

GSNYPENN Pathways Camps

Girl Scout camps offer girls an opportunity to explore nature, learn new skills, and make lasting friendships.

- Find out how many Girl Scout camps are active within GSNYPENN Pathways.
- Research what makes each camp experience unique (what activities do they offer, landmarks, etc). Make a poster or perform a camp skit to let others know what makes each property unique.
- Visit one of the camp properties for a day activity or camping experience.

Camps that are part of the GSNYPENN Pathways Council are spread across the 26-county footprint. The camps are marked with Trefoils on the below map. Think about these questions:

1. Can you find all four camps on the map below?
2. Which camp is closest to you?
3. Which one is the furthest?
4. Which camp or camps have you been to?
5. Which was your favorite?
6. What is your favorite camp activity?
7. Which camp offers that activity?



To find out more about the activities and programs that are offered, visit the Camp section of our website!

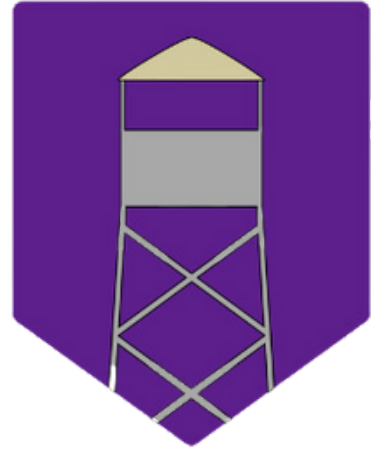


To schedule a tour of camp fill out this form!



Camp Amahami

Located in Deposit, NY, in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. We have proudly provided camping and outdoor experiences since 1929. With over 450 acres, there is so much to explore at Amahami! Paddle our private lake, try your hand at archery, or climb to the top of Page Pond Fire Tower. Join us for new experiences, lifelong friends, and lasting memories at Girl Scout summer camp. Camp is open to all girls, not just Girl Scouts!



*“There’s a camp on Lake Waletka where my heart will always be,
Its name is Amahami, and it’s nestled in the trees...”*

2019 marked the 90th anniversary of Camp Amahami. On a Sunday afternoon in the 1920s, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Titchener, whose vision led the efforts to build a Girl Scout camp, went looking for a good site on a lake, a former lumber camp, on Page’s Pond in the Town of Sanford. It was down a dirt road, winding through what seemed a magical forested entry, a jewel of a lake nestled in the wooded hills of Eastern Broome County. Dorothy and Paul Titchener knew this was the place where a Girl Scout camp should be built. In 1929, they purchased 64.5+ acres with the express purpose of starting a Girl Scout camp.

“To it come young and old folk, its beauty to behold...”

In March of 1929, a group of council members went to the new location to make plans for building the new camp. The snow drifts were four to six feet high! A farmer drove the group from the main road into the camp. The architectural firm of Conrad and Cummings contributed to the development plans. People in Broome County contributed to the camp fund in many ways. The first building to be completed was the Ice House.

Paying homage to the Native American history of the region, the name Amahami, meaning “mountainous country,” was chosen. Camp opened on July 6, 1929. It consisted of the Lodge, Lane Duck, Wash House, and Pixie, Robinhood, and Pioneer units. In 1933, the Indian Unit opened on what today is known as Lorelei. Campers slept on the ground in teepees. The unit’s counselor, of Native American descent herself, suggested the name Lake Waletka, meaning “clear water”, for Page’s Pond.



Camp Amahami was made possible by the many people who believed in Girl Scouting and wanted Broome County Girl Scouts to learn the joy of living together in the outdoors. Ninety years later, Amahami is supported by the Friends of Amahami, GSNYPENN alums, and community partners to provide 21st-century opportunities for girls through a continued belief in Girl Scouting and the Girl Scout Outdoor Leadership Experience.

