



Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp Annual Report For July 2021 through June 2022

Chair's Report

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, 66047. 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.

It has been quite the 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. To that end, in July 2021, the LHVC Board adopted a new Mission, Vision and Purpose to guide our strategy going forward.

Mission: Hidden Valley offers opportunities for learning and growth by providing outdoor experiences.

Vision: Hidden Valley builds strength of character and stewardship of natural resources by inspiring and supporting Girl Scouts, youth, and our community.

Purpose: Fostering exploration, adventure, and education through appreciation and conservation of the environment.

With the new board year, in January 2022, the board restructured its various committees into four main committees. The Administrative Committee manages Finance, Staff, and Strategic Planning. The Policies and Procedures Committee manages Archives and Policy and Procedures. The Property Operations Committee manages Challenge, Extended Site, Reservations & Equipment, and Scout Award Projects. The Public Relations Committee manages Bromelsick, Nominations, Public Relations, Scholarships, Social Media and Website.

This year was also a year of internal change for Hidden Valley. Our administrative manager stepped down in September 2021 and in January 2022, the board accepted the resignation of the camp manager as well. In the interim, we were fortunate to have many volunteers step up to help Hidden Valley function as it always has and maintain the camp as best as possible. This presented the board with an opportunity to take a good look at how to best manage the camp going forward.

And finally, in June 2022, Hidden Valley applied to become a release site for appropriate rehabilitated wild animals through Operation Wildlife. We look forward to reintroducing native fauna into the "wild" of Hidden Valley.

We continue our good relationship with the Friends of Hidden Valley 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 at Southern Shade, weather permitting or via Zoom. 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,
Ann Marie Boncella
LHVC Chair, 2021-2022

Property Operations

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.

Committee members for 2022 include: all LHVC Board members.

A Year in Review

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, National Honor Society 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 2021

- Various tree limb clean-up and removal as needed from summer storms
- Hanson's Grove marker - final location approved and prepped

August 2021

- Waterline from the cell tower to Southern Shade replaced
- KU's Super Service Saturday - began to strip and sand cabin tables, The Gathering Place fire ring re-mulched and new logs, trail maintenance along Lakahiva to Oganali and Westward Ho to Deer Run
- New locks on Evelyn's Attic and UACT door knob replacement

September 2021

- Friend's of Hidden Valley hosted Workday
- Cabin tables sanded and painted
- Hanson's Grove marker installed
- Yurt ramp replaced

October 2021

- Paw Paw Bridge replacement - KU's Senior Structural Engineering class

November 2021

- Friend's of Hidden Valley hosted Workday

December 2021

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January 2022

- Honeysuckle Warrior Winter Work begun

February 2022

- Honeysuckle Warrior Winter Work ended

March 2022

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April 2022

- Friend's of Hidden Valley hosted Workday
- Evelyn's Attic clean out and reorganization
- KU Fraternity - various projects, including wrapping poles in turf where the old tire was hung by the zipline, dismantling a footbridge along a now-retired path by Mulberry and painting the UACT

May 2022

- Various tree limbs trimmed and removed as needed
- KU Fraternity - clear and refresh various unit sites in preparation for Day Camp

June 2022

- Day Camp

Reservations & Equipment

2021-2022 Camp Use Numbers: (people per day)

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Day Use | 1472 | Overnight Camping | 66 |
| Girl Scout Day Camp | 1570 | Friends of HV Work Days | 250 |
| Honeysuckle Warriors | 65 | Hiking Patrols | 42 |
| Outside Rentals | 177 | Tours/Other Events | 104 |
| Adult Trainings | 15 | Total | 3761 |

Choose Your Challenge

Beyond Ropes based in Norman, OK, conducted our annual training, the inspection of our equipment and the zip lines in April of 2022. This year Jon Godsey, the owner of Beyond Ropes, conducted a refresher training. It was very informative and we learned a lot of new things. After our inspection and training we submitted our permit information to the State of Kansas to renew our permit, which was granted.

This year we zipped 134 kids, 52 participated in archery and 19 participated in the team adventure challenge activities. The kids seemed very happy to be at camp and participating in our challenge activities again this year. We had a slight increase in the number of usages outside of day camp which is great. We hosted the Midland Care Kids Grief Camp for the first time this year which was a fun time for all but also very rewarding for all the facilitators. There were a lot of smiles and laughter which is why we do what we do. We hope that many more groups will want to participate in these activities. We love seeing how much the kids enjoy these activities on top of them pushing themselves to try new things. We encourage all troop leaders to sign up for troop challenge activities to help sustain our wonderful camp and the activities the kids love.

