



## Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp Annual Report 2015-2016

### A Long Time Ago...

Written by Diane Church, LHVC, Inc. Chair

This story starts many years ago. A local businessman, Alfred Bromelsick, wanted to assist the children of Douglas County. He bequeathed money to the Girl Scouts (among other youth organizations) “to be used each year for such objects and purposes in connection with the furtherance of the work of that organization”. Shortly thereafter, three women set off to explore a piece of property west of the City of Lawrence that had potential to become a camp for Girl Scouts. They were looking at 20 acres of treeless pasture used extensively for grazing cattle. As they scanned the horizon they noticed a not so friendly bull coming their way. Being resourceful women, they spotted a basin near a windmill. They quickly climbed into the basin to protect themselves. They decided, despite the unfriendly greeting, that this was a spot where girls could come together to learn about themselves, each other and the natural world around them. The land was purchased and Hidden Valley Camp for Girl Scouts was born.

Hidden Valley Camp is managed by the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation. 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. Their mission is to use its assets and the annual income from the Alfred H. Bromelsick Trust to promote and provide supplemental support to the Girl Scout movement in Douglas County. 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, zip line, archery 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 building off of the main upper parking lot named “Evelyn’s Attic”, a small storage shed known as the “Dogshed” down by Dogwood Forest and a smaller storage shed for Archery equipment in Sherwood Forest.

As you read this report, you will see evidence of the care and handling that the camp receives from many different individuals. Some highlights from the year include an installation of a shooting platform and a wooden walkway in Sherwood Forest, two awesome weeks of Girl Scout Day Camp (when the camp really comes alive with “wildlife”), a celebration of 60 years at Hidden Valley, and the establishment of our new website, [www.lhvcamp.org](http://www.lhvcamp.org). Many thanks to Cris Bandle who is serving as our webmaster. I would like to thank the members of the 2016 HVC Board, who contribute their time and talents. I would also like to thank our Camp Manager, Durand Reiber, who manages our camp with integrity and a strong vision for the future.

The HVC Board meets on the second Monday of every odd numbered month at the Lawrence Public Library. The meetings are open to everyone to share ideas and concerns. Or, one may contact any of the Board Members at any time- your contributions are greatly appreciated.

It has been over 60 years since three women stood in a basin and decided, yes, this is the spot. I often wonder if they realize what they were starting at that moment. Hidden Valley is a true gem for the Girl Scouts of Douglas County. I encourage every Girl Scout and every Troop to visit as often as they can. Participate in work days and fun days. Make the kind of memories at Hidden Valley that will last a lifetime.

## **A Year in Review...**

Site Committee Report Written by Jeff Bandle, Site Committee Chair

**Purpose:** The site committee is responsible for the day to day upkeep of the camp and equipment, including reservations and equipment checkout, and for setting policy concerning its use. The committee is composed of members of both current and former members of LHV and FHV board of directors. If you would like to serve on the Site Committee please contact the chair.

The Site Committee met in October 2015 and April 2016 to discuss issues, review and refine policy, and determine goals for the year. The committee would like to thank the Friends for their funding of camp projects, and hours of on-site service including sponsorship of annual work days.

This year, we received aid from Westar's Green Team in the form of material and design/labor in the creation of the Archery facility in Sherwood Forest. This entailed the building of an archer platform and with the guidance of Gwen McPherson, the design and construction of a walking platform over the boggy areas of the camp near the pond. This new feature has been integrated into the Day Camp rotation for older girls and is a fantastic enhancement to our facility offering.

Durand Reiber deals with the day-to-day needs of the camp, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Meeting with community volunteers (groups and individuals) and Girl Scouts to coordinate service projects and planning annual FHV workdays. She continues to be a member of a Volunteer Management Network Group, attending meetings and seminars covering volunteer coordination and recognition. Outreach to KU students and the community continues to grow with many groups returning annually for service events.
- Oversight of contractors for mowing, tree cutting, snow removal on sidewalks, road grading, roofers, bridge builders, and others as needed.
- Coordination with GS Directors in preparation for large events: Day Camp, Brownie Play Day & Junior Jamboree.
- Regular inspections, upkeep, cleanup and minor repair of buildings, structures, roads and grounds; woods, wetland and prairie maintenance; and trail and unit site maintenance, including fire rings and stocking of woodpiles.

