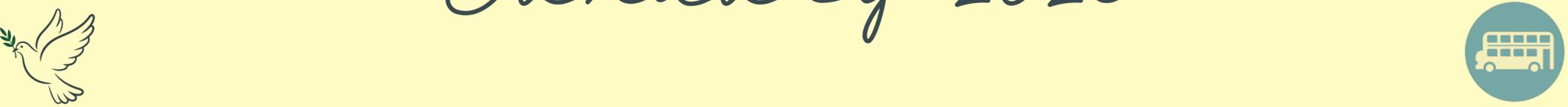




Friends of Pax Lodge USA

Newsletter

January 2026



Notes from the Chairs

By Maureen Lienau & Sarah Edwards, Co-Chairs of Friends of Pax Lodge USA

As your co-chairs, we are so excited about the coming year for FoPL, USA. First, we were energized by all of you who stepped up to volunteer at the Macy Gathering, for the various tasks that seem to pop up all the time. Some of the tasks that are being addressed have been haunting us for years; all of you are instrumental in stopping the haunting. We are hosting quarterly Zoom Friends meetings and hope that each of you will be committed to attending as we love your input. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 starting at 2:00 pm Eastern. Please mark your calendars and if you haven't received a zoom invite, please contact Lisa Ferreira.

In addition, we have increased communication with all of you via the monthly Dove Notes from Lisa and Sarah, and by Jennifer, Camdyn, and Maureen who are gathering articles for our newsletters with Camdyn redesigning the layout. We hope that you are feeling the rising energy as much as we are.

At the Gathering this year we voted to recruit and enlist four (4) new Friends of Pax Lodge and at the Gathering Beverly Miner recruited

Susan "Sunny" Baddour from Ohio and Maureen recruited Emily Koch, a former Pax Lodge volunteer, from Texas. A big welcome to both new Friends - who were introduced at the December quarterly zoom meeting. While we are half-way to our goal, more Friends are always welcome, and it is incumbent upon all of us to recruit new members.

Our Friends group chose a fundraising goal of \$35,000 for this fiscal year (ending September 30). We plan to host another large fundraising event, and Sarah will be contacting all of you to see how you can assist in this project. Be thinking of items you'd like to donate for an auction or ways you can help bring this concept to fruition. We also want you to think of ways you can fundraise on your own - Valerie Pierpoint volunteered to help each of us set up a fundraising Facebook page, if we want.

Lisa Ferreira will be hosting another Murder Mystery fundraiser, held on Saturday, January 24, starting at 2:00 pm Eastern. We hope you can attend but even if you cannot, your "donation" to this event will go towards your fundraising goals for this fiscal year.

Another subcommittee hard at work is that of Susan Drew Thomas, Serena Bell, and Karen Saenz on editing and revising the Pax Lodge Handbook for all members. We look forward to rolling this out - after Board approval - sometime in March.

In closing, we wish you a very happy and peaceful 2026. Let's carry this momentum forward and make meaningful progress together,