Camp Amahami

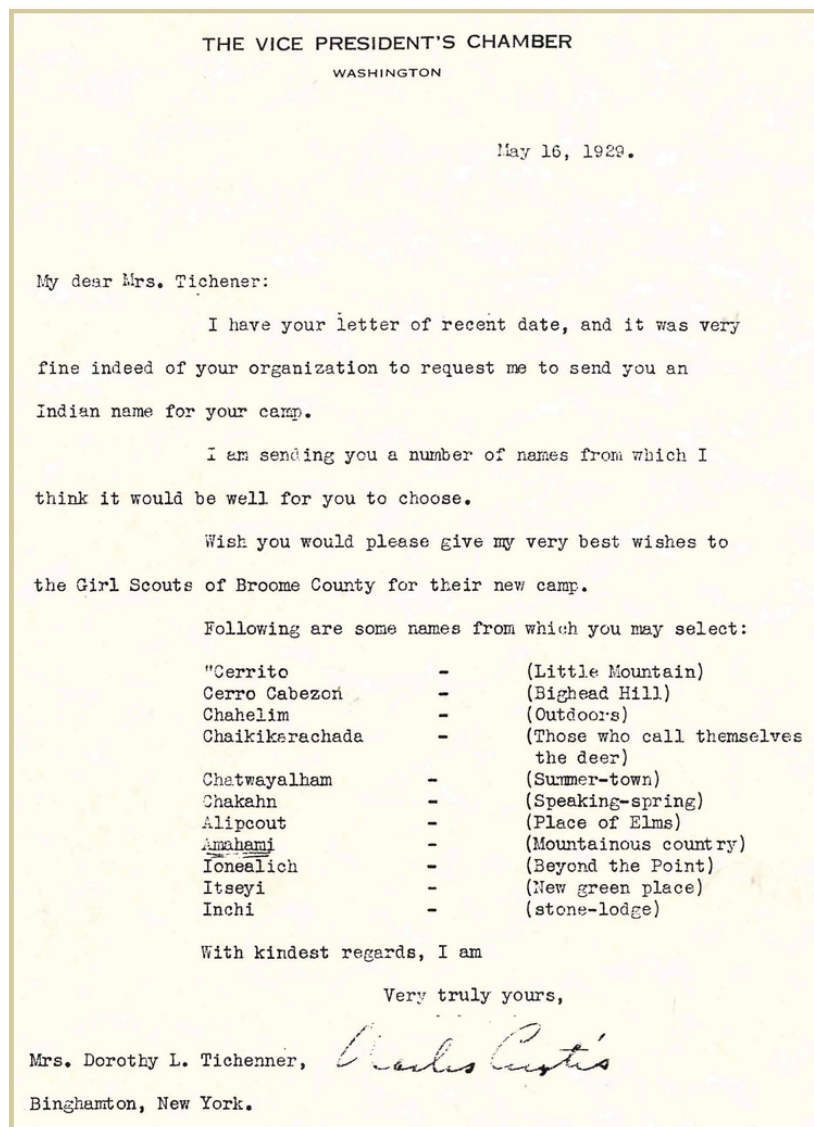
The choice of name for this camp is important. A letter was written to the Vice President of the United States of America asking for his input. Read the letter and find out why it was written and what the reply was.



*Excerpt from
"2004 Marks the 75th Anniversary of
Amahami Adventure Center"*

Amahami Adventure Center, as we know it today, was first known as Camp Amahami. The first Girl Scout troop in Binghamton was formed in 1918. At that time, the Council was named Broome County Council. From 1918 to the early 1920's, Girl Scouts held encampments at Lake Arrowhead, just South of Binghamton. They made their own "camp" by laying platforms for tents, pitching tents, and carrying in their own food and water. There was no shower-house, and no latrines!

From 1922 to 1927, Broome County Council leased land on Summit Lake near Deposit, New York for the Girl Scouts use. The camp was called Camp Amadah. As more and more girls joined the Girl Scouts, the need for a campsite of their own became apparent. But to find and purchase a camp would be quite an undertaking. They found what they thought would be the right location on Page's Pond near Deposit. The location had at one time been the site of a lumber camp. A crystal clear lake, rolling hills, beautiful woodlands, and an open grassy field. It seemed like the perfect place!



The choice of a name for this camp was important. They wrote a letter to the Vice-President of the United States, Charles Curtis, who was of partial Native American decent, asking for his input. He replied suggesting a number of "Indian" names that he thought might be suitable. Amahami was chosen. Did you know "amahami" means "mountainous country"?



Camp Comstock

Campers will enjoy the beauty of Cayuga Lake while living in our tree-top cabin village units. They will explore nature by, hiking, swimming and boating. Other fun activities include shooting sports, crafts, gaga ball, and more!

When the Ithaca Council of Girl Scouts opened summer camp on Cayuga Lake in 1934, it was the twelfth season of Girl Scouts camping along the shores of Cayuga Lake. Prior to 1934, starting in 1922, Girl Scouts camped on land along the shores of Cayuga Lake made available to Girl Scouts by people willing to share their land for the opportunity for girls to experience living in an outdoor setting, and studying nature. Friends of Girl Scouting in the truest sense!

Land that would become part of present-day Camp Comstock was given by Professor and Mrs. Ernest T. Paine in 1926, to be used by Girl Scouts from Ithaca and Tompkins County. Mrs. Paine was the second deputy commissioner for the Ithaca Council. This camp included about one mile of lake shore, with woods and small glens. It was described as one of the most beautiful points along the lake. Again, friends of Girl Scouting in the truest sense!

The Cornell Daily Sun, October 6, 1926 reported, “At the annual Girl Scout Mother/Daughter Dinner, Mrs. A.C. Durand announced that the new camp of the Girl Scouts at Crowbar Point on the West Side of Cayuga Lake had been named Anna Botsford Comstock in honor of the famous naturalist.” Anna Comstock was the first female professor at Cornell University. A leader in the nature study movement, she was also a member of the national advisory committee on Girl Scouts nature work.