## **Major and Minor Projects Completed from July, 2015 - June, 2016:**

- Built a new archery shooting platform with assistance of materials, design, and labor from the Westar Green Team.
- An access platform was built led by Gwen McPherson and a large host of volunteers.
- As a part of the new KU Central District development, message kiosks that used to be in the old Stouffer married student housing area were acquired and installed at Hidden Valley. Much gratitude to Katie Sadler who drove this issue through her contacts at KU.
- New gutters and downspouts on the Dog Shed.
- November 8<sup>th</sup> workday had 180 volunteers.
- Major cleaning and window repair in the yurt.
- Mist blowing of herbicide in the east meadow area resulted in complete reduction on honeysuckle infestation, with a much cleaner woods area left. Some seeding and replanting will be done to recover some of the bare ground cover.
- Many tents were surveyed by the Girl Scouts during the Inspire a Girl event in March, with several marked for retirement.
- Evelyn's Attic was reroofed and windows were replaced with appropriate style windows for that building.
- The chimney cap on the cabin was inspected and found cracked. The cap was torn down, redesigned and rebuilt.
- Two weeks of successful Day Camp in June with Sherwood Forest dedication.

**Troop service project accomplishments:** Thanks to the following troops for their extra service to Hidden Valley this year:

- Jessica Hensley's troop took on the service project of sanding the mold off the Gathering Place picnic tables and collecting litter under the cedars on the east side.
- The sign project by Troop #7112 was started. Several 2-foot hedge posts have been installed in the ground at major trailheads. The slanted tops will be painted colors that match color-coded trails on the map. The troop hopes to continue this project next year for their Silver Award.
- Jennifer Gleason's Junior troop worked on the Milkweed Display Garden at the north end of Butterfly Alley. They planted new milkweed (six species), weeded, and installed a rabbit fence, which was the problem with the original plantings.
- Lysette DeBoard's troop put a rough stain on the archery footbridge, which should help reduce the slipperiness when wet.

## **Major Projects and Goals for 2017 and beyond:**

- New bricks 4 bricks project proposed that will be centered around a brick outside grill in the shelter outside the cabin.
- Investigating the feasibility of providing more robust cooling for the first aid station in the cabin during Day Camp.
- Demolition of the old latrine near the road and road grading.

- Sign over Dogwood Forest.
- Continue honeysuckle mist project for the east side of the meadow and beyond.

### Hidden Valley Usage by Group and Month

7/1/15 - 6/30/16	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAR	JUN	TOTAL
<b>DAY USE</b>													
GIRL SCOUTS			93	54	101	0	0	4	18	53	180	12	<b>515</b>
GS ADULTS			52	20	26	0	0	3	4	41	87	4	<b>237</b>
BOY SCOUTS			75	70	20	0	0	0	0	110	10	0	<b>285</b>
BS ADULTS			50	52	6	0	0	0	0	60	10	0	<b>178</b>
<b>OVERNIGHT CAMPING</b>													
GIRL SCOUTS			90	31	20	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	<b>185</b>
GS ADULTS			22	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	25	6	<b>67</b>
BOY SCOUTS			50	20	4	0	0	0	0	55	5	0	<b>134</b>
BS ADULTS			25	22	3	0	0	0	0	60	5	0	<b>115</b>
<b>MEETINGS</b>													
HV BOARD & FOHV													<b>26</b>
SITE MTGS													<b>18</b>
<b>DAY CAMP-Session 1</b>													
Sum of Daily Total-Girls												1040	<b>1040</b>
Sum of Daily Totals-Adult												400	<b>400</b>
Night-Girls												60	<b>60</b>
Night-Adults												16	<b>16</b>
<b>DAY CAMP-Session 2</b>													
Sum of Daily Total-Girls												925	<b>925</b>
Sum of Daily Totals-Adult												325	<b>325</b>
Night-Girls												0	<b>0</b>
Night-Adults												0	<b>0</b>

<b>FRIENDS OF HV WORK DAYS</b>													<b>372</b>
<b>HONEYSUCKLE WARRIORS</b>													<b>53</b>
<b>WEEKLY HIKING PATROLS</b>													<b>135</b>
<b>SERVICE EVENTS/YOUTH CORP</b>													<b>282</b>
<b>TOURS/OTHER EVENTS</b>													<b>95</b>
<b>KU WOMENS LEADER GROUP</b>	28												<b>28</b>
<b>NEW GENERATION SOCIETY</b>													<b>32</b>
<b>JUNIOR JAMBOREE</b>									41				<b>41</b>
<b>BROWNIE PLAY DAY</b>									60				<b>60</b>
<b>Total Use #'s for 2015-2016 Yr.</b>													<b>5624</b>

### **Choose Your Challenge...**

Challenge Course Committee Report Written by Kyra Flummerfelt,  
Challenge Course Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the challenge committee is 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 professional training for all challenge course facilitators.

Beyond Ropes based in Norman, OK, conducted our annual Zip-Line training for the facilitators and equipment inspection in April. They also keep us informed of changes in industry standards. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Hidden Valley replaced and updated various safety items. Those items include a new facilitator helmet, and a longer Omni strap for the high line. The new ladder-less zip system was a big hit. This new system allows the girls more control of their descent after the zip. The zip committee feels that this allows the zipper to be more engaged in the challenge and it also creates a safer environment for the facilitator as she is no longer climbing a ladder to unhook the zipper from the zip line.