Helping Empower Future Leaders of Change

This year the committee approved three higher award projects at camp. The first project, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 5177, was the installation of unit site marker signs at each campsite as a Girl Scout Silver Award Project. The second project, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 1112, was the installation of a "Nature Nook" library at the front kiosk as a Girl Scout Bronze Award. The third project, approved in the 2020-2021 fiscal year and finished in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 5606, was the installation of two, game-top, picnic tables in the far west of camp near the Thorn Hill campsite.

Policies and Procedures

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.

Committee members for 2022 include: Lysette DeBoard, Moderator; Cami Torres; Maria Gunselman; Ann Marie Boncella.

The Nitty Gritty

The Policies and Procedures Committee (P/P) continued working on updating the Board of Directors operating manual and employee job descriptions. In late 2021, the P/P Committee also proposed a revision to the committee structure of the LHVC Board in order to help the Board focus on groups of associated tasks instead of having committees of one to two people around a specific event or topic. Along with the change in the committee structure, a new Membership and Organization flowchart was updated and shared with the various groups who work with the LHVC Board. The change was approved by the Board in late 2021 and the new LHVC Committees are as follows:

- **Administrative Committee**: The purpose of this committee is to oversee and make recommendations to the LHVC Board regarding how to conduct business and manage staffing.
- **Policies and Procedures Committee**: 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.
- **Property Operations Committee**: 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.
- **Public Relations Committee**: 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.

Remembering Where We Have Been

Archives continued its focus on gathering, identifying and sorting key past and current Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee materials such as minutes, treasurer's report and other documents, flyers of special events, etc. for deposit and storage in appropriate archival sites and for current reference. Some archival, original, copies are stored at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. Copies of some materials are intended to be available for reading at the Watkins History Museum in downtown Lawrence.

We have continued the discussion on transitioning to a more digital storage for documents and have also begun thinking about a potential collaboration with the Friend's of Hidden Valley's Archives Committee in the future.

Public Relations

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.

Committee members for 2022 include: Emily Boedeker, Moderator; Jessica Hensley; Cris Bandle; Emma Milburn; Laura O'Neil; Tina Imbrogno.

Reaching Out to Others

This year the public relations committee continued to create an online presence and also worked with outside organizations to share the wonder that is Hidden Valley! We are currently the home of Morning Song Forest School and 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

This committee awards High School Merit scholarships and special requests for financial aid. This year the High School scholarships were in the amount of \$500. The awards were presented to Kenna McNally, Chaney Finkeldi, and Audrey Hoey-Kummerow of Lawrence-area high schools. *If your troop needs a scholarship for troop start-up funding, requests must be made as close to the start of the school year as possible. Requests for Day Camp scholarships cannot be combined with Council funding unless special circumstances exist.*

Bromelsick Blast!

The Christmas party is scheduled to be held on December 4, 2022 at Haskell. This year the Girl Scouts are in charge of providing the candy to hand out to the participants. Tentatively the theme is Busker Fest . Once it has become official and the flyers come out I will forward it on.

Administrative

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 2022 include: Ann Marie Boncella, Moderator; Emily Boedeker; Cris Bandle; Sarah Meinershagen.

Behind the Scenes

1) Our plan to hire two part time positions to fill the shoes of our last camp manager faced many challenges. We continue to revise the job descriptions in the hope of hiring a seasonal camp manager, but this may not be possible in the current job market. We utilized a shared Google Document between our board and the FHV board, working in tandem to complete necessary camp maintenance. This strategy may remain necessary until we find a suitable seasonal candidate. On the plus side, multiple camp evaluation walks led to the assignment of needed tasks to troops for completion, furthering the goal of scout “ownership” of the camp.

2) The downturn in the stock market for 2021-22 affected LHVC investments. Fortunately, those losses were offset somewhat by the decrease in payroll costs associated with the employee resignations.

3) Covid remains a hindrance to productive, in person, board and committee meetings. The restructuring of the LHVC committees, and the staffing challenges led to many additional communications outside of normal expected board commitments.