A fundraising drive for Camp Comstock was held in the spring of 1927, led by the Zonta Club of Ithaca, a business and professional women’s organization. Funds were sought for road construction, tents, latrines, wells, a dock and boats, tables and benches, dishes and kitchen equipment. A lodge was also funded and built, including a dining and recreation room with a large stone fireplace. These efforts one could say marked the earliest beginnings of the Friends of Comstock. Camp Comstock was formally dedicated on July 17, 1927.



Camp Comstock

Summer 2022 marked the 100th season that Girl Scouts camped on the shores of Cayuga Lake. Today's Girl Scouts carry away camp memories of their time at Comstock. Memories, and the place they were made at, are both made possible by the vision and commitment of many people. Friends they are called, who care and believe in the magical setting called camp, and the Girl Scout outdoor experience. Thank you to the earliest Friends of Comstock and here's to all the Friends of Comstock yet to be!

The Cornell Daily Sun
16 November 1929
Girl Scouts Presented
Estate on Cayuga Lake:
Professor & Mrs. Liberty
Hyde Bailey Give Popular
Rendezvous to
Organization.

"Bailiwick" the property on Cayuga Lake of Prof. and Mrs. Liberty Hyde Bailey for more than 35 years, and for a long period their summer home, has been presented to the Ithaca Girl Scouts. In accepting the gift the Ithaca Girl Scout Council expressed their appreciation to Professor and Mrs. Bailey and their hope that it may develop the nature project work already well started at Camp Anna Botsford Comstock.

"Bailiwick" adjoins the Girl Scout camp at Crowbar on the south. For years it had been a nature rendezvous for people connected with Cornell University and was noted for possessing one of the first dwarfed apple orchards. The orchards were put in by professor Bailey and their produce was well known on Ithaca Markets.

How Ithaca Girl Scouts got their lakeside camp

by Mary Williams
correspondent

THEN & NOW

The first local Girl Scouts summer camp opened in the early 1920s and was located near Sheldrake, on the west shore of Cayuga Lake. The girls camped in tents, and the mess tent had no floor, which proved troublesome in rainy weather.

In 1927, Camp Comstock opened closer to Ithaca, at Crowbar Point. The camp's official name was Camp Anna Botsford Comstock, in honor of the first female professor at Cornell University. A leader in the nature study movement, she was also a member of the national advisory committee on Girl Scouts nature work. The Camp Comstock site was given by Prof. and Mrs. Ernest T. Paine on Oct. 27, 1926, for use by Girl Scouts from Ithaca and Tompkins County. Mrs. Paine was the second deputy commissioner for the Ithaca Council of Girl Scouts. The camp included about one mile of lake shore, with woods and small glens. The Ithaca Journal described the site as "one of the most beautiful points along the lake." Originally part of Military Tract Lot 17 in the Town of Ulysses after the Revolutionary War, the land was purchased by Ezra Cornell between 1864 and 1866. His granddaughter, Eunice Cornell Taylor, sold the property to the Paines.

A fundraising drive for Camp Comstock was held in the spring of 1927, led by the Zonta Club of Ithaca, a business and professional women's organization. Funds were sought for road construction, tents, latrines, wells, a dock and boats, tables and benches, dishes and kitchen equipment. A lodge was also funded and built, including a dining and recreation room with a large stone fireplace. Camp Comstock was formally dedicated on July 17, 1927. That summer the Augusta began providing daily boat service to the camp, delivering milk and ice each morning.

In later years, Camp Bailiwick was opened on land adjoining Camp Comstock, and was used by the Scouts first as a nature study area, then as another summer camp and a winter camping site. The land was donated by Liberty Hyde Bailey, a professor of horticulture and first dean of agriculture at Cornell. He had built a stone summer cottage on the property, called Bailiwick, and used the site as a study area for college classes.

More information and photographs from Camp Comstock can be viewed in a current exhibit at the History Center, called "On My Honor: Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouts." Throughout March, this small exhibit will accompany the museum's spring exhibit of historic quilts. The History Center, at 401 East State/Martin Luther King Jr. St. in Ithaca, is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Then & Now appears every other Saturday in The Ithaca Journal. Mary Williams is the research librarian at the History Center in Tompkins County.

The Cornell Daily Sun
16 October 1926

At the annual Girl Scout Mother/ Daughter dinner, Mrs. A. C. Durand announced that the new camp of the Girl Scouts, at "Crowbar Point" on the west side of Cayuga Lake had been named "Anna Botsford Comstock": in honor of the famous naturalist.

Girl Scouts from Tompkins County are shown in a group portrait at Camp Comstock on Crowbar Point in 1937. PHOTO PROVIDED

View of Cayuga Lake from the porch.



Camp Comstock

Anna Botsford Comstock (September 1, 1854 - August 24, 1930), was an American artist, educator, conservationist, and a leader of the nature study movement, born in Otto, New York. Comstock grew up on her parents' farm, where she and her Quaker mother spent time together examining the wildflowers, birds, and trees.

