

Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp Annual Report

For July 2024 through June 2025

Chair's Report

Written by Jeff Bandle, LHVC, Inc. Chair

The mission of The Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc. (LHVC) is to use its assets and annual income from the Alfred H. Bromelsick Trust to promote and provide supplemental support to the Girl Scout movement in Douglas County. All registered adult Girl Scouts living in Douglas County are members of the Committee. The business of the corporation is managed by a twelve-member, duly elected Board of Directors. The major asset of the LHVC Inc. is Hidden Valley Camp, a 40-acre camp located at 3420 Bob Billings Parkway, Lawrence, KS, 66049. The Committee works closely with the Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc. (FHV) to preserve and enhance the physical property. Among the many outdoor activities available at the camp are hikes, cookouts, campouts, structured stream walks, pond life observation as well as organized Girl Scout events. We have two enclosed structures: a propane heated cabin and a 30-foot diameter yurt. We also have a large storage building off of the main upper parking lot named "Evelyn's Attic," a storage shed known as the "Dogshed" down by Dogwood Forest, and the "Sherwood Shed" by the archery range in Sherwood Forest.

We have had a busy year! We hold the original intent of Alfred Bromelsick's Trust firmly in mind while striving to move Hidden Valley into the future. Finding the balance in keeping Hidden Valley the primitive and natural space it has always been while adapting to and incorporating the technological and contemporary needs of our camp users has been tricky, but necessary for us to continue to utilize the camp for the scouts and youth of Douglas County.

We are continually thankful for our volunteers that help make camp a wonderful place- members of the LHVC and the FHV boards, the challenge course facilitators, the Friend's Hiking Patrol, Honeysuckle Warriors and Sumac Slayers and of course the many adult leaders and volunteers that spend their time helping at Day Camp and camp work days. A special thanks needs to go out to the troops that use camp for their meetings, service projects and campouts!

This was the last year for TurfPros of Lawrence to be our camp maintenance company. We will continue to use them for our lawn and groundskeeping needs. Midland Care has also continued regular use of the camp. Being able to share the wonder that is Hidden Valley has been awesome!

We continue our good relationship with the FHV board and the members of Presbyterian Manor. Thanks to the Board Officers and individuals who wrote the included reports and served Hidden Valley so well. We strive to maintain a strong, ongoing working relationship with our council, Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri, Inc. We welcome and encourage all Douglas County Scouts to use and take an active role at Hidden Valley Camp. The Board meets on the second Monday of most months at 7:00 PM (location TBD). The meetings are open to everyone to share ideas and concerns. Additional information can be obtained on our website: www.lhvcamp.org.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,
Jeff Bandle

Property Operations

Purpose: The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the LHVC Board regarding the development, maintenance, and continuation of Hidden Valley Camp and camp activities and manages Challenge, Extended Site, Reservations, Equipment, and Scout Award Projects.

A Year in Review...

Extended Site Report written by Kyra Flummerfelt

Various projects have been accomplished this year, the bulk of which were performed by volunteers, whether LHVC Board members, Friends of Hidden Valley volunteers, or community and/or student volunteers from KU, or other organizations. The time and commitment from all people involved are appreciated because without them, Hidden Valley would not be the hidden gem it continues to be.

Below is a list of many of the projects and activities that have been completed this year.

July 2024

- Camp was very quiet

August 2024

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a KU Super Saturday event
- We had storm damage to the new Brookside Bridge, the low zipline & a tree over by the yurt. The low zipline was replaced due to this damage. The Brookside Bridge was repaired & the trees that were damaged were cut down & used as mulch. We also replaced the two zip platforms.

September 2024

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted volunteer day
- Friends of Hidden Valley put on a Think Like A Citizen Scientist Journey Workshop
- Girl Scouts of Douglas County hosted a bridging ceremony
- Hosted the Midland Care Kids Grief Camp

October 2024

- Savannah, the community rock snake was placed in the Memorial Garden by Girl Scout Troop 3290 in hopes that other girls will add to it
- Troop 3290 hosted an Outdoor Art Badge Workshop
- New gravel was laid from the camp entrance down to the cabin & the Gathering Place
- KU Big Event

November 2024

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a volunteer day
- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a volunteer day for Bishop Seabury's Heritage Day

December 2024

- Some troop usage of the cabin

January 2025

- Honeysuckle Warriors started annual remediation of the invasive honeysuckle
- Some troop usage of the cabin

February 2025

- No use
- Chaney Services LLC replaced the inside kitchen sink drain line, the outside drain line & the hydrant floor sink outside

March 2025

- Troop usage of the camp picked up with the warmer weather
- LHVC & FOHV board representatives met with the City of Lawrence & their consulting firm to begin the process for the Bob Billings Parkway expansion project negotiations.
- Issues were observed with the walls & floor in the cabin. An engineer was consulted - Mike Dandurand w/Royal Inspections KC and he provided recommendations for the repairs.

