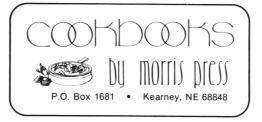


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HISTORY OF GIRL SCOUTING IN KENOSHA COUNTY

On March 12, 1912, Juliet Gordon Low brought Girl Scouting to the United States. In June of 1918, Kenosha County held its first council meeting. Mrs. Barden was Commissioner, which is now the office of President, Edith Wallis was Treasurer and Mary D. Bradford was Scribe. The first year of Girl Scouting in Kenosha brought 115 girls and 13 adults into the program. In 1920, we applied for our National Charter.

Our camping program was begun on rented property on both Lilly Lake, WI and Bohner's Lake, WI. In 1930, a permanent camp was established. This camp is known as Camp Pottawatomie Hills, which was purchased by Mrs. Gertrude Alford, and donated to the Kenosha County Girl Scouts. Day camp was established in 1933.

Our first troop house was known as 'Little House', which was a portable school building donated by the Kenosha School Board on a site at 7th Avenue and 76th Street.

Soon we needed more room. Mrs. Alford once again supported our council and donated the property on the north side to be used for day camp. Two tents came from Pottawatomie Hills and the council built a combination storage shed and latrine. A contest was held to name the camp. The name that was choosen was Camp Gertrude Alford. Soon 'Little House' was moved from the property on 7th and 76th to our new camp grounds.

After extensive damage was done to the troop house, the building committee negotiated necessary plans to construct a new building with the proceeds from the annual cookie sale. On October 22, 1961, 700 people attended an open house for the new troop house, which we now call Woodhaven.

As Girl Scouting grew in Kenosha, we found that the office in the Women's Club building was getting too small. On December 3, 1956, the Girl Scouts purchased the home of the late Mrs. Frank Wells on 7th Avenue for \$15,000.00 and on April 7th, 1956, our new offices were opened.

In 1977, the property at 7th Avenue was sold and the offices were attached to the troop house, Woodhaven, at Camp Gertrude Alford.

In the 80's we presented our first Silver and Gold Award - two of the highest awards that a Cadette or Senior can earn. We sent one of our Girl Scouts on an International Wider Opportunity to Sangam, India. We introduced the Choices and Challenges program for older girls in this time when our young ladies have many more "adult" choices to make.

Girl Scouting in Kenosha has grown over the past years and as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary - Tradition With A Future - with Girl Scouts all over the country, we look to a membership nearing 3,500 girls and adults. Working together, Girl Scouts will strive to make Kenosha a better place to live, work, play and grow.

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Appetizers & Beverages