In 1874, Comstock entered Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, but she left Cornell after two years. In 1878, at the age of 24, she married John Henry Comstock, a young entomologist on the Cornell faculty who got her interested in insect illustration.

Throughout her life, Comstock illustrated her husband's lectures and publications on insects. She had no formal training in illustration but she would study an insect under a microscope and then draw it. While her husband was chief entomologist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1879 to 1881, she prepared the drawings for his 1880 Report of the Entomologist on citrus scale insects. She then reentered Cornell and received a degree in natural history in 1885. Then she studied wood engraving at Cooper Union, New York City, so she could prepare illustrations for her husband's book "Introduction to Entomology" in 1888. Also in 1888, she was one of the first four women admitted to Sigma Xi, a national honor society for the sciences.



Photo credit: Anna Botsford Comstock, Wikipedia

Comstock made engravings for the more than 600 plates Manual for the Study of Insects (1895), Insect Life (1897), and How to Know the Butterflies (1904), the first written by her husband and the latter two co-authored by them. Her engravings were also featured in exhibits and won several prizes. She both wrote, and illustrated several books, including Ways of the Six-Footed (1903), How to Keep Bees (1905), The Handbook of Nature Study - which also became a textbook for teachers (1911), The Pet Book (1914), and Trees at Leisure (1916). Comstock is most famous for being one of the first to bring her students and other teachers out-of-doors to study nature. In 1895, Comstock was appointed to the New York State Committee for the Promotion of Agriculture. In this position, she planned and implemented an experimental course of nature study for public schools. The program was approved for statewide use through the extension service of Cornell. She then wrote and spoke on behalf of the program and helped train teachers.

The devotion of the Comstocks was not limited to the university and its people. It extended to the physical setting; the blue water of Cayuga Lake, the gorges and waterfalls, the rolling hills, and varied habitats. Their early acquaintance had developed in this setting, and they retained a deep attachment to this environment, with so much to be enjoyed by students of natural history.

Camp Hoover

Camp Hoover is in the heart of Central New York on scenic Song Lake in Tully. Song Lake is one of the glacially formed “kettle lakes” of the region. We have been proudly serving Girl Scouts and the community since 1929 in our beautiful, lakeside setting. Campers can challenge themselves at our BB gun range, paddle to our private island, and compete in endless games of gaga ball. Get a taste of camp at Mom & Me, have a weekend of fun with your troop at Troop Core, or develop independence at Day Camp or the Mini Session. Adventure, new friends, and lifelong memories await you at Hoover this summer!



In 1922, the Onondaga Girl Scout Council first offered summer camp at Otisco Lake, near Auburn, NY. The camp was officially named Camp Hoover in honor of Mrs. Herbert Hoover, National President, on July 8 and received the sanction of the council July 12, 1922.



In 1923, Miss Marjorie S. Kirk and Mrs. Cass Williams began to share their dream of a permanent place for girls. They convinced the farmer who had begun to plow the field that a better use of this property would be a place for girls to come and learn about nature, build skills, and make new friends. In 1923, Camp Hoover moved to Song Lake. Carl Prehn, owner of a cottage on the eastern shore of the lake, rented his cottage for use as a Girl Scout Camp. The camp was held from July 1 to July 29. There were 48 girls, representing 16 troops, who attended the camp - some more than one week since the total attendance was 74. Girl Scouts at camp slept in raised platform tents in the main field, and ate meals in the “Mess Tent.”

The beginning of Camp Hoover at its present location was three army tents all in a row. The tents were able to house 8 girls, and a few counselors. Soon there were 6-8 tents with the counselors’ tents facing them as in a Company Street. There was a small house called the Cook House that served as a kitchen and a leaky circus tent that served as a dining room. The first permanent building was the Playhouse (called the Craft House in the 1950s). Then Wigwam was next, which was the Infirmary. That building no longer exists. The units spread as more girls wanted to come to camp. The names were Unilayis, Pixies, and Merrymede, and later the Pioneer Unit. There were more dreams...a new Craft House, a new Nature and Staff House, a new Boat House, new plans for the Island.

In 1930, the woods were purchased and several years later, another piece of property added and then the Island. The evergreen forest was planted as a Memorial Forest after World War I. The winter cabin which was used in summer for rainy days, but in winter was used to store ice which was used in the summer. The barn, down by the main road, was purchased originally for stabling horses for a riding unit called Gringolai, but was discontinued due to fees too high for many campers.

