

**Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp
Annual Report**

For July 2023 through June 2024

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, 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.

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 LHV 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!

We continue to use TurfPros of Lawrence to be our camp maintenance company. They have done many projects around camp and have also been mowing the property and helping to maintain structures. We have also continued to have outside rental of the camp by Morning Song Forest School which has decided that the 2023-2024 school year will be their final year in operation. 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 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 (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, 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 2023

- Greenbush held a 2-day camp at Hidden Valley.

- Discovered a seep on the hill between Flagpole Hill & Mulberry.

August 2023

- KU Super Saturday – we worked on scrubbing the outside of the yurt & replaced the rope around the top of the yurt. Reorganized the Dogwood Forest fire ring rocks & mulched Pinwheel Village.

September 2023

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted volunteer day.
- Hosted the Veritas students for a work day

November 2023

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted volunteer day

December 2023

- Some troop usage of the cabin

January 2024

- Honeysuckle Warriors began their annual remediation of the invasive honeysuckle
- Some troop usage of the cabin
- Solar batteries were replaced in the cabin by Ra Power.
- Solar panel & battery were replaced in Evelyn's Attic by Ra Power. Added ceiling fans downstairs & lights upstairs.

February 2024

- New red gate installed at camp entrance that was damaged by the cell tower repair company

March 2024

- Troop usage of the camp starts to pick up with the warmer weather
- Brookside Bridge was damaged by a falling tree. We engaged with Priority Solutions Inc. to replace it. The Kriz Foundation grant will pay for it.

April 2024

- Friends of Hidden Valley hosted a volunteer day.
- Honeysuckle Warriors winter work ended
- Brookside bridge was demolished
- Brookside hydrant was replaced on 4/12/24 by Chaney Services LLC
- Italian Wall Lizard study continues

May 2024

- Concrete supports were poured for the new Brookside Bridge
- Shamrock Tree Service trimmed limbs, removed several trees & limbs; mulched them for us before day camp started.
- Replaced the tank in the west porta potty in Mary's Meadow again due to rat damage.

June 2024

- The new Brookside bridge was completed on 6/8/24.
- The 2 weeks of day camp were a great success. We had approximately 200 girls for Session 1 & 150 girls for session 2.
- Southwest Middle School STEAM Summer Learning program brought out a group of 100 6th - 8th graders to do the geocaching.

7/1/23 - 6/30/24	JU LY	AU G	SEP T	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR CH	APR IL	MA Y	JUN E	TOT ALS
DAY USE													
GIRL SCOUTS	17	85	162	242	136	25	15		35	118	244	38	1117
GS ADULTS	6	21	73	65	46	7	2		18	30	103	13	384
BOY SCOUTS				25									25
BS ADULTS				10									10
OVERNIGHT CAMPING													
GIRL SCOUTS		16	28	25							54		123

Choose Your Challenge...

Challenge Report written by Kyra Flummerfelt, Challenge Course Manager

Purpose: To provide the Lawrence 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 2024. This year a one-day refresher course was conducted by Jon Godsey, the owner of Beyond Ropes. A new pulley was installed on the pole to facilitate team belay. 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 193 kids, 78 participated in archery, 62 participated in the Team Adventure Challenges and 20 kids participated in slingshot activities. The kids seemed to really enjoy all the challenge activities and we are pleased that more are choosing the TAC activities. We hope that more groups will want to participate in all the challenge activities we provide. We are looking into adding a Spider Web to our camp as well. 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 the activities the 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 Boy Scouts 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 2023-2024 year, no "higher award" projects were completed at Hidden Valley. Several smaller troop service projects were completed including:

1. 3/19/24 - Troop 3290/Annie Rajaei's cadette troop - they moved biochar from the Redbud fire ring to the trails & also mixed it into the mulch piles.
2. 3/24/24 - Troop 4285/Sherri Whightsil's cadette troop moved biochar from the Windmill fire ring to the trails..
3. 4/9/24 - Troop 3766/Cassie Donahey's cadette troop sealed the stage & repainted/sealed the unit signs.

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.

No additional work was completed during 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 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...

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. This year the High School scholarships were in the amount of \$500. The 2024 awards were presented to Ruby Hoffer (Kansas State University) and Allie White (University of Missouri-Columbia), both from Lawrence High School. One other application was submitted, but was incomplete and not awarded. *(This scholarship expense will be reflected in the FY 2024-25 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 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.

