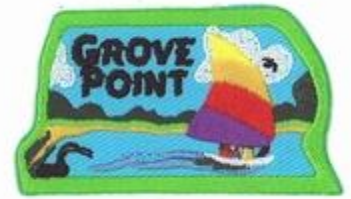


Camp the Peninsula Camp Grove Point



All Grade Level Patch

The “Camp the Peninsula “ patch program consists of four segments: Camp Country Center, Camp Grove Point, Camp Todd and Camp Sandy Pines. Each patch has requirements that include activities in environmental awareness, skill development, service and history. These patches are designed to be completed in one day and overnight camping is not required.

To earn this patch:

Daisy - complete the two starred requirements

Brownie - complete the two starred requirements plus one additional requirement

Junior - complete the two starred requirements plus two additional requirement

Cadette, Senior and Ambassador - complete the two starred requirements plus three additional requirement

*1. Complete one of the following

- Spend at least one hour on the beach. Walk down the beach toward the bay. Discuss the word “estuary” and what it means to us here on the Delmarva Peninsula. Talk about the cliffs and the animals that live along our shores. (See Our Estuary activities attached)
- Go to either of the marsh bridges. Spend at least ½ hour there identifying the flora and helping the girls think what kinds of animals live and/or hunt in the marsh. Remember to explain how a marsh differs from a swamp or a bog. (See Our Swamp activates attached)
- Visit the woods between the pool and Trails End a least ½ hour. How is this habitat different from the others they have seen today. What animals might you find here? (See Our Forest activities attached.)

2.* Complete the Do You Know Camp Grove Point Quiz.

3. Do a service project at camp. (Plant flowers, gather wood and store it carefully, pick up trash, wash windows. Check with camp ranger for camp needs.)
4. Draw a map of Camp Grove Point, include the buildings, beach and paths.
5. Plan and carry out a ceremony with your troop, such as a flag ceremony or a Scout’s Own.
6. Learn the Camp Grove Point song.
7. Cook a meal over a wood fire.
8. Learn or show proficiency in one of the following camp skills: tie 3 knots (include the square and an overhand knot), learn first aid skills you need to know at camp, learn how to use a compass or build a fire following safety rules and extinguish it property.

Grove Point Song

1. The water under silvery light,
The shadowed paths nearby.
Beneath the hush of the evening star.
Asleep Grove Point will lie.

2. The sun, shines on a sparkling bay,
The wood with laughter rings;
Girl Scouts live by a Scouter’
And happy songs they sing.

3. Grove Point is joy and happiness;
Its friendship, strong and true;
A happy face and a friendly smile-
And a feeling felt by few.

CHORUS: This is the camp we offer you
This, the love we give;
And though tomorrow we may part,
In our hearts Grove Point will live.

Trivia Quiz

1. How Well Do You Know Camp Grove Point?
2. When did Double Goose Farm Officially become Camp Grove Point?
3. What is the name of the river which flows past our beach?
4. Why was the camping unit nearest the beach given its name?
5. What were the first two camping units built?
6. Who was the first camp ranger (caretaker)?
7. Name the endangered animal species living in our swamp
8. List two kinds of:
 - a. Tracks you have found
 - b. Animals you have seen
 - c. Trees you have identified
9. How many boards are in the bridge behind Osprey?
10. Where is the Camp Grove Point amphitheatre?
11. How did the name Ahsosowah originate?
12. How many bridges does Camp Grove Point have?

Camp Grove Point History And Development

At one time our camp neighbors, the Bidgood family, owned the whole point. Over the years, pieces of the property we sold and a Mr. Zander from Philadelphia bought this property to use as a hunting retreat. He built the cottage a garage on the cliff overlooking the bay. (We've moved the cottage back because of the cliff erosion.) He also built the caretaker's house and the sea wall at the base of the cliff. In December 1948, Mr. Zander sold the property, then called "Double Goose Farm" to the Wilmington Area Girl Scout Council.