Questions or comments should be directed to Treasurer, Cris Bandle crisbandle@lhvcamp.org.

Supporting Roles...

In light of the recent resignations of both the administrative manager and camp manager, a group was formed to revise and recommend a new employment strategy for managing and maintaining the camp. A proposal is pending and a candidate search will likely commence in the winter of 2022.

A Bright Future...

New this year is a strategic planning group. This group has been working on developing a new Purpose statement and Mission & Vision statements around which the board will make strategic decisions to further support the viability of the camp - either through bolstering financial stability and/or its front-facing brand strategy. As mentioned above in the Chair’s statement, a new Mission, Vision and Purpose has been approved and in place as of July 2021.

The group continues to develop guiding principles and provide support to the board for developing action plans to keep Hidden Valley a forward-thinking entity while keeping its feet rooted in the ecological needs of the land itself.

2021-2022 Current Board Members

Ann Marie Boncella, Chair*
Emily Boedeker, Vice Chair
Cris Bandle, Treasurer
Laura O'Neil, Secretary*
Lysette DeBoard
Maria Gunselman

Jessica Hensley*
Rod Hoffer
Tina Imbrogno
Sarah Meinershagen
Emma Milburn
Cami Torres

*outgoing board members

Slate of Nominees for 2022-2023

Renewing Board Members:

Cami Torres

New Board Members:

Jeff Bandle
Kyra Flummerfelt
OPEN POSITION

Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc

Condensed Annual Report compiled by Cindy Riling, FHV Chair

The Mission of the Friends of Hidden Valley is to provide support to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc. (LHVC), in programs, development, maintenance and goals that promote and benefit the Hidden Valley Camp. Adopted July 14, 1999.

Friends of Hidden Valley Annual Report for 2021-2022

2021 – 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Barnes, Melinda Black, Ken Lassman, Karen Lassman, Mary Murphy, Gwen Macpherson, Cindy Riling, Gayle Sigurdson, Marcia West, Paula Wunder, Lily Yu

The Friends of Hidden Valley supports the mission of Hidden Valley with support through volunteer hours and fundraising. This is done with memberships and donations and grant funding as well as sponsoring opportunities for volunteer work at the camp. The focus of Friends is primarily the camp and maintenance of the camp property.

Next year promises to be a busy and productive year as we gear up to find new projects and new funding and grant resources, so there will be many more good years to come. Thank you to all our members that have continued to donate time and money to help us keep Hidden Valley as a treasured jewel.

This is an abbreviated version of the Friends Annual Report. For the complete report go to <https://www.friendshv.org/fhv-board> and click on Annual Report.

The Volunteer Committee organizes three official workdays/volunteer days (September, November, April) and reports on camp use by the Hiking Patrol (through Jill Giele), other camp walkers through the onsite and online registration (assisted by Nancy Jorn and Cris Bandle), Honeysuckle Warrior efforts who contributed 196 hours of their time (coordinated by Durand Reiber), and bluebird monitoring (by Jill Baringer). Like other Board members, we also assist with Trails Day in June. Thanks again to all our volunteers. Hidden Valley Camp is a safe, educational, and lovely place because of you! Detailed information and graphs showing volunteer hours is available in our complete Annual Report at [Friendshv.org/fhv-board](https://www.friendshv.org/fhv-board)

At our Annual Meeting in September 2021 the Recognitions Committee honored two amazing, wonderfully talented and dedicated people to The Honor Bench, our highest Hidden Valley honor, Kyra Flummerfelt for 2020 and Jill Baringer for 2021. Another highlight of the evening was the dedication of Hanson Grove with a 5-foot-tall limestone post, sculpted by stonemason Karl Ramberg, to memorialize long time Girl Scout staff member and mentor Barbara Hanson for her work in Girl Scouting and for all the lives she influenced.

FHV granted one Troop Reward and one Mariana Remple Recognitions Award. The Troop Reward was given to Brownie Troop 2272 and the Mariana Remple Award was given to Cadette Girl Scout Katherine Stancil from Troop 5607.

The Membership/Recognitions Committee reports a total of 124 members for the 2022 membership year. These memberships include 94 renewed memberships, 16 new memberships and 14 Lifetime members.

Trails Day was hosted at the camp on June 4 and well attended by the public and scout families.