April 2025

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a volunteer day
- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a KU Big Event day
- Honeysuckle Warriors winter work ended
- The cabin had a major water leak to the kitchen sink right outside the foundation wall that was fixed by Chaney Services LLC

May 2025

- Camp use by Girl Scouts picked up

June 2025

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted Trail's Day hikes
- Another year of day camp went off without a hitch. Lauren Yoshinobu will be stepping down as the Day Camp Director. Cassie Donahey & Colleen Stock will be stepping up to fill the position as co-directors.

LHVC 2024-2025 Use Numbers

[illegible]

Choose Your Challenge...

Challenge Report written by Kyra Flummerfelt, Challenge Course Manager

Purpose: To provide the Hidden Valley Board with the information needed to maintain and enhance the equipment and safety standards for the various challenge course activities throughout Hidden Valley. In addition, the challenge committee provides annual training for all challenge course facilitators.

Beyond Ropes based in Norman, OK, conducted our annual training, the inspection of our equipment and the zip lines in April of 2025. This year was a refresher course conducted by Jon Godsey, the owner of Beyond Ropes. After our inspection and training, we submitted our permit renewal information to the State of Kansas which then renewed our permit.

This year we zipped a total of 145 kids; 60 participated in archery, 12 participated in the Team Adventure Challenges and 3 kids participated in slingshot activities. The kids really enjoyed all the challenge activities and we are pleased that more youth are choosing the TAC activities.

We hosted the Midland Care Kids Grief Camp again this year. It is always a very rewarding experience for our facilitators to give the kids that are going through such a rough time a chance to experience the excitement challenge activities bring. We hope that more groups will want to participate in all the challenge activities we provide, but watching the Girl Scouts participate is the best. We love to see their smiles, hear their laughter and to watch them challenge themselves. We encourage all troop leaders to sign up for troop challenge activities to help sustain our wonderful camp and participate in the activities kids love.

Helping Empower Future Leaders of Change...

Scout Award Project Report

Scout Award Project Report written by Kyra Flummerfelt

Purpose: To provide a pathway for Girl Scouts and Scouting America looking to earn higher awards by completing a project for Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp; and, to ensure that those projects are not only in line with the needs of the camp, but also follow the requirements set out by the specific Scouting organization involved. During the 2024-2025 year, no "higher award" projects were completed at Hidden Valley. Several smaller troop service projects were completed including:

1. 9/15/24: Troop 3570- Erin Rectenwald's Brownie troop picked up trash from the stream.
2. 9/15/24: Troop 5670- Erin Rectenwald's Daisy troop spread native seeds.
3. 9/27/24: Troop 3110- Jessica Mortinger's Brownie troop added a letterboxing box, made clues & sent to Jenny Gleeson to add to the instructions..
4. 10/8/24: Troop 3290- Annie Rajaei's cadette troop - created a friendship rock snake, Savannah, that other girls could add to.
5. 4/5/25: Troop 3766- Cassie Donahey's Cadette troop installed a new pole for a directional sign in the circle drive. They also stained the stage during regular meetings.

6. 5/9/25: Troop 2856- Meryl Carver-Almond's Junior troop worked on getting some of the fire rings ready for day camp by pulling weeds, reseating the fire ring rocks, redoing the wood piles.

Policies and Procedures

Purpose: The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the LHVC Board to ensure that there are policies, procedures, and practices in place that enable the LHVC Board to operate in a legal and ethical manner and manage Archives and Policy and Procedures.

We have continued on previous activities to bring the LHVC Manual into a digital format. Tracey continues to scan old manuals and documents. Thank you all for your help in this.

No additional work was completed during 2024-2025 year.

Remembering Where We Have Been...

Archives Report

Purpose: To preserve the history and management of the late Alfred Bromelsick's bequest to the Girl Scouts of Lawrence, Kansas. To do such, the committee gathers and collects documents (e.g. maps, meeting minutes, flyers, etc.) in a central location where they can be accessed for research and reference purposes.

No additional work was completed during 2024-2025 year.

Public Relations

Purpose: The purpose of this committee is to network and communicate with the public and provide recommendations to the LHVC Board regarding best practices for engaging with the community both digitally and off-line, managing Bromelsick, Nominations, Public Relations, Scholarships, Social Media and our Website.

Reaching Out to Others...

Purpose: To promote the Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp to make it more familiar and visible to Lawrence area Girl Scouts. In addition, the public relations committee helps to inform and educate the Douglas County community about the origin and function of LHVC and camp.

