Camp Dellwood History

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana

Patch Curriculum
The land that Camp Dellwood is built on has as much history as Girl Scouts itself. The area was home to Native Americans from the Delaware Tribe. In 1821, the land that became Dellwood, as well as the surrounding area, was bought by Jacob Pugh and his son, Isaac Pugh, both from North Carolina. In 1925, the Indianapolis Girl Scout council purchased the property through funds provided by Dorothy Dell.

Take a hike down the Wildflower Trail and you will learn many interesting things about Camp Dellwood. The hike takes about half a day, so plan accordingly. The Wildflower Hike self-guided packet can be found online to be printed or read from a phone or tablet.

As you go on the hike, there will be activities you can do to learn more about the history of Camp Dellwood and the people who once lived there.

**Steps:**

1. Wildflower Hike activities
2. Dellwood timeline

**Purpose:**
When I’ve earned this patch, I will understand the history of Camp Dellwood and some of the history of the great state of Indiana.
Wildflower hike activities

CHOICES - DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

**Placard 1: Eagle Creek**

Eagle Creek is a huge part of Indianapolis, featuring more than 1,400 acres of water and 3,900 acres of forest. This asset has been used by everyone in Indiana from the Native Americans to park-goers today! Split into groups of 2-3 people and discuss why Eagle Creek would have been necessary for Native Americans and early settlers alike. Discuss with everyone when finished.

For example, where did they get their food? Is the water important for travel? Is it connected to religion?

**Placard 4: Amphitheater Skits**

An amphitheater is an open area with a central space surrounded with tiers of seats for the presentations of different events. Break into groups of 3-5 people and come up with a skit using some of the people and events you have learned about so far on this hike. It doesn’t have to be historically accurate but make it fun for your classmates or troop members to watch!

Some ideas for skits:
- Settlers using the Eagle Creek Watershed
- Sheep farming and growing crops
- What entertainment you think there would have been in the 1800s
Placard 5: Indiana Wildflowers

It’s important to have native species because it helps the local animals and vegetation grow to their full potential. Do you know any native Indiana wildflowers? Look around at the plants near you and draw or take a picture of some of the flowers. Pull up this website (https://uswildflowers.com/wfquery.php?State=IN) and see if you can match the flowers! Remember to leave nature as you found it; never pick anything that isn’t already dead or on the ground and only if you have permission.

Placard 9: Mender Cabin Senses

Following the directions on the self-guide, let’s use our senses to really examine everything around us. Take a look around the cabin and really observe everything. Take big, deep breaths in through your nose. What does it smell like? Does it smell old? Woody? What do you hear? Birds? Bugs? Now close your eyes and have a friend put something from this station in your hands. Can you identify what it is just by feeling it?

Placard 11: Sycamore ID

How can you tell what tree is a sycamore? Let’s look for the large sycamores near the lodge:

- Look for peeling bark. The bark of a sycamore tree is brittle and can’t withstand the rapid growth that sycamores experience, thus the bark peels off frequently and this results in a patchy, flaky appearance.
- Search for “camo” colors in the bark. Because the older bark peels off and reveals younger bark beneath, the bark of sycamores will be a variety of colors (brown, green, tan, and white) giving the tree a distinct camouflage pattern.
- Using leaves you can find on the ground, count five distinct lobes. Lobes are separate sections of the leaf that radiate off the central point, like the fingers on your hand. Most sycamores will have five large lobes, each with its own distinct vein along it.
**Placard 16: Old Union Tour**

Visit the Old Union Church on the camp property and take a tour. Listen to the history of the church at Camp Dellwood. Who played a big role in the church? Use the information to explain how anyone can affect and create change. Make a short video, a song, a poem, or anything else that gets the story told. Share it with your troop or the Girl Scouts Facebook page!