1948—GSCB purchased Double Goose farm which included Cottage and its garage (now the old Craft House). Mr. Frank Burton, Formerly Mr. Zander's caretaker, remained to supervise the development of the new camp.

1949—The first camp program began. Mr. Burton was the camp director and 96 girls attended. Cottage housed the staff lodge, infirmary, and director's office.

The garage (Craft House) became the kitchen. The dinning hall was under a large marquee which was erected between Cottage and the kitchen.

Cliff Dwellers and Osprey units were built. The boat house, canoe rack and dock were erected on or near the beach.

1950—With the new construction of the Dinning Hall, Cookie Jar, The Trading Post, Woodland, and Punch Bowl, Double Goose farm officially become Camp Grove Point in a dedication ceremony.

1952—Offering still another camp setting, Trail's End was added.

1954—Expanding to meet the increasing demand of girls who wished to camp, Sky High, Sharenahowance, and Bug House (later renamed Chatterbox) were built.

1956—The addition of more tent platforms to units Osprey, Cliff and Woodland become a necessity as well as the development of the new unit- Sassapeake.

1957—The first Counselor-In-Training course was offered. Camp Grove Point served 444 girls in the resident summer camp program.

1967—Star Lodge was completed and dedicated. Star lodge was designed by architect Gene LaSalle and was so named for the building's interactions with both the sun and the North Star.

1968—The shower house in main camp was added.

1985—Seeking to serve the Delmarva Community, plans were made to increase the camp facility. Tennis courts were built as well as a waterfront headquarters for staff and equipment.

1987—Completion of the new year-round Program Center. 790 girls were served at Resident Camp.

Forest Activity Guide

Background

Imagine what this whole countryside around Camp Grove Point would have looked like before the European settlers came to North America. Huge trees, most bigger than any you see here now, spread their branches to cover the East like a giant's umbrella. Indians used the trees but they used them sparingly. When the pioneers and settlers came to the New World, they cut and burned the trees to turn the land into pasture or cropland.

Did you notice the large farms along the roads as you arrived at Camp Grove Point? They were originally forests.

By the mid 1800's much of the original forest in America was gone; replaced by farms, towns, roads, and near Camp Grove Point, tobacco plantations. Soon people began to realize how valuable forests are. They began to think about how even small changes would effect the natural community as a whole. Everything is connected to everything else, like the links of a chain.

Field's First **Equipment:** Hand Trowel

Go to the lawn area near the edge of the woods behind the swimming pool. What's making food for animals here? (The grass and other small, green plants.)

Let's take a look at the raw materials green plants need in order to make food. Walk into a sunny spot and feel the warmth on your face. This vital star provides the energy to make our plants work. Dig down about 3-4 inches into the soil and feel the texture. Is it sandy, crumbly, clay-like, wet or dry? Does it feel warm to your touch or cool? Do you notice any animals or signs that animals are here, i.e., nests, webs, holes, droppings?

Forest Scene **Equipment:** Hand Trowel

Now walk into the woods. Many more animals live near the edge of the forest than in the open field because there is more food and shelter there. As you move from the sunny field into the woods, did you notice any difference?

Again, dig into the soil, feel the texture and temperature. The top of the forest soil is called humus. Notice that it's full of decaying leaves, roots, and twigs. The humus acts as a giant sponge holding the moisture in the soil for plant's use.

Because there are different amounts and kinds of non-living things (light, water, soil, air temperature) in the forest than there are out in the field, there are also different kinds of plants and animals. Rabbits, field mice, grasshoppers, clover and grass are typical of field: raccoons, deer mice, woodpeckers, trees and ferns are found in forests. If left undisturbed for years, trees' seeds will be flown or carried into the field. The field will eventually become a forest.

Outer Space **Equipment:** Optional Bandana

You're a visitor from outer space coming to Earth for the first time. Your mission is to discover something interesting about this blue and green planet. After your spaceship bumps down on a spongy surface, the hatch opens and you find yourself surrounded by many tall, hard things. One, shorter than the rest, moves toward you. (Have girls choose a partner as though one were the Extraterrestrial and one the Earthling.)