This year the public relations committee continued to maintain an online presence and also worked with outside organizations to share the wonder that is Hidden Valley! We are looking forward to collaborating with other groups in the future. We continue to share and collaborate with local Girl Scout troops when they are utilizing camp.

Helping Others Who Have Helped Us...

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to troops for activities and events that may otherwise be prohibitive due to the costs. In addition, the PR committee provides financial assistance to graduating Girl Scouts who are seeking to further their education at a post-secondary educational institution. All individual applicants go through an application process to determine their eligibility and the final decision is made by the LHVC Board. This committee awards High School Merit scholarships and special requests for financial aid. The 2025 High School scholarships were in the amount of \$500. The 2025 awards were presented to Lena White, Channing Saint Onge, Jocelyn Wilson & Zoe Milburn . (This scholarship expense will be reflected in the FY 2025-26 report. Because we pay directly to the university; the payment is delayed until the awardee has a student id. Therefore, the \$1000 shown in this year's report is for the 2 scholarships awarded last fiscal year.)

Bromelsick Blast!

Bromelsick Committee report written by Jeff Bandle

Purpose: To honor the late Mr. Alfred Bromelsick and carry out the instructions in his will, the Bromelsick committee, jointly with Scouting USA and Douglas County 4-H, hosts an annual Christmas party and his memorial service for the Lawrence area Girl Scouts, Scouting USA, and Douglas County 4-H members. Each year the organizations take on certain responsibilities for each event.

Bromelsick duties were covered by the Girl Scouts of Douglas County for the 2024 Christmas Party and Scouting USA for the 2025 Bromelsick Memorial Day remembrance. The Christmas Party was held at The Lawrence Arts Center and featured a magic show for all the participants and roving Christmas carols sung by Emily Boedeker and friends with the usual appearance by Santa to hand out treats and take pictures. The \$1000 contribution from the LHVC Board to the overall Bromelsick Committee was continued.

Board Members

Nominating Report written by Kyra Flummerfelt

Purpose: To nominate members of the Douglas County Girl Scout community to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Board, Inc. Each year, the nominating committee presents the slate of nominees to the Douglas County Girl Scout community at the Annual Meeting. The community then votes on accepting the slate of nominees.

2024-2025 Current Board Members

Jeff Bandle, Chair
Cris Bandle, Treasurer
Sarah Meinershagen, Vice Chair
Emily Boedeker, Secretary
Kyra Flummerfelt
Ann Marie Boncella
Cassie Donahey
Cami Torres
Charlie Bryan
Laura Phillips
Tracey LaPierre
Kenna McNally

Slate of Nominees for 2025-2026

Renewing Board Members:

Kyra Flummerfelt

Jeff Bandle

New Board Members:

Brigid Murphy

Amy Shealy

Administrative

Purpose: The purpose of this committee is to oversee and make recommendations to the LHVC Board regarding how to conduct business and manage staffing and supervise the Finance, Staff, and Strategic Planning aspects of Hidden Valley. Committee Members for 2024-25 include: Jeff Bandle: Moderator, Sarah Meinershagen, Cris Bandle, Emily Boedeker and Kenna McNally who is filling out the secretary term.

Behind the Scenes...

Purpose: To monitor and review the various financial investments that affect the maintenance and upkeep of Hidden Valley. To do so, the committee works with a financial advisor who helps to make recommendations for current and future investments. In addition, the committee works with the treasurer who maintains the financial documents and pays any necessary financial obligations.

The board continues to manage the camp without a paid camp manager. We continued a contract with Turf Pros for grass & fence line maintenance, and handyman duties. Communication between the LHVC board, FHV and Turf Pros remains a goal for timely completion of tasks. The board did not renew the Turf Pros contract but still utilizes them for camp mowing.

Day Camp income for 2025 was paid after July 1st.

Questions or comments should be directed to
Treasurer, Cris Bandle (785) 979-6442 or Administrative Chair, Jeff Bandle 785-979-6420.

FINANCE SUMMARY REPORT			
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Direct Public Support	1243.20	Scholarship	1000.00
Bromelsick Distribution	18169.12	Site	13094.84
Cell Tower	12899.28	Site-Other	0.00
Challenge Course	3240	Site Manager (Turf Pros)	11867.00
Camp Use Fees	2450	Treasurer	321.12
Dividends/Interest	7648.86	Utilities	1830.82
Investments	2827.51	Insurance (Site)	9437.00
Donations FHV	0.00	Challenge Course	2367.59
Archery Income	1275.00	Bromelsick Party	750.00
Day Camp Income	3436.33	Facilities & Equipment	1.49
Program Income	160.00	Operations	309.00
Balance	53349.30	Balance	40978.86