Bromelsick duties were covered by the 4-H of Douglas County for the 2023 Christmas Party and Girl Scout Troop #7579 for the 2024 Bromelsick Memorial Day remembrance. The Christmas Party was held at Royal Crest lanes and featured open bowling for all the participants and roving Christmas carols sung by Ric Averill and friends with the usual appearance by Santa to hand out treats and take pictures. This year saw the resumption of the \$1000 contribution from the LHVC Board to the overall Bromelsick Committee.

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.

2023-2024 Current Board Members

Jeff Bandle, Chair

Sarah Meinershagen, Vice-Chair

Cris Bandle, Treasurer

Emily Boedeker, Secretary

Cami Torres

Laura Phillips

Kyra Flummerfelt

Ann Marie Boncella

Tina Imbrogno

Cassie Donahey

Charlie Bryan

Tracey LaPierre

Slate of Nominees for 2024-2025

Renewing Board Members:

Sarah Meinershagen

Cris Bandle

Laura Phillips

New Board Members:

Kenna McNally

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 2023-24 include: Jeff Bandle: Moderator, Sarah Meinershagen, Cris Bandle, and Emily Boedeker.

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. We utilized a shared Google Document between our board and the FHV board, working in tandem to designate necessary camp maintenance between adult volunteers, GS troops and Turf Pros. Excellent communication remains a goal for timely completion of tasks. The board will evaluate the costs versus return before continuing the Turf Pros contract.

Day Camp income for 2024 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Direct Public Support	815.00	Scholarship	600.00
Bromelsick Distribution	13410.42	Site	9788.46
Cell Tower	12899.28	Site-Other (solar upgrades)	9820.60
Challenge Course	3015.00	Site Manager (Turf Pros)	16311.83
Camp Use Fees	10456.40	Treasurer	454.24
Dividends/Interest	5166.65	Utilities	1896.45
Investments	4557.60	Insurance (Site & Work Comp)	8162.00
Donations FHV	9693.01	Challenge Course	2950.00
Archery Income	805.00	Payroll tax correction	61.50
Day Camp Income	0.00	Bromelsick Party	1000.00
Program Income	210.00	Facilities & Equipment	0.00
Balance	61028.36	Balance	51045.08

Friends of Hidden Valley
Annual Report for 2023-2024

Cindy Riling, chair; Gwen Macpherson, vice chair; Laurie Martin-Frydman, secretary; Patsy Moody, treasurer; and Amanda Atkins, Jenny Gleason, Karen Lassman, Mindie Paget, Gayle Sigurdson, Margaret Townsend, Marcia West, and Lily Yu

Friends of Hidden Valley had a busy and productive year. Membership continues to be our greatest resource for contributions of money and labor. We would not exist without our members. These members gave donations that allowed us to upgrade the solar energy system and batteries in the cabin and Evelyn's Attic, thus enabling Hidden Valley in its mission to promote the Girl Scout program. Friends of Hidden Valley also had a record year of grant funding. We received two grants from the Kriz Charitable Foundation for a new bridge at Brookside and trail camera to enhance the goals of the EPEC committee. We also raised \$1,550 from the Douglas County Community Foundation's Annual Giving for Good campaign and received a check from Cans for the Community.

Our revenue in 2024 was \$73,936.46 including membership, donations, and external grants. Our expenditures were \$36,627.56 of which \$31,198.69 went directly back into the camp and \$1,670.31 was used for awards and recognition of volunteers and Girl Scouts. Currently, our monetary assets are \$248,700.28 with \$158,355.98 being held in the Douglas County Community Foundation.

We sponsored three sponsored Volunteer Days with a total of 473 individuals giving their labor for camp work. In addition, the weekly hiking patrol, Honeysuckle Warriors, Valley Gardeners, and bluebird box monitors worked behind the scenes to maintain camp. We had other volunteer opportunities with a crew removing sumac in our native prairie on FPH, KU Big Event twice, KU Super Saturday Service, Bishop Seabury Heritage Day, and KU Big Event hosting Rotary Youth Leadership Award

The EPEC Committee was established to maintain Hidden Valley as an environmental treasure with their goals being to provide as opportunities as possible for Girl Scouts and others to learn about nature firsthand; and restore and maintain native habitat in harmony with the developed areas of the camp that support Girl Scout programs. We have updated our soil maps and are working on flora and fauna inventories with assistance from experts in various areas. The "Natural History Guide to Hidden Valley" is almost complete and will be available for use.

You will notice our newsletter looks different and is being sent via email rather than postal, so we can better steward our membership funds. We are updating our website using it to streamline membership applications as well as items related to Volunteer Days.

The Recognitions Committee continues to support the Girl Scout program with awards and scholarships, including, of course, the Marianna Remple Scholarship.

Our complete Annual Report is posted on Friendshv.org.