Soon you realize you don't sense your surrounding the same way he does-you can't see, hear or speak. (Have the Extraterrestrial tie a bandana around her eyes, or just close them if a blindfold is a frightening idea.) But with your good sense of touch and smell you are ready to explore this forest with the help of the friendly Earthling.

Now the stage is set. Instruct the Earthlings to guide their "E-T's" to as many different forest objects as possible: branches, leaves rough and smooth bark, rocks, soil, moss, etc the "E-T's" try to perceive as much as they can about the texture, size and shape of each object.

Remind the girls they are responsible for each other's safety (no poison ivy, please), and since the "E-Ts" cannot hear or speak no vocal communication: words, whistles, grunts are all no-no's. Allow about five minutes for exploring, switch partners.

Gather the group back together and encourage the girls to describe their experience.

What Rough Skin You Have, My Dear! **Equipment:** paper and crayons-1 per Girl

Follow the road into the woods, away from the pool area. Soon you will walk through a grove of evergreen, red pine and fir trees. Although this grove was planted deliberately, in a naturally growing area evergreen trees would usually be an in between stage of growth occurring between a field and a mature forest. Leave the road the enter the forest at a spot where you see very large trees.

As you look around the forest, you will notice different tree bark textures and colors. Make bark rubbings from several different kinds of trees. (Place a sheet of paper against the tree and rub gently with the flat side of crayon.) The bark, a tree's armor and overcoat, may be several inches thick on the chestnuts and oaks here or as much as two feet thick on the large Douglas Firs in the northwestern USA.

Lots of Leaves

Leaves are the heart of the forest food factory- the place where food is actually made. In autumn, deciduous (de-cid-u-ous) trees lose their leaves. The forest food factory shuts down for the season as the green chlorophyll breaks down leaving beautiful reds, yellows and purples.

Gather several different kinds of leaves from the forest floor and compare them: size, shape, texture, color, vein pattern. Leaves may be arranged on the branches alternately or opposite each other. Look at a tree close to you.

Are the leaves alternate or opposite? Leaf shape, size and arrangement, as well as bark texture and color, branching pattern and type of seed all help to identify trees.

Some Nutty Stuff

Remember the grove of evergreen trees you walked past earlier? Pines, spruces, firs and other conifers are trees that have needles rather than leaves and do not produce flowers. Instead thin seeds are produced on the surface of cones. Most of the trees such as oaks, maples and beech bear their seeds enclosed in fruits (acorns, "helicopters", nuts, apples. Etc.) Most tree seeds never get to grow into trees. Why not? (They may fall in an unsuitable spot, i.e., not enough light, soil, water, space: some may be eaten by animals or paved or built over.)

Have each girl gather as many different kinds of seeds and nuts as she can in two or three minutes. They may wish to save these to use along with their leaves and bark rubbings in a nature collage.

All of the plants and animals living in the forest make up the forest community. Forests change constantly. The orderly, progressive development over a period of years a forest from one level to another until it reaches a mature stage is called "succession." All of the plants and animals in the forest community are linked together by their common need for food (nutrients), water, shelter and space.

Estuary Activity Guide

What is an Estuary?

Pretend we're flying high over the northern portion of the Chesapeake Bay. As we gradually drop down through the layers of clouds, we can see the gently moving waters of the bay. Actually we're looking at a drowned valley formed 10,000 years ago by the mighty Susquehanna River. Spreading out in all directions are rivers, long and short, like the crooked fingers of an 180 mile long hand. Tidal rivers mingle their fresh waters with salty bay to form this biological treasure chest – an estuary. The Chesapeake Bay and its rivers form the largest estuary in the USA and one of the largest estuaries in the world.

Encourage the girls to use their sense of sight, hearing smell and touch to discover what lives in this watery world:

Touch the water to see how warm or cold it is. The temperature of the water affects the plants and animals that live in it. Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water. Oxygen is necessary for all animals to breathe.