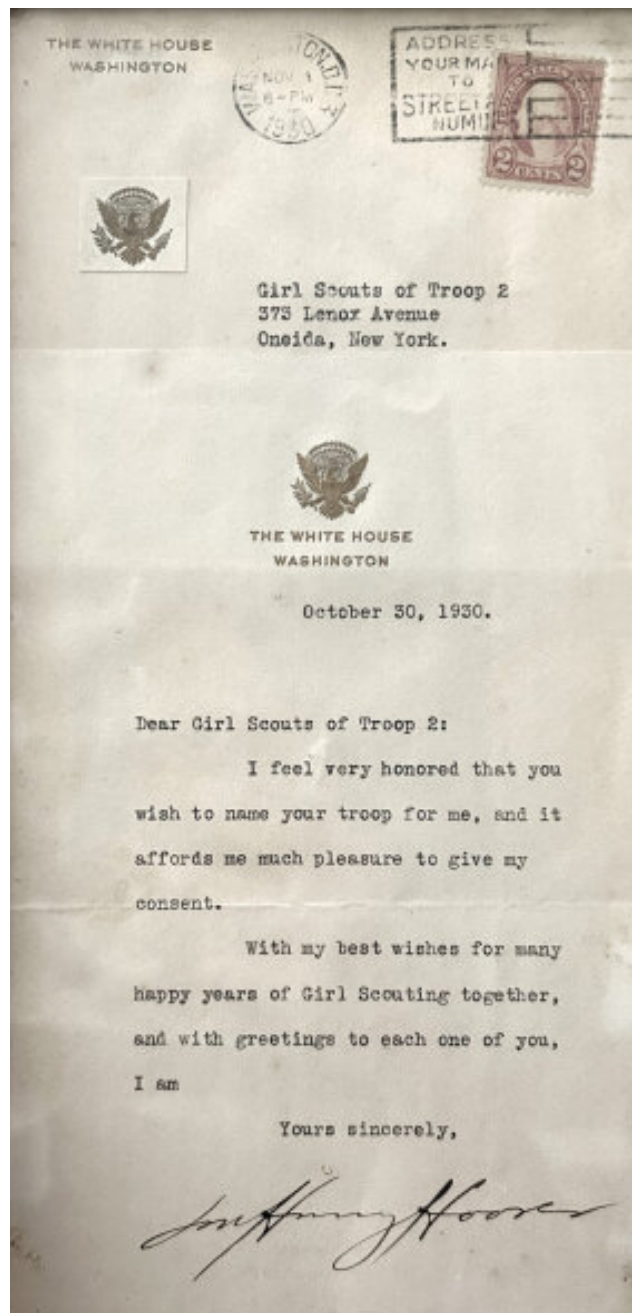


Camp Hoover

In 1932, the council decided that a main lodge was necessary. They did not have the funds to build a lodge, so the girls made 1,000 orange bags and gave them to girls, leaders, and board members to collect their old gold. At a spring rally, all of them brought their orange bags and turned in all the gold: one unused wedding ring, old gold chains, watches, watch cases, earrings, gold coins, gold fillings, pieces of silver and other bits of precious metal. Some pieces were sold as antiques because they were too valuable to melt down. They gathered sufficient money to buy the lumber for the lodge. Lions' Club members, parents, and other community members donated their time and skills and the building was quickly built. People donated the windows, another donated time and materials to build the fireplace and the Opti-Mrs. Club donated the screens for the building. When they ran out of funds they stopped construction and the girls collected tin foil, aluminum and lead over the winter to help pay for the rest of the construction.

The Mess Tent at Camp Hoover was replaced by The Lodge. The Lodge was renamed Kirk Lodge in 1961. Unfortunately Kirk Lodge burned down in 1974, so Mark Lodge was built in 1979.

There were always plenty of things to do while at camp. The schedule was full and you could spend time earning badges.



Here are examples of the badges that could be earned:

- First Aid
- Home Nurse
- Signaling
- Flower Finder

There were also class tests at camp:

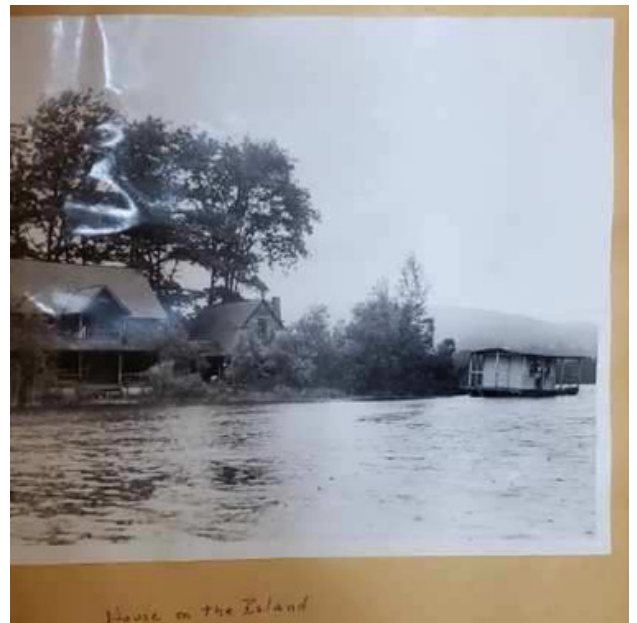
- First Class Tests of an overnight hike and compass.
- Second Class Tests of the history of the flag, nature study, compass, fire prevention, signaling, observation, fire making, cooking, table setting, hospital bed, first aid and health rules.