We zipped 1 troop in the fall, 2 troops in the spring, zipped 37 girls during the Junior Jamboree and Junior Girl Scouts as well as teen campers zipped during day camp.

The archery range, Sherwood Forest, was once again used for day camp. We had 1 troop shoot in the spring. The day camp aides and teen scouts shot during day camp.

Please visit [www.lawrencehiddenvalley.org](http://www.lawrencehiddenvalley.org) for information on reserving the archery and/or zip line and bring your troop out for an adventure!

## **Reaching Out to Others...**

Public Relations Committee Report Written by Sharon Reynolds,  
Public Relations Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the public relations committee is 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 the corporation and camp.

The committee sent thank-you cards to the volunteers from 2016 Day Camp, Gwen MacPherson and Treanor Architects. We held committee meetings to discuss changes to the website. In order to resolve the issues of timely updates to the Hidden Valley Website, a major change in hosting needed to be considered.

At the May meeting the Board voted for Diane to communicate with Audrey our desire for LHVC to take over the website domain registration and transfer the current site to a more user friendly web hosting service with Cris Bandle managing both the Friends of Hidden Valley and the LHVC site. That transition has been accomplished. Updates are now done quickly by sending Cris an email. The website will remain informational with a link to the Council site, Friends site and LHVC Facebook page. Tabs have been updated and a new Photo Tab has photos of the campsites at Hidden Valley. All forms have been corrected and can now be completed online as well as printed. Events will be moved to the Past Events tab as soon as they have passed.

The Board also voted to keep the hosting duties in-house with the Public Relations Committee now responsible for suggesting a replacement if that would be necessary in the future. This would be easier now with the access transferable.

## **Remembering Where We Have Been...**

Archives Committee Report Written by Margaret Verhage, Archives Comm. Chair

Purpose: The archive committee's purpose is to preserve the history and management of the late Al Bromelsick's bequest to the Girl Scouts of Lawrence, KS. 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.

The archives committee continued its focus on gathering, identifying and sorting key past and current LHVC materials such as minutes, treasurer's reports and other documents, flyers for special events, etc. for deposit and storage in appropriate archival sites and for current reference. Archival original of 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. This year, 3 years of materials have been made ready for storage at Spencer Research Library.

## **Helping Others Who Have Helped Us...**

Scholarship Committee Report Written by Margaret Verhage, Scholarship Comm. Chair

Purpose: The scholarship committee's purpose is to provide financial assistance to troops for activities and events that may otherwise be prohibitive due to the costs. In addition, the 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 and interview process to determine their eligibility and the final decision from the committee.

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 Aimee Neilsen, Samantha Mills, Amber Flummerfelt (Lawrence High School). All eligible applicants were interviewed by members of the committee prior to our final decisions. All the applicants indicated that the interview process was enjoyable and valuable to them in planning for the future jobs or college applications. Additionally, one request for funding was granted in the amount of \$50.00 for Troop start up.

## **Bromelsick Blast!**

Bromelsick Committee Report Written by Cindy Riling

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

The Hidden Valley Bromelsick Committee represents the Girl Scouts at meetings and planning with 4-H and Boy Scouts for the two events required by the Bromelsick will. Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee contributed \$1,000 to this committee this year. The two events are the annual memorial in May for Mr. Bromelsick, and the annual Christmas Party held in December. Each year the organizations take on certain responsibilities for each event. This past year, Girl Scouts were in charge of the program for our party on December 5, 2015. Reverse Order provided a music program with an anti-bullying message. Christmas Carols were led by the Pelathe District Honors Musician Ensemble. Attendance was low perhaps because attendees were not familiar with the location of the Haskell Indian Nations Auditorium. Only 80 Girl Scouts and their families attended. The total youth was 177.

The Bromelsick Memorial was held Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 10:00 am at Oak Hill Cemetery. Boy Scouts were in charge of planning and conducting this service. Approximately 75 people from the

three organizations attended the memorial.

### **The Nitty Gritty...**

Policy and Procedures Committee Report Written by Lysette DeBoard, Secretary

Purpose: The purpose of the Policies/Procedures committee is to maintain documents and policies that give the Hidden Valley Board a historical overview and procedural reference for Hidden Valley. In addition, the policies/procedures committee maintains and distributes current copies of the Hidden Valley Board manual and SOPP (standard operating policies and procedures) to necessary parties.

The Policy and Procedure committee met to begin the process of digitizing the manual. The work continues towards finalization.

### **Board Members...**

Nominating Committee Report Written by Kyra Flummerfelt

Purpose: The purpose of the nominating committee is 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.

