesting as early as February. Western chorus frogs are loud around the Hidden Valley wetland pond, with Leopard frogs, toads and bullfrogs joining in as temperatures warm up.



Jim Bresnahan saw this pair of gray squirrels peeking out

On the plant front, April is the time of the year when trees leaf out. Grass and tree leaves are at first quite tender and small, providing sweet, nutritious food for grazing animals, quickly firming up and beginning the job of turning sunlight into roots, limbs and twigs as the days grow longer. Flowers, of course are the plant's way of getting the attention of animals to get the pollen from another flower for making healthy seeds in exchange for some sweet nectar for the bee, wasp, beetle, bat or bird doing the pollinating. Each week in spring brings another wave of newly blooming flower types in the prairies and woodlands; see if you can identify the ones you see when taking a hike.



A Blooming Redbud tree

Check out the www.friendshv.org website and click on the Seasonal Photo Log button to find a monthly guide to some of the plants and animals you can see every month of the year, including the beautiful redbud blossoms (picture to right) that bloom in April. Any way you look at it Hidden Valley is a great place to hike this time of year.

member in charge of planting the cedar tree row on Flag Pole Hill suffered a skiing accident in 1998, she led a small group of volunteers in the planting effort. Those trees now stand tall, providing a second visual barrier to the tall neighboring buildings, while also creating a cool tunnel to walk through to enter our prairie. Every year, hundreds of Girl Scouts line up at the beginning and end of Day Camp to walk through this tunnel to access the center path, and circle the Flag Pole for opening and closing ceremonies.

Her association with Hidden Valley began much earlier, however, beginning as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter Laura. She served as the ex-official Associate Chair for the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee from 1980 through 1990, and served as a board

member from 1991-1994 and again from 1997 through 1999 as she worked diligently on the new support organization, while also serving on the Public Relations and Site Committees. She also served the Girl Scout Council in many capacities, including leader training.

In her professional life, Judy used her speech therapy and audiology degree working with school children, and also had her own catering service for a time. She was a founder of the Friends of the University of Kansas Theater, and active in PTA, the regional Girl Scout councils, and her church. Her dedication to community service was recognized in 2004 when Judy was awarded the Wallace Galluzzi award for "exemplary volunteer service." Judy was recognized as one of 44 Honorees at the 50th Anniversary Birthday Dinner Celebration in 2006.

Hiking Patrol Reminds Us Of Leash Rules

While hiking in February, one of our dedicated hikers encountered a large, gray German Shepherd-type dog in Rocky Road. It followed him, barking ferociously and was apparently unaccompanied. (There were no human footprints in the snow as well.) It had a collar, so maybe an actual stray but possibly a wandering dog from a nearby neighborhood. Please remember #5 of the Hidden Valley Hiking Procedures: **Hidden Valley is not a dog park!** Dogs disturb wildlife and pose a risk to others. If you do bring a dog, you must keep it on a leash at all times and pick up all waste—no exceptions. The FHV Board, recommends these actions if you see this dog or any other unaccompanied dogs at camp:

- Call 911 and ask them to send Animal Control
- They will ask you to stay where you are, but at Hidden Valley we would need to meet them at the red front gate and let them in to show them where the animal was encountered. Hopefully, they can get there fast enough to assist.

Reports from the hiking patrol often spark interesting conversations. Recently coyote sightings, the edibility of hedge apples and grammatical correctness of possum v. opossum have entertained members of the hiking patrol via email. Jim Bresnahan reported “a beautiful day for a hike, 69 degrees on December 9” and was inspired to write this poem. Members of the hiking patrol agree to walk the camp and report to the group regarding any security concerns, maintenance issues or inspiration. If you would like to join contact Jill Giele at jill.giele@yahoo.com.

Chickadee Ditty

What is this I see?
A titmouse and a chickadee
The cutest pair of Paridae
Drinking from a tree cavity
Then a later time
A white-breasted nuthatch

Calendar of Events

Hidden Valley requests that all visitors and scouts respect the guidelines for covid safety set by public health officials and as posted on their website: lhvcamp.org.

Work Day-April 17 Join us for the dedication of the fireplace in Southern Shade at the end of the afternoon.

Trails Day— June 6 We will be hosting small private tours to Friends members and the public. Check our Facebook page in May to sign up!

Day Camp— Session 1: June 7-11, Session 2: June 14-18 Camp meets 7:45am-12:00pm.
Information at: <https://www.lhvcamp.org/day-camp>

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