Camp Hoover

This an example of what a camp schedule could look like:

6:30 Reveille	9:10 Inspection	1:15 Canteen - where you could buy things, mail letters, etc.	5:45 Retreat
6:40 Morning Dip	9:30 Court of Honor	2:00 Rest Hour	6:00 Supper
7:25 Colors	10:00 Scout Classes	3:15 Swimming	6:45 Boating
7:30 Breakfast	12:00 Free Time	4:30 Hiking and Boating	7:30 Campfire
8:15 Fatigue - possibly free time and get bunk & tent in order	12:30 Dinner		8:30 Call to Quarters
			9:00 Taps

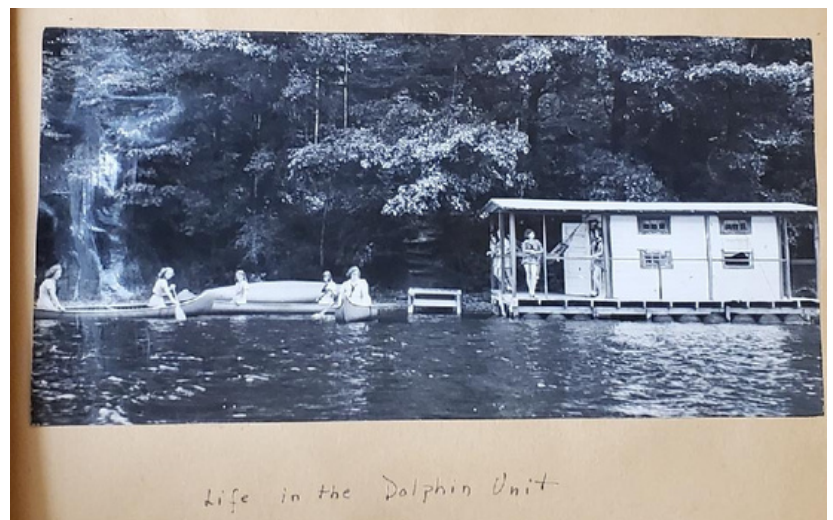
In 1925, the National Girl Scout organization proposed the concept of a houseboat as a place for a water safety program at a resident summer Girl Scout Camp. Around 1937, the Onondaga Girl Scout Council purchased the "Island" at Camp Hoover on Song Lake. Hoover was the selected site for the prototype development of the Girl Scout houseboat concept. The Onondaga Girl Scout Council built the first houseboat that was incorporated into a Girl Scout Camp program in the U.S. The houseboat was named the S.S. Nautilus. The boat served as a play center, as well as being used for education in water safety.



Camp Hoover's houseboat unit was called the Dolphin Unit (Dolphins for short). The houseboat was docked at the Island. Here are a few photos of the houseboat and the Island.



House boat Unit — called the "Dolphins"
House boat is anchored off shore — Emerald Isle



Life in the Dolphin Unit

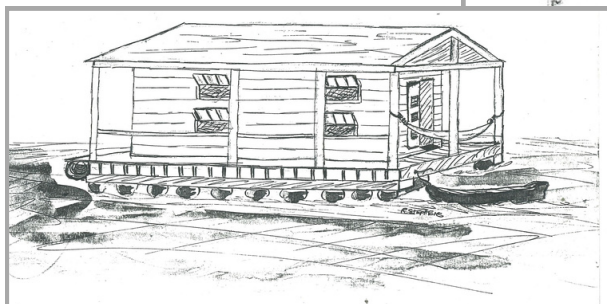
Camp Hoover

Dolphin Ship's Record



— Esther R. Sessions

1970 - Helen Mylonas



PARTICULAR UNIT ACTIVITIES

Sailors always take great pride in their ship. It must always be spic and span, in perfect shape, and with every piece of equipment in order. Carrying out this tradition, the Dolphins took a particular interest in their unit facilities. During the summer the girls built a drain for the kitchen, a drain for the washing table, an incinerator (pit type with stone sides built up and a screen over the top), all in the first two weeks.

After it became necessary to move the Dolphin unit to a better waterfront, the girls made a canoe dock, paddle rack, canoe rack, washstand and campfire circle. This was accomplished in the two weeks they shared meals with the Pioneers. Then when a larger unit made it feasible, they constructed their own primitive kitchen on shore. A fireplace, ranger type, was built as well as a swinging cache, cold cache, work table, and all the other little gadgets that make an outdoor kitchen convenient.

A variety of outdoor cooking methods was used during the summer. Reflector oven gingerbread was popular. A chicken barbecue, fish cooked in paper bags, tin can pancakes, and all varieties of stick cooking were used. Edible plants, such as elderberry blossoms, were included in the menu wherever possible.