Although estuarine plants and animals prefer temperature within a certain range, they can tolerate quite a bit of change. Deep water holds more heat and changes less rapidly than shallow water. Some animals, such as the blue crab, go into deeper water in the winter to avoid sudden changes and freezing temperatures.

Does the water feel oily or gritty? How can this affect life in the water? (Diminishes the amounts of light and oxygen available to plants and animals)

Estuarine plants and animals can't live without oxygen any more than we can. Green plants produce oxygen during photosynthesis, (the process in which green plants make food and give off oxygen); some of this gas is mixed into the water by the wind and the waves. The bacteria that decay dead plants and animals use up large amounts of oxygen. So, you see, the amount of oxygen in the water varies with the temperature, amount of living things, depth and clarity of the water.

Smell the air: does it smell salty as though you are at the beach? Similar, but not quite the same? Salts make up most of the dissolved minerals in sea water. The water at Grove Point is closer to fresh than sea-salty. Remember this is the mouth of the Sassafras River.

Estuaries

What events might make the salt content of this water lower in the spring than the fall? (Fresh water from melting snow and ice flowing down the rivers to the bay.) Since salt affects body chemistry, most aquatic plants and animals cannot tolerate wide difference in salinity, e.g., if we were to take a hard clam from the salty lower bay and put it in the upper bay with its load of fresh water the clam is layered with salty water flowing under top fresher.

Can you name some special adaptations that estuarine animals have help protect themselves? (Scales, shells, flattened bodies, spines.)

Why all this concern about water chemistry? The physical and chemical conditions of the water give us an idea of how healthy. When there is not enough of one thing, such as oxygen, or too much of other something else such as silt or poisonous chemical, organisms may become sick, may not be able to reproduce or may die.

People also need the various substances in the water to be within certain limits for drinking and for other uses. When all of the elements in the estuarine waters are in balance, the system works, plants, animals, people thrive.

Look around the beach have each girl pick up one object and tell something about it (how it looks, feels or smells) or make up a story about it.

Explain to your girls that a habitat is a place where plants and animals live. It must provide food, water and shelter. Ask the girls how many different habitats they can think of here at the beach (open water, clinging to rocks, under driftwood, in the sand). Each habitat supports a special community or group of plants and animals.

Using a spade, a stick, or just your hands dig down several inches in a variety of places: upper beach, lower beach, in shallow water. You may find worms, tiny shrimp-like creatures called copepods or clams.

Beach Discovery Walk

The Chesapeake estuary you are now observing did not always look like this: it will not look like this in the future. Like any other natural sea, estuaries are born, grow old, and die.

The Chesapeake Bay was born as a result of glaciers melting almost 10,000 years ago and flooding in deep Susquehanna River bed. The natural process of erosion began here with the birth of the estuary but people have

speeded up that process by cutting forest, farming, building houses and roads and by generating boat wakes. In addition, pollution by sewage, chemicals, farm run-off and oil spills all cause damage to the estuary and to its wildlife.

As you face the water, turn to your right and walk toward the bay. Explain that this is where the Sassafra River empties its fresh water into the salty Chesapeake Bay. Many fish and other water animals live and have their young here.

It is also an important "highway" for boats. First Indians traveled and fished here. Then European explorers, traders, settlers, even pirates sailed the bay.

The bay's importance to the growing nation became more than just a supply house for food [Fish, oysters, crabs]. Unfortunately, these tasty foods are not longer as plentiful as they were. What factors would have caused their decline? (Loss of habitat- especially the filling in of the marshes, pollution, over-fishing.)

