



Camp Welaka: Then and Now

PURPOSE

This program is designed to educate Girl Scouts about the rich history of Camp Welaka and the land it occupies, while inspiring them to explore and engage the camp property during their visits.



LEGACY

Before Girl Scouts developed Camp Welaka, the area was home to many earlier inhabitants. The first were the Jaega people—also known as Jobe or Jove—who lived around what is now Hobe Sound and Tequesta. The Tequesta tribe, for whom the town is named, also lived in the region. During World War II, the land that is now Camp Welaka was used by the U.S. military as part of Camp Murphy, a radar training facility built within Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

Camp Welaka now spans 640 acres of diverse Florida ecosystems and is located in the southeastern corner of Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Tequesta. It offers a variety of facilities for daytime use as well as Troop/Group Camping, including cabins and platform tents for all Girl Scout age levels—Daisy through Ambassador. Each campsite features a Unit House for meals and activities, along with a large pavilion. An ADA-accessible site, Whispering Woods, is also available.

A full-time Camp Ranger lives on-site to assist guests and care for the property. Camp Welaka includes a lake for paddling and fishing, with a large nearby fire circle perfect for campfires. The permanent archery range gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to build their archery and slingshot skills. The camp also features multiple hiking trails, a scenic boardwalk through the mangroves called the Catwalk, and the sensory Trailblazer Trust Trail.

Some of the activities for this badge 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 badge, Girl Scouts need to complete a Take Action Project along with the following requirements. Girl Scouts 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
 - Camp Welaka Map

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

- ACTIVITY #1: Getting to Know Camp Welaka *
Read Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida’s (GSSEF) [Camp Welaka General Information Sheet](#).
 - Explore the map of Camp Welaka from the Resources page of this badge outline. Use the key to identify the places around Camp Welaka that you would like to explore and plan a hike that would take you to each place if/when you were to visit Camp Welaka.
 - Create an itinerary that includes your hike and other activities you would like to do on a visit to Camp Welaka. Girl Scouts can write or draw their plan individually or in groups.



- **ACTIVITY #2: Welaka Way Back Then**
Way before Camp Welaka was opened as a Girl Scout camp, the property was used by Native Americans as their home as well as other uses throughout its history.
 - Research the native people that lived in the area where Camp Welaka is today. A Land Acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes the origins of the land as well as the native people who lived there. Use what you learned to create a Land Acknowledgement for Camp Welaka. Share your Land Acknowledgement with others when you visit Camp Welaka. Here is a helpful site to get you started: [Creating a Land Acknowledgement](#)
 - Take your research even further and investigate who else has used the land where Camp Welaka is now. You can find some information from before the 1950's by searching Jonathan Dickinson State Park as well. Create a timeline for the land use in the area.

- **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.
 - You can access these [YouTube videos](#) to learn the rhythm of each song and sing-along.

- **ACTIVITY #4: Visit Units and Special Places ***
Refer to the [Camp Welaka Map](#).
 - Visit and identify at least 3 of 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: Lake Akalew, Rood Trail, Ruth Sage Memorial Trail, Trailblazer Trust Trail, Hikers' Haven/Ditty's Nest, the Catwalk, Sea Cloud Circle, the dock at the Loxahatchee River, Twin Pines, or Fawn's Point.



CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #5: Sea Cloud Circle**
Sea Cloud Circle is a site at the end of the Catwalk that was originally built by a Mariner troop as a primitive site. The Girl Scout Mariner program is aimed at engaging and retaining older Girl Scouts with high adventure activities focused on everything in, on, and around the water. Girl Scout Mariners paddle, learn about boating safety, explore nautical lore, practice knot tying, and explore marine/aquatic science.
 - Visit Sea Cloud Circle and complete a Mariner-themed activity such as knot tying, weather watching, learning morse code, or an aquatic science project.
 - You can learn more about the Girl Scout Mariners Program by checking out the guidelines [here](#).

- **ACTIVITY #6: Girl Scout's Own**
Find a special gathering place around Camp Welaka.
 - 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 during your visit to Camp Welaka.
 - For more information on how to plan a Girl Scouts' Own, check out this [Scouts' Own Ceremonies Guide](#).

- **ACTIVITY #7: Flag Ceremony**
Flag ceremonies are a Girl Scout tradition that we highlight at Camp Welaka. There is a large flagpole outside the Lodge in the central area of the camp. There is also a flagpole at Lake Akalew as well as one at each sleeping site. The flag ceremony instills patriotism, reinforces a sense of community, and teaches the values of respect, responsibility, and citizenship. For Girl Scouts, it is also an opportunity to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and tradition, as they often take turns serving in roles such as color guard, caller, or flag bearer.
 - 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: Flora and Fauna of Camp Welaka**
"Flora" refers to all types of plant life, while "fauna" refers to the animals—both large and small—that inhabit an area. Explore the flora and fauna of the Camp Welaka area, both past and present. Some species are native, meaning they naturally belong to the ecosystem. Others are non-native meaning they were introduced to the area by people. A non-native classification means that although not originally found in the area, they do not harm the ecosystems. Invasive species, however, are not only non-native but also harmful to the local ecosystem.

Create a poster or display showcasing the flora and fauna of Camp Welaka, comparing what existed in the past to what is found there today. Consider the following questions:

- Are there any species of flora and fauna that no longer live in the area?
- Are there any species that now live there that did not before?
- Which species are native, nonnative, and invasive at Camp Welaka?



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.
- Plan a Camp Drive/Service Project
 - 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.
 - Contact the Camp Ranger to see if there are any suitable service projects for your troop or group. Examples include removing Dodder Vine, restocking firewood, planting native trees, or cleaning units.
- 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, closed-toe shoes, and dress in layers. Take a hat for protection from the sun. Crocs and sandals are not permitted.
 - 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: do not feed, touch, or approach 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: sunscreen, 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 songbirds 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.

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