The Pioneers and Dolphins exchanged invitations to dinner once or twice during the summer. This gave the girls an opportunity to act as hostesses and to do some special kinds of cooking. During the second encampment the Dolphins sent out invitations to a formal dance which was held at the Lodge. The Owls and Pioneers, who were guests, received as favors tiny corsages and tie-slides which the Dolphins had made.

Once or twice during the summer we included sketching in our program. Each girl contributed some lovely bit to the unit log.

A nature quest with Red-wing as a guide filled one rainy morning. An exiting Pirate game which sent canoes scurrying all over the lake was another adventure.

Camp Trefoil

Located in Harrisville, NY, on the shores of our private Snyder Lake, Camp Trefoil is about a mile from the border of Adirondack Park and is the perfect base camp for adventure trips. Campers sleep in platform tents or a yurt and spend their days participating in classic camp activities like hiking, swimming, and paddling. They also have new adventures like archery, tomahawks, slingshots, a high ropes course, and more. Trefoil has been proudly serving Girl Scouts and the community since 1949 and currently, camp is open to all girls, not just Girl Scouts!



At its beginnings, the Girl Scout organization chose the trefoil as its symbol of membership. A stylized representation of a plant with three leaves, the trefoil's three broad parts represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

In 1949, Girl Scouts at Trefoil recited the 1940s version of the Promise:

“On my honor, I will try to do my duty to God and my country; to help others at all times; and to obey the Girl Scout Laws.”

Though the Promise has gone through three additional version changes since 1949, it remains a time-honored foundation in the Girl Scout leadership experience. Camp Trefoil, too, remains an outdoor adventure for all Girl Scouts on their journey to leadership.

The standards set forth by Girl Scouts in the early 20th century for safety and the necessary skills required in establishing camp settings were in large part the basis for the establishment of the American Camping Association (ACA). Today, Trefoil is an ACA-accredited camp. Girl Scout Camp and outdoor adventure are a cornerstone of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.



Camp Trefoil

At the very first meeting of Girl Guides in Savannah, Georgia, girls were taught how to tie knots and play tennis. For several weeks, Juliette Low herself led the Savannah Girl Guides, teaching them fire building and simple outdoor cookery – great novelties for girls of 1912! Girl Scouts today at Trefoil still practice outdoor cooking for one dinner, and one breakfast during their weeks at camp.

Trefoil was one of two camps of the Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council. The other was Whispering Pines. Jefferson County Girl Scout Council (as it was known before the merge of three other Girl Scout councils to form Thousand Islands Council) started Trefoil in 1949, with the first summer camp season beginning in 1950. Trefoil provided girls with a progressive outdoor experience much like the girls of 1912. In addition, as seen in the 1966-67 postcard, “At the Waterfront,” girls at Trefoil enjoyed boating, canoeing, and swimming. The camp occupied more than 100 acres, with woodland, a meadow, a small lake, and marked nature trails. It was open to Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors. Trefoil had platform tents for 76 girls and roundup tents for 12 pioneers. Buildings included a nature center and library, craft house, and lodge for two meals a day with the third usually being a cookout.



Camp Trefoil

Today, Trefoil boasts four platform tent units: Tamarack Unit, Beaverbend Unit, Chipmunk Unit, and Staff Row. The Nature Center and Library, Craft House, and Lodge are still present. Trefoil is the only GSNYPENN camp with a Yurt. The Yurt was placed at the top of the hill as a place for campers to stargaze and enjoy the sites and sounds of nature. Just beyond the hill, you'd find the Lookout, dedicated to longtime ranger Wilfred Scott. The Lookout today is where campers have their opening campfires, sing songs, and enjoy the view of scenic Snyder Lake.

Many additions have been made to Trefoil since it opened in 1949. Today, Girl Scouts not only have traditional outdoor and camp experiences but also the opportunity to learn about maple sugaring (the making of maple syrup) at the Sugar Shack. Trefoil's Sugar Shack was established in the winter of 2020. Renovations to the building formerly known as the "Trading Post" were completed the summer prior.

The original Sugar Shack sits in the field adjacent to the Ranger house and was in operation until the late 1980s. Girl Scouts today can purchase maple syrup at the Sugar Shack, and attend programs during the sugaring season to learn the skills needed to make this sweet treat!

In 2013, the original Ropes Course and Zipline were built. There was a total of 11 elements, all of which were built into the trees. A microburst came through in May 2017 and left around 500 trees down. Repairs had to be made and almost the entirety of the course was rebuilt except for three elements: Giants Ladder, Flying Squirrel, and the Zipline. The new elements were reconstructed on poles, instead of trees. During the rebuild, another intermediate section, Wilde Woosey, was added.