**Placard 17: Pugh Family**

The Pugh family came to Indiana in 1822 and settled right on this very land. What do you think life would’ve been like during that time? Sit down somewhere by yourself and come up with a daily routine of what you think your life would have been like in the 1800s. You have a daily routine now that is much different than what a child’s would’ve been back then. What are the differences in games you play? In the food you eat? In schooling? How many differences can you come up with?

**Here is a chart to help you get started:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>My Day Now</th>
<th>My Day in 1800’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Get up to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>Get out of school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Placard 18: Pine Tree Ages

We know that Girl Scouts was founded in 1912, and that camping for Girl Scouts began at Dellwood in 1926. That means the pine trees grown around here by Girl Scouts should be somewhere around 94 years old! How can we tell how old a tree is? When a tree is cut down, you can look at the stump and count the circular rings to find the age of the tree. But we don’t want to cut down any of the beautiful pine trees here, so we can do a calculation to tell us about how old the trees are!

The formula we need to know is: D*GF, or diameter multiplied by the growth factor.

Step 1: Take a tape measure and wrap it around the trunk of a tree about 4 & 1/2 feet above the ground. This measurement is the tree’s circumference. Write it down so you don’t forget it.

Step 2: Using a calculator and the help of a teacher or troop leader, use the circumference to find the diameter of the tree and then write it down in the chart. The formula for finding the diameter is: \( D = \text{circumference} \div \pi \)

Step 3: Put down the growth factor into the chart. Since we are measuring pines, the growth factor is: 5.0

Step 4: Finish the equation and find the approximate age of the pine. Is it close to 96 years?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Growth Factor</th>
<th>Age of Tree</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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Congratulations on finishing the Historic Wildflower Trail!

Hopefully you learned a lot about the history of the land Camp Dellwood is built on, as well as the people who are a part of Dellwood’s past.
Now that you’ve hiked the Wildflower Trail, you know more about the history of Camp Dellwood, as well as all the important dates mentioned in the guide. Create a timeline, either by yourself or with a group, of Camp Dellwood. Be creative! Use posters, write a short story, or even record yourself. Share it with your troop members or your classmates!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You should have these dates:</th>
<th>...And these events:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Dorothy Dell donated the money for Girl Scouts to purchase the 141 acres at an auction when the last person in the Pugh family passed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Dorothy Dell passed away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>The Math and Science Center was built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>The Varner/Brownie Tree was struck by lightning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-1882 (who occupied the land first?)</td>
<td>Indianapolis hosts GSUSA’s 16th National Council Meeting and holds training sessions at Camp Dellwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Native Americans from the Delaware Tribe first occupied areas in Marion County including Camp Dellwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>The swinging bridge was torn down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7th, 1926</td>
<td>Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>The first Girl Scout troop was formed in Indianapolis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Jacob Pugh brought his wife and children from North Carolina to become the first settlers on the property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>The Program Center was built.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Jacob Pugh passed away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Indianapolis area Girl Scouts begin selling Girl Scout Cookies to support Camp Dellwood.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Fun facts

Camp Dellwood was the first camp to ever do winter camping, starting in 1932.

Girl Scouts published a magazine from 1917 until 1979 originally called “The Rally” (1917-1920) and then “The American Girl” (not to be confused with the currently published “American Girl” magazine). The magazine contained stories, badge work, and other content aimed at Girl Scouts.

The first gathering of the Disciples of Christ in Dellwood was somewhere around the year 1823, though the physical church wasn’t built until 1826 with 30’ x 30’ dimensions!

Jacob Pugh was a father to at least 13 known children!

Girl Scout camp in the early years had a definite schedule for each day of camp. The camp bugler, a Girl Scout, who would sound her bugle to announce each activity, recorded her schedule.

List of additional resources:


https://www.wikihow.com/Identify-a-Sycamore-Tree

CONGRATS ON COMPLETING THE CAMP DELLWOOD HISTORY PATCH CURRICULUM!

COMPLETED THE PATCH? GREAT WORK! PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GIRL SCOUT SHOP

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girlscoutsindiana.org  317.924.6800