

Camp Na Wa Kwa Adventure Patch

You can earn the Camp Adventure Patch by visiting each of Girl Scouts of Central Indiana's five camps and completing the requirements below. The requirements can be done in any order and at any time during your visit! Once completed, you can purchase the Camp Na Wa Kwa Adventure Patch at the Girl Scout Shop or call ahead and have one available at your nearest Pop Up Shop.

1. Hike past the archery range, past the secret meeting place, and find the fossil creek bed.
2. On your way to or from the fossil creek bed, stop by the secret meeting place and have a campfire or tell stories with your troop.
3. Find the wooden bridge on Pio Trail and walk across it.
4. Stop at the creek at the bottom of Americana and creek stomp.
5. Find the fairy steps and read the Story of the Fairy Steps

Fairy Stairs Story

Once upon a time, when Camp Na Wa Kwa first became a camp, a group of Girl Scouts went out exploring. Much of the camp wasn't established yet -- this road wasn't even here.

These brave Girl Scouts took off into the woods with only a compass and some water to see what they could learn of their new camp.

Suddenly they entered a quiet glade, and there was the feeling of magic in the air. And in the middle of the glade, was a loan set of stairs. In fact, these were those very stairs. As the girls gathered around it, they heard a hooting from the trees above.

"Hoo hoo."

As they were looking around for the sound and what had made it, a wise old owl flew down from the tallest tree and landed on the stairs.

None of the girls had ever been this close to an owl before, and they were very surprised! They were even more surprised when the wise old owl spoke to them.

"Hoo Hoo, Who are you?"

"We are Girl Scouts, and we are exploring our camp! Who are you?"

"Hoo Hoo! My name is Pearl, and I am the wise old owl that looks over Camp Na Wa Kwa. Girl Scouts, you say? Well then, you must know the story of the Brownie elf, and the rhyme 'twist me and turn me and show me the elf.... I looked in the water and saw myself!'"

Of course the girls knew the story, and they recited the rhyme along with Pearl the wise owl.

Pearl gave them a long hard look -- "But are you true Girl Scouts, in heart and mind? Do you follow the Girl Scout Law and do a good turn daily?"

All the girls nodded vigorously!

Pearl said, “Well, if you are true Girl Scouts, then you wouldn’t mind testing your heart, would you?”

The girls shook their heads.

Pearl then began to tell them a tale. “Many years ago, the fairies that live here at Camp Na Wa Kwa built these stairs to bring good luck to Girl Scouts that camp here. They ride on my back and the backs of my other owl friends looking over our camp at night and keeping the strange sounds and bad dreams away from the campers that stay here protecting them throughout the night. Sometimes, you can even find some of their homes in the woods if you look very closely. When they built these stairs, they enchanted them with magic fairy dust to test the true heart of the Girl Scouts that come upon them. Now, I give you a test -- climb to the top of these stairs and turn around three times, make a wish and jump off the stairs. When you land, it will help to wake the fairies for their night protection. Only the girls who are good Girl Scouts and follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law will be able to wake the fairies. If you are a great Girl Scout that follows the Girl Scout Promise and Law, you will see evidence of the fairies in the morning and another Girl Scout camp adventure will be in your future.”

One by one, the girls climbed the stairs, turned around three times, made a wish, and jumped off. They were all at least good Girl Scouts, so they all landed on the ground. All three hoped to become great Girl Scouts and see another Girl Scout camp adventure in their future – and Pearl assured them she was sure that was the case for each and every one of them.

They thanked Pearl the owl for the story and the gift of the stairs. They decided to make the stairs a tradition at camp. They decided to call them the Fairy Stairs and tell the story of the wise old owl and the fairies that look over the camp to new campers and let them each take the test.

And so, Girl Scouts have been taking the test of the true Girl Scout at Camp Na Wa Kwa ever since.

*Then to carry on the magic camp counselors, programs aids, CIT's and leaders can secretly place fairy stones on the tables or around camp before the girls wake up. Girls can also start a fairy village for those fairies to live when they aren't flying on the backs of the owls.