

# Celebrate National Trail and Prairie Day at Hidden Valley!

**Saturday, June 6 | 9am-1pm**

The first Saturday of June is time to celebrate all trails through National Trails Day® as well as Prairie Appreciation Day, and we will be doing just that at Hidden Valley Camp! National Trails Day® encourages people to find a local trail to help maintain and/or hike, bike, canoe, whatever floats your boat. Of course we can't canoe our little streams, but we do have over two miles of hiking trails that crisscross streams and wander through tallgrass prairie, meadows, woods and rocky hillsides. This is our seventh year, and promises to be bigger and better thanks to our growing list of partners.

Jayhawk Audubon Society will be co-sponsoring this event, and we will be partnering with many area environmental and conservation organizations to help guests get outside and learn about local nature as they navigate our trails. Exhibits and activities for all ages will abound as guests explore the power of the prairie, discover the wet'n'wild creatures of our wetland, marvel at the abundance of pollinator plants, see native woods restoration in progress and learn about invasive species and biochar. For history buffs, we have 63 years to share with you! If you have young girls, a representative from Girl Scouts will be on hand to talk about the organization and how to join. Day Camp, beginning the following Monday, will be all set up, adding to the excitement of learning what Hidden Valley has to offer.

There will be many ways to explore the natural wonders we offer at our 40 acres of hidden wilderness! Guests can hike on their own, go on a scavenger hunt, or join one of our many guided tours, ranging from bird watching to wildflower walks and natural history. More details will follow on our website and Facebook page, as well as Jayhawk Audubon's.



*Guests of all ages enjoyed activities at the wetland last year, including using nets to catch tadpoles and viewing aquatic insects under magnifying glasses.*



*Join a guided tour or set out on your own on the trails and visit exhibits*



## **Co-Sponsored by**

Jayhawk Audubon Society: <https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/>  
and on Facebook: [facebook.com/Jayhawk-Audubon-Society](https://www.facebook.com/Jayhawk-Audubon-Society)



Friends of Hidden Valley: <https://www.friendshv.org/>  
and on Facebook: [facebook.com/friendsoflawrencehiddenvalley](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflawrencehiddenvalley)

## **Thanks to our Partners**

Douglas County Conservation District • Monarch Watch • Kansas Biological Survey



National Trails Day: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

# Hidden Valley in the Era of COVID-19

“Social distancing, self-isolation, abundance of caution” ....all very common phrases now in our everyday lives. So what does this mean to a place like Hidden Valley? Quite a bit, as it is turning out. Girl Scout troops have been told to cease troop activities through the end of May, and colleges have sent their students home. Therefore, all service projects by GS and KU students, as well as our big April 18 workday have been cancelled. This represents the loss of nearly 500 hours of volunteer service this spring alone, with routine maintenance and many special projects all on hold.

One positive note is that the Honeysuckle Warriors have been able to continue their work, as social distancing is quite easy within 40 acres, and all seem to appreciate the opportunity to get outside and do something worthwhile. We work in our own areas, and there is no reason for us to get close to one another. Much of their other volunteer opportunities have dried up, since keeping a safe distance is too difficult for many non-profit situations.

## Volunteers are Still Welcome at Hidden Valley Camp!

We are now seeking individuals and family groups (those that live together), that would like to get outside for fresh air, exercise, and a sense of doing something worthwhile, to contact us for their own service project. The camp manager and a few board members are available to meet individuals and small groups one at a time to explain a specific project and get you going, all at a safe distance. From our workday alone, we have about 10 distinct project areas representing 100s of different chores...something for all ages and abilities! We hope this can provide families a welcome change to their home-stay routines, while helping us keep our camp the best it can be.

If you are interested, please email Durand at [durandi@sunflower.com](mailto:durandi@sunflower.com) for more details and to sign up for a specific time slot. We will tailor the jobs according to your ages and amount of time desired. It can be scheduled for weekdays or weekends. Most projects can be done in an hour or less, although we can certainly provide more! We will also be receiving a shipment of saplings to plant in mid April.



## Other Ways to Help Us Out

We'd like to take this time to remind you of other ways you can continue to help us. Of course, keeping up your membership is of vital importance. If you are shopping at Dillons' please keep in mind that you can designate Friends of Hidden Valley to receive a small percentage of your total through their Rewards' program. We also have an Amazon.Smile account for your on-line shopping. For details on how to set up these accounts, please visit our website: <https://www.friendshv.org>

**And, please remember to shop at the Merc in May and say “round up please!” at the checkout stand!**