#### 2015-2016 Board Members

Diane Church, Chair  
Lauren Buskirk, Vice Chair  
Lysette A. DeBoard, Secretary  
Judy Inverarity, Treasurer  
Jeff Bandle  
Kyra Flummerfelt  
Gail Meier  
Mary Murphy  
Sharon Reynolds  
Nancy Smelser  
Margaret Verhage

#### Slate of Nominees for 2016-2017 Board

Ann Marie Boncella (3 year term)  
Jessica Hensley (3 year term)  
Open position (2 year term)

### **Behind the Scenes...**

Finance Committee Report Written by Jeff Bandle, Finance Committee Chair

Purpose: The finance committee's purpose is 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.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Judy Inverarity, 865-7301

FINANCE SUMMARY REPORT			
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Bromelsick Distribution	\$15,261.35	Bromelsick Party	\$1,000.00
Cell Tower	11,895.00	Public Relations	140.00
Challenge Course	2,510.00	Scholarship	1,500.00
Camp Use Fees	167.00	Secretary	0.00
Interest	45.53	Site	10,688.19
Miscellaneous	0.00	Other Site Expenses	8,934.13
Investments	529.08	Site Manager	11,000.64
Investments (Kaegi)	(2,551.98)	Treasurer	711.11
Donations	1,900.00	Utilities	265.51
Donations FHV	8,934.13	Insurance	7,477.00
Sales-Smoke Patches	9.00		
Labor & Materials)	0.00	Challenge Course	1,776.93
Archery Income	800.00	Policy & Procedures	0.00
		Archives	0.00
		Payroll Tax Expense	865.20
		Miscellaneous	20.19
		Archery Range Expenses	850.66
		Bob Billings Project	1,591.00

Balance	\$39,499.11	Balance	\$46,791.33

**Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.**  
**Condensed Annual Report July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**  
Written by Christine Graves, Chair

Board of Directors: Jill Baringer, Vicki Collie-Akers, Christine Graves, Karen Lewis, Elizabeth Phillips, Durand Reiber, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West, Lily Yu, Carol Zhiri

During the 2015 – 2016 year, the Friends of Hidden Valley members and volunteers focused on several improvement and maintenance projects. We continued to plant pollinator attracting plants, and shrubs and trees to restore areas to native forests. With a large honeysuckle removal effort, there is now large open spaces throughout the north side of the camp. Efforts will continue in select areas.

Evelyn’s Attic has received a new roof, new windows and a fresh coat of paint. Two wooden kiosks have been installed with display windows on both sides to share information and maps of the camp. One is near Evelyn’s Attic and the other near the Wetlands area.

The FHV partnered with the LHVC and many others to plan a celebration of Hidden Valley’s 60th Anniversary, called the Fall Frolic. We will celebrate with activities based on pollinators and displays throughout the camp, of accomplishments and improvements over the last 10 years.

The new fundraising project for the Bricks 4 Bricks program is to build a stone or brick fireplace and grill at the Southern Shade Shelter south of the cabin. Contributions from memberships, donations and investment interests totaled over \$16,000 this year, enabling us to accomplish these projects.

The Membership Committee sent out renewal forms to members and solicitation letters to recruit new members. They also assisted the PR committee in sending out newsletters and helped host the Eagles Day event and National Trails Day. The committee and the Treasurer attended a seminar on nonprofit finances and legal responsibilities. The current membership is 113.

The Public Relations Committee published 4 newsletters this year. They also coordinated our booth at the Eagles Day event and the publicity and hosting for National Trails Day. There were increased efforts to fully utilize the FHV Facebook page to draw in volunteers and interest from the community.

The Recognitions Committee awarded 3 troops with the Troop Rewards for their support for and activities at Hidden Valley Camp. They are Junior Troop 7602, leader Emily Malin; Junior Troop 7610, leader Mindi Paget; and Ambassador Troop 7710, leader Julie McEathron. The Mariana Remple Recognition Award was given to Ambassador Girl Scout Danielle McEathron from Troop 7710, leader Julie McEathron. The committee along with the LHVC Board gave the Honored Friend of Hidden Valley Award to Cris Bandle. A name plaque was installed on the Honor Bench in the Friends Memorial Butterfly Garden for Cris.

The Volunteer Committee sponsored 4 workdays to maintain the camp and complete several projects. It also provided monitoring of the camp by the Hiking Patrol. Many volunteers helped in building the archery shooting platform, designed and supervised by the Westar Green Team. The Honeysuckle Warriors trimmed, cut,

hailed and burned the invasive honeysuckle on 17 different occasions. All total, 507 volunteers, representing an estimation of 950 hours of service helped keep Hidden Valley a well-maintained camp and valued natural area.