



Camp Welaka: Then and Now



PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to educate Girl Scouts about the history of Camp Welaka and to encourage exploration of the camp.

LEGACY

Camp Welaka is comprised of 640 acres, including a swimming pool, and is part of Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Tequesta. Facilities are provided for daytime and Troop/Group Camping for Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador age levels. A full-time Camp Ranger is on site. Camp Welaka facilities include a combination of both platform tent and cabin sites. A lodge is available for activities. There are three platform tent sites with eight tents each sleeping four. An additional platform tent site has four tents each sleeping four. Cabins are available at two sites, one with six cabins and one with 8 cabins each sleeping four. Also, a Cook's Cabin, a double-wide unit sleeping 12 is available. A Unit House is located at each site for eating and activities as well as a large pavilion. An ADA accessible Bunk House may also be reserved.

Some of the activities for this patch program include reading stories about Camp Welaka history. If you are planning to work on the badge, please contact the Camp Ranger to borrow the Camp Welaka: Then and Now Flipbook.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Camp Welaka – Then and Now patch, Girl Scouts need to complete a Take Action Project along with the following requirements. They are encouraged to complete at least one activity from each section: Discover and Connect. All levels must complete both starred (*) activities.

- Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts: 3 activities
- Junior Girl Scouts: 4 activities
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: 6 activities

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

RESOURCES

- Camp Location: 10205 SE Girl Scout Camp Rd, Tequesta, FL 33469
- For additional information, visit the [Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida Camp Welaka webpage](#).
 - This page provides the camp map, helpful information about the camp, and contact information for the Camp Ranger.
- Useful resources can be discovered online or by visiting your local county library and museums.
 - [Native Plants - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences](#)
- At the end of this packet (see “Resources”), you will find the following:
 - Guidelines for Safety
 - Camp Welaka Then and Now Songs
 - Sea Fever Peom

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- **ACTIVITY #1: Safety ***
Read Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida’s (GSSEF) [Camp Welaka General Information Sheet](#).
 - Girl Scouts are concerned with personal enjoyment in the out-of-doors, including safety for themselves and others and the protection of the environment. Check out the “Guidelines for Safety” in the Resources section at the end of this document to help you in achieving these goals before going to Camp Welaka.
- **ACTIVITY #2: Girl Scout Wish**
When Camp Welaka was first being developed, they wanted to make sure they laid out the campsites just right. They had a plane fly over the property and take pictures that the development team then used to decide how the camp would be developed.
 - Write a Girl Scout wish on a piece of paper. Share your wishes, and then fold it into a paper airplane. Hold a flying contest to re-live the way campsite locations were originally decided.

ACTIVITY #3: Camp Songs

Learn and sing one of the Camp Welaka songs or make up camping-theme lyrics to a tune you already know and sing it when entering campsites.

- The lyrics to both Camp Welaka songs are in the Resources section at the end of this document

- **ACTIVITY #4: Visit Units and Special Places ***
Refer to the [Camp Welaka Map](#).
 - Visit and identify the units: Eastwind, Hillside, Sandy Ridge, Cedar Hollow, Meadow, and Outpost.
 - Visit and identify at least 5 of the following unique places on camp property: Rood Trail, The Glen, Ruth Sage Memorial Trail, Mac's Retreat (Then) = The Retreat (Now), Hikers' Haven/Ditty's Nest, the Cat Walk, Sea Cloud Circle, Twin Pines, or Fawn's Point.

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #5: Sea Cloud Circle**
Hike or canoe to Sea Cloud Circle. Discover how it was named. You could also plan to have a campfire and make a snack such as s'mores.
 - Recite the poem, Sea Fever. Refer to the Sea Fever poem in the Resources section at the end of this document.
- **ACTIVITY #6: Peace Chapel**
Visit Peace Chapel and read the plaque near the lakeside entrance.
 - A Girl Scouts' Own is a quiet type of ceremony with a theme. It is called a Girl Scouts' Own because Girl Scouts and their leader(s) plan it themselves. It is not a religious service or ceremony and does not take the place of going to church, temple, or synagogue. It is an occasion in which girls express their deepest feelings about subjects which are meaningful to them. Plan and hold a Girl Scout's Own at the Peace Chapel.
 - For more information on how to plan a Girl Scouts' Own, check out this [Scouts' Own Ceremonies Guide](#).
- **ACTIVITY #7: Flag Ceremony**
Read about the first flag ceremony held at Camp Welaka.
 - Plan your own opening or closing flag ceremony and use the story as an introduction.
 - For more information on how to plan a flag ceremony, check out this [Flag Ceremony In The Out-of-Doors Guide](#).
- **ACTIVITY #8: Plants at Camp Welaka**
Identify at least three native plants of Camp Welaka. Draw or take pictures of the native plants to share with others.



TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program by completing a Take Action Project. Gain all permissions from the Camp Ranger before you initiate your Take Action plan. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Plant a Butterfly Garden
 - Design, plant and maintain a Butterfly Garden to attract butterflies for the camp. Research native butterfly plants and find a nursery near you that you can purchase or get plants donated from.
- Become a Treasure Hunter
 - Learn more about Letterboxing and/or Geocaching. Then, create a Letterboxing or Geocaching trail for Camp Welaka. For security purposes, Geocaching coordinates/directions should be in a printed document rather than posted online.
- Be An Environmental Conservationist
 - Practice protecting the environment at Camp Welaka.
 - Assist in trail restoration.
 - Recycle and Reuse. Learn ways to recycle and reuse supplies while at camp. Provide recycling bins or ways to inform campers how to action set-up their own recycling plans.
- Plan a Camp Drive/Service Project
 - Learn what things are needed at the camp. Make a wish list of the needs and plan a camp drive to fulfill any of the wishes from the list. Some examples are brooms, trash cans, coolers, camp tools, craft supplies, etc.
 - Get in touch with the Camp Ranger and ask if there are any projects around camp that would be perfect for your troop/group to complete. Examples of some projects include pulling Dodder Vine from trees, restocking firewood piles, planting native trees, unit cleaning tasks, etc.
- Be a Citizen Scientist
 - Explore the animals found at Camp Welaka, their lives and their habitats: trails and tracks.
 - Learn how to be 'animal-wise and safe' while at camp.
 - Create an exhibit informing campers what you have learned.



- Pass It Forward
 - Become a sister troop to younger Girl Scouts. Help your sister troop complete this Council's Own patch and join in a Take Action project for the camp.
- Your Choice
 - Any other activity that you can create that raises awareness for Camp Welaka in your Girl Scout community.

Resources

Guidelines for Safety

- Guideline #1 – Plan in Advance
 - Decide where you are going and how long you plan to be away, and then notify the Camp Ranger that you are participating in the Camp Welaka – Then and Now Council’s Own program.
 - Use the Camp Welaka map to locate the places you want to visit.
 - Plan for restroom needs in advance.
 - Discuss what to do if someone becomes separated from the group.
 - Learn some hiking songs to sing along the way.
- Guideline #2 – Weather Considerations
 - Check the weather forecast in advance of the planned activity and dress accordingly.
 - Plan what to do in case of unexpected bad weather.
 - Wear socks without holes, sturdy shoes, and dress in layers. Take a hat for protection from the sun.
 - Pack so that your hands are free – wear things on your belt, use a knapsack or a jacket and pants with large pockets.
- Guideline #3 – Outdoor Good Manners
 - Protect living things. Look but leave for others to enjoy.
 - Walk in small groups. Use the buddy system and keep together.
 - Walk in single file or in pairs staying on the trails.
 - Be Courteous: loud singing/shouting/games can disturb others.
- Guideline #4 – Safety
 - Remember to take your safety sense with you always.
 - Play it Safe: feed no animals you might meet along the way.
 - Always walk while in the out-of-doors to avoid injuries.
 - Check the first aid kit and take a First Aider with you.
 - Remember: sun screen, water and at least one flashlight.
 - Be responsible for your own safety, your buddy’s safety and the safety of your group.
- Guideline #5 – HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE ACTIVITIES!



Camp Welaka Then and Now Songs

Then

Gonna wake up in the morning,
Where the Loxahatchee flows.
When the sun comes a peepin'
In the tent where I'm sleeping
And the song birds say "hello",
Gonna paddle down the river
Just a million miles or so,
And come drifting back to
Welaka
It's the greatest camp I know.
Camp Welaka Song

Now (2 -part round)

Camp Welaka, Camp Welaka
Camp Welaka, Camp Welaka
We call it fun,
But you may call it madness.
Stay here with us and
You'll forget your sadness.
Happy campers are we
Having fun 'neath the trees
And when we are gone
You'll remember our song.
We are from Camp Welaka, Camp Welaka, Camp Welaka
Camp Welaka, Camp Welaka

Sea Fever Poem

By John Masefield

Note: As you read this poem about the beauty of sailing the ocean, imagine the smell of the salt air, the wind on your face and the movement of the waves as you sail towards your destiny.

Sea Fever
By John Masefield

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's like a whetted
knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.