- Watch for different kinds of boats as you explore the beach.
- Look for evidence of pollution as you walk. Did you notice a black tarry material mixed with the sand? What could this be? What harm does it do? (It is left-over oil from a spill. Some wastes in the water, such as nitrogen, use up oxygen causing plants and animals to die. Mercury and other poisons kill fish and make people ill. Other things, such as silt, clog gills so aquatic animals can't breathe.)
- Notice the cliffs on your right. How do you think they got so steep? (As waves from storms and power boats slap the shore, protective plant cover disappears and more and more of the land is eroded.) What can be done to slow this process of erosion? (Bulkheads made of wood, and rip-rap made of chunks of rock types of walls that can be built to protect the shore.) These measures are expensive and cannot stop erosion, but only slow it down.
- It's almost impossible to walk a beach without noticing what is on it. Younger girls will enjoy finding something rough and something smooth. Have them decide whether it was once living. Look for something smooth. Have them choose something interesting and tell about it to the others. (Texture, size, shape, where it may have come from, or make up a story about where it has been and what it has seen.)
- Older girls can be more specialized in their search. Look for hollow, twisted, rocks, black or rust colored or with iron rings. Those contain iron that was once mined near Grove Point. In some places the hollow rocks may be filled with red mud. These are commonly called Indian Paint Pots, for it is thought that the Indians used them for the purpose. Quarts, sandstone and soapstone are among other mineral finds on the beach.
- Signs of animals abound. In addition to shells and skeletons washed ashore you may find feathers and most certainly you will be able to find tracks if you look near the base of the cliff. Many animals visit the beach: deer, opossum, raccoon, turtles, gulls, herons, snakes, geese, dogs. How many can you see on your visit to the beach?

Swamp Activity Guide

Many people think of a swamp as a nasty place full of quicksand, dangerous snakes, biting bugs and messy mud. They treat it as a garbage dump. Actually, swamps are valuable, lively and strangely beautiful areas. Come explore Grove Point's swamp the land of leopards and dragons (leopard frogs and dragon flies, that is). Discover the drama of day-to-day life in this fascinating wetland.

What is a Swamp?

Background

All lakes and ponds die someday. How does this happen? As water plants and animals die and rot, that decaying material plies up higher and higher making the water above it shallower. Grasses can grow making the lake a marsh.

Over a period of many years, shrubs and trees may replace some of the grasses making the marsh a swamp. This process is called succession. A swamp may dry up or flood over, but to be considered a swamp at all, it must be wet enough during the during the growing season to support water-loving plants.

How does this water get here? In a swamp, The water table (upper layer of the groundwater) is high. Here at Grove Point, rainwater draining off surroundings hills also helps to flood the swamp. The sea level on the East coast rises 6-12 inches each century so perhaps someday the trees here will drown and our swamp will again be a marsh

The Swamp Fox Caper

More than 200 years ago, another swamp far south of Grove Point served as a hideout for General Frances Marion. General Marion and his men knew their swamp so well they were able to make surprise attacks against British troops during the Revolutionary War, then slip quickly and quietly back into the swamp and "disappear". General Marion thus earned the nickname, "The Swamp Fox."

1. Take the girls to an areas of the swamp near the boardwalk. Ask them to imagine they are members of the Swamp Fox's band. Instruct them to look around Grove Point's swamp and think of some problems they might have maneuvering and hiding there.
2. Next, take your girls onto the bridge, about 1/3-1/2 of the way across, and have them sit down on the bridge looking out into the swamp. Ask the girls to think of two special tools or adaptations that would help them hide in or move through the swamp. These tools may be realistic, such as built- in periscope eyes for seeing around tree trunks. Have the girls draw their tools or describe them verbally.

The Swamp: A Mini-Zoo

Besides the frogs, turtles, snakes, owls, redwing blackbirds, mice, rabbits, shrews, star-nosed moles and flying squirrels that make the swamp their regular home, many animals visit from near by areas. Deer, raccoons, skunks, fox opossum, hawks and pheasants make this swamp a part of their regular rounds as they search for food . Many birds such as wood ducks, warblers, towhees, and scarlet tanagers raise their families here in the spring and summer.