Camp Trefoil

In the fall of 2019, an extension was built onto the lodge and named “Dunkin’s Den” in remembrance of lifelong Girl Scout and camp staff member Kelly Perkins. Kelly attended Trefoil from a young age until she was old enough to work as camp staff. The den features a bathroom, showers, and bunkbeds for troop rental. Kelly’s Silver Award project, “Trefoil’s Treasure Chest,” can also be found in the den. The chest holds items like toys, games, and stuffed animals for campers and troops to use during their stay. In 2019, the Kelly Perkins Scholarship was created to annually recognize a GSNYPENN Gold Award Girl Scout in remembrance of Kelly.



In the summer of 2023, a new pavilion “Spinnaker’s Spot” was built in dedication to longtime council staff member Karen “Spinnaker” Lubecki. Karen worked in various roles at Foothills Legacy Council and GSNYPENN as Program Specialist, Outdoor Program Manager, and Camp Director of Trefoil and Comstock and Legacy Camp Glengarra. She was co-coordinator for the Disaster Teams that volunteered over spring breaks in places like Texas, Alabama and Mississippi. Karen was GSNYPENN Director of Outdoor Initiatives until her retirement in 2016. The pavilion is the perfect shady spot for campers and staff who use the Ropes Course. The new archery, tomahawk, and slingshot range moved to this location the same summer.



Camp Trefoil

"Revitalizing Camp Trefoil for Future Generations..." Historical Milestones

1949 The Camp became part of the Jefferson County Girl Scout Council.

1950 The first camping season opened under the direction of Elizabeth Brown.

Mrs. Harold T. Wiley became the Council's Commissioner.

Along with hundreds of other submissions, Cape Vincent's Troop 67, Sackets Harbor's Troop 76, Mannsville's Troop 29 and Watertown's Troop 51 submitted the name "Camp Trefoil."

The name "Camp Trefoil" was chosen.

The first open house was held, and 200 registered for the Camp's first official season.

1960 Wally Bancroft was hired as the Camp's first full-time caretaker.

1962 Chris Bears initiated the inaugural "Polar Bear" weekend program.

1964 Unification of several Girl Scout Councils throughout tri-county regions formed Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council, Inc.

1969 Nature sanctuary established on small tract of land located west of the Camp's gate and reaching to the Wishing Bridge. North Country Bird Club members marked bird trails in this area and Girl Scouts helped identify and mark the flora and fauna.

1971 Watertown Public School District sponsored two weeks of "Reading Camp," directed by Pat Ford.

1972 "Reading Camp" returned for a second year.

1973 Caretaker Bancroft died and Wilfred Scott took over this position.

1983 A nature trail was dedicated in honor of Harold T. Wiley.

1985 Camp Trefoil closed its Resident Camp program.

1990 With the purchase of the Scott farm, located across the road from Camp, the total acreage increased to 210 and provided an official caretaker's home.

1995 The microburst damaged 50% of the trees on Camp Trefoil, which caused Camp to close for all use.

1997 After an extensive repair and a gigantic clean-up effort, Camp reopened for limited use.

1998 Camp Trefoil reopened its doors for the Resident Camp program thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers as well as the Camp Trefoil Development Committee.

2002 Horse program began at nearby Bean Acres Stables; new dock built at the waterfront.

2003 Chrysler-Daimler Corp. donated an electric car to Camp Trefoil.

Low Ropes Course was built near the Lookout with a grant from Youth Voices.

Flush toilets installed near the Nature Center.

A two-week pilot program was introduced in which girls directly plan their activities for the week.



2004 Basketball court was built near the Beaver Bend.

New A-frame tent was built at Tamarack.

Pilot program was expanded to six weeks.

2005 Furnace was installed in the Nature Center.



Hand drawn map courtesy of a member for her CIT project, circa 1997 when Camp Trefoil re-opened.

Past Camps

There were many previous camps that were run by the councils that came together to form the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways when a group of smaller councils were rechartered. These are some of those camps.

CENTRAL NEW YORK OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Near Wilderness - West Monroe, NY
Eldee - Cleveland, NY

FOOTHILLS OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Glengarra - Camden, NY
Spruce Ridge - Old Forge, NY

SEVEN LAKES OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Yaiawano - Niles, NY
Sugar Creek - Troy, PA
Misty Hollow - Corning, NY
Egypt Valley - Bristol Hills, NY
Whistlewood - Wolcott, NY

THOUSAND ISLANDS OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Whispering Pines - South Colton, NY
International Rapids - Massena Point, NY

INDIAN HILLS OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Skanantati - Sherbourne, NY

Current Camps

Our current GSNYPENN Camps were formed by our Legacy Councils.

Camp Hoover - Preble, NY
Camp Amahami - Deposit, NY
Camp Comstock - Ithaca, NY
Camp Trefoil - Harrisville, NY

Central New York Legacy Overnight Camp
Indian Hills Legacy Overnight Camp
Seven Lakes Legacy Overnight Camp
Thousand Islands Legacy Overnight Camp