Watch for clues that these resident and visitors are here. Search for tracks, animals holes, nests, droppings, half-eaten food, fur feathers, shells, trails and sounds. If you see a turtle check carefully, for living in our Grove Point swamp is the endangered species: bog turtle. It can be distinguished from the green-earned slider, or eastern painted turtle, by it's dark brown shell and orange patch on the neck. Look for the bog turtle sunning on a log, or in wet, muddy places.

Dragons of the Swamp

Dragonflies, and their more delicate cousins the damselfies, are very efficient hunters. The babies, called nymphs, live underwater eating insects including young mosquitoes, small fish and even tadpoles. (Nymphs are harmless to people.) The nymphs shed their skin many times as they grow and eventually molt into adults. The rainbow winged adults cruise through the swamp hunting for adult mosquitoes and other flying insects for dinner. The fact that scientists have caught dragonflies with more than 100 mosquitoes in their mouths at one time has earned them the name "mosquito hawk."

Go to the spot on the boardwalk near some water where you see dragonflies flying. A warm sunny day is best. Stand quietly and try to spot both dragon and damselflies. Make sure the girls understand the difference. When a dragonfly has landed on a leaf it's wings remain outstretched. A damselfly's wings will be folded.

The Swamp: A Botanical Wonderland

As days become shorter and nights colder, leaves shut down their food factories and begin to fall in a shower of yellows, red, purples, and golds. Smaller swamp plants may die back leaving only roots alive until the spring. Plant seeds are ripening now and ready to find new places to grow away from competition of parent plants.

How do Seeds Travel?

1. Have your girls see if they can find at least one example of each of these methods of seed travel. Throw red maple or ash helicopter seeds into the air; enjoy their spinning flight. Brush fuzzy sweaters, gloves or socks through weeds for hitchhikers. Gently touch the seed pods of jewelweed and watch them explode.
2. **Fall:** When the leaves have fallen from the trees you can see clumps of mistletoe high in the branches of old trees. The custom of mistletoe goes back a long time. Traditionally, if a girl stands beneath mistletoe a boy may kiss her. Supposedly the boy is to remove a berry for each kiss. When the berries are gone, the kissing is ended.

In the swamp, the uninvited guest is the mistletoe. It's sticky seeds stick to a bird's beak when it eats the berries. To get rid of them the bird rubs its beak against the bark of a tree. Some of the seeds lodge in the cracks of the bark and may grow. It sends its roots into the tree for water and minerals. Mistletoe itself has no direct contact with the ground.

3. **Winter:** In late winter you may see the "Honey Bee Hotel," skunk cabbage. If you should find a skunk cabbage flower, break off a tiny piece of the purple hood and smell it. This odor attracts many small insects and some spiders. Peek inside. Are there any there at home now?

This purple flower generates its own heat making the air around it as much as 20 degrees warmer than the normal wintery air temperature in the swamp. Those small insects and spiders we saw are taking advantage of this "heater" to stay active when they may be unable to survive the frosty surrounding air.

Pheasants and other animals eat the skunk cabbage flower. Indians ate the leaves after boiling them.

4. **Spring:** A walk through the swamp in the fullness of spring brings many delights. Swamp lilies, iris, wild rose, and swamp azaleas are a few of the most commonly recognizable beauties. During the evening a chorus of spring peepers, bull frogs, green frogs, and wood frogs are all practicing for the big concert; of course of birds' chorale is always in tune.

Programs of Frog Players:

Bullfrog	"Jug-o-rum"
Green frog	"Knee-deep"
Wood Frog	Best described as "quack-quack"
Spring Peeper	high, bell-like whistle

5. **Summer:** After the hectic rush of spring, life in the swamp slows down as the heat of summer sets in: animal babies are growing up, flowers have begun to seed and the seeds are ripening. One unwelcome plant is now thriving-poison ivy. Try to find this plant and show it to the girls.

As you go, give them plenty of opportunities to spot poison ivy for themselves. Practice the rhyme: Leaves of three, Let it be. Through most people e do react with a nasty rash when in contact with poison ivy, birds delight to sample it's white berries.