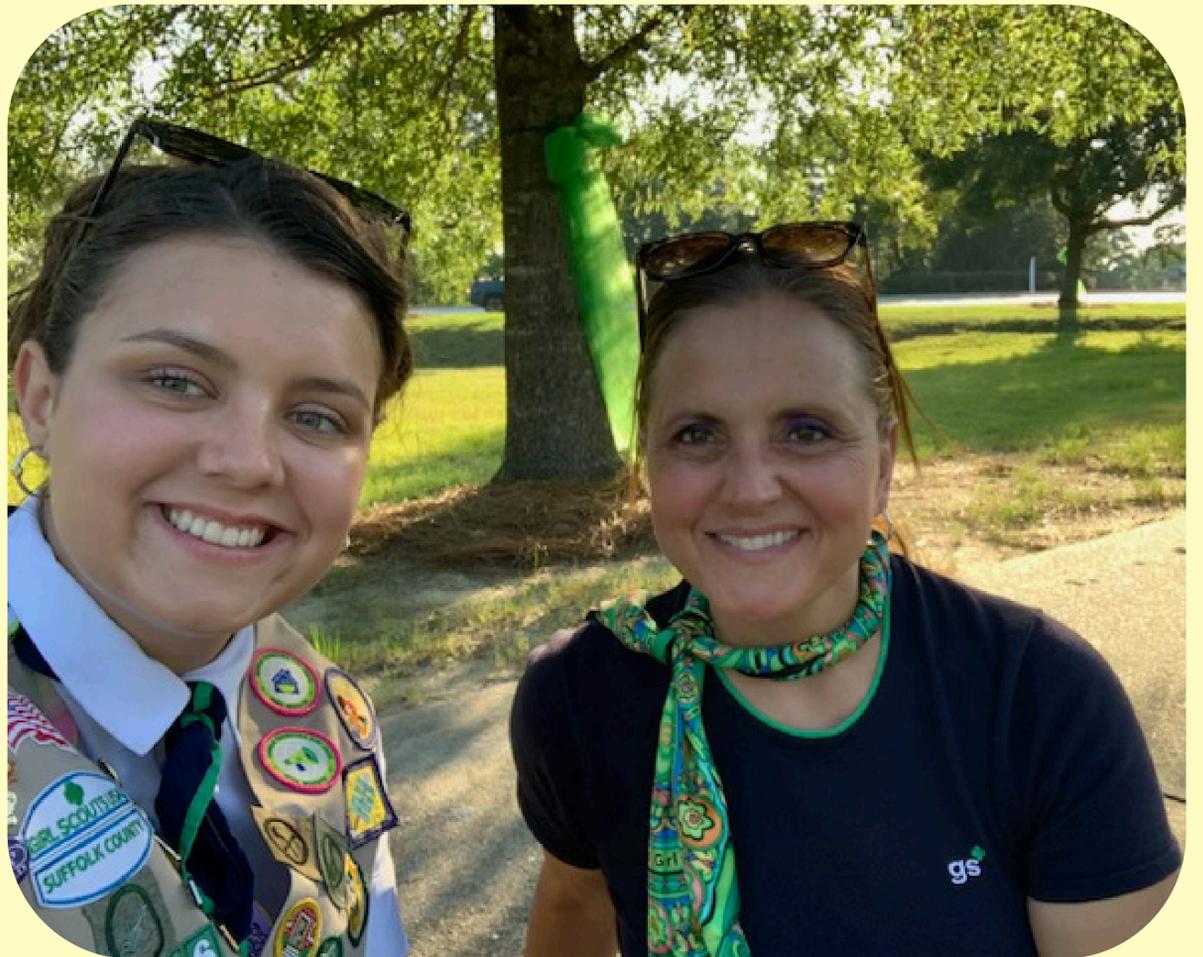
Maureen & Sarah



Welcome Back!

By Jennifer Glover

We hope that you will enjoy the first newsletter of 2026. It is our hope that these issues will help to bring everyone together and help us to feel connected. We plan to contact each of you with regard to the next couple of issues so that everyone has an opportunity to be included in issues of the



newsletter. Looking forward to another wonderful year of working with you ladies. Wishing everyone peace and love in this new year, and always.

Yours in Girl Scouting,
Jennifer and Camdyn Maren

“Scouting rises within you and inspires you to put forth your best.” – Juliette Gordon Low

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Day in the Life of a Pax Lodge Vollie

By Emily Koch



Every day started with waking up in my Vollie room. Over the summer, I got to share the space with volunteers from South Korea, California, and the UK! My room's window overlooked the front of Pax, so I could see the flag display and rainbow bricks every day.

On my days on shift, I would finish getting ready by putting on my Pax Lodge necker before heading down for the flag ceremony. My most memorable flag ceremony was definitely the one held in the pouring rain! After raising the flag, singing the World Song, and presenting

all of the guests with their new pins, my fellow vollies and I would begin the dining room cleanup and then attend our morning meeting.

No two shifts were the same, but one highlight was giving tours of the Lodge to guests. This was my favorite activity because it provided the perfect opportunity to really get to know guests and learn about their MOs. I also loved hearing about what they had been up to while exploring London.

In the evenings, we would sometimes lead evening programs. Leading songs for Campfire was out of my comfort zone at first, but as the summer went on, it became one of my favorite things to do at Pax. During International Night, I loved highlighting my home state of Texas by teaching

line dances! On evenings when I was off, I could usually be found taking a walk in Hampstead Heath or seeing a show on the West End.

Whether I was teaching Texas line dances or wandering London streets on my days off, each moment as a Pax Lodge Vollie made the summer unforgettable and showed me just how incredible our worldwide movement is.

Friends of Pax Lodge USA News

World Foundation Gathering

The final Gathering at Edith Macy took place from October 30, 2025 – November 2, 2025. Friends from across the country came to meet as they have been for years. This Gathering was special as it was the final time that such an event would be held at Macy. Those words bring a somber tone. Macy has meant so much for everyone and has touched our lives in different ways. For me, “Macy” has always been a reminder of our Movement’s beginnings, our global connections, the importance of traditions and the strength of our sisterhood. These mean something and the women who were at the World Conference in 1926 knew that. Those of us who have met at Macy for the Gathering and other events continue to honor them and their work by being forces for good for our Movement. Friends of Pax Lodge USA met to discuss the leadership of our group as well as to discuss our fundraising goals and efforts. We assigned members to various tasks for the committee and discussed more efficient ways to communicate. Friends of Pax Lodge always has a welcoming atmosphere, bringing people together and bringing out the best in each other to work towards our common goal of helping Pax Lodge to succeed in building global minded girls who make the world a better place. No Gathering would be complete without a touching ceremony led by MJ Meconi. MJ created a special, final Girl Scouts’ Own to wrap up our weekend at Macy. The ceremony celebrated old friends and new and reflected on our values as Girl Scouts and why our Movement is so important. It was a ceremony that made our Founders proud of our dedication and work to support girls across the globe. Kudos to you, MJ!

Happy 100th Birthday World Thinking Day!

Delegates from 29 countries gathered at Camp Edith Macy to celebrate the Fourth International Conference (the first international conference held in America). Thinking Day was established and February 22nd was selected as the date of observance in honor of Lord Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell’s shared birthdate. Thinking Day was established as a day for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the globe to recognize each other in the global Movement and to show appreciation for their shared goals.



Happy 35th Birthday Pax Lodge!

Pax Lodge officially opened its doors on March 15, 1991. Pax Lodge was preceded by Our Ark (1939) and Olave House (1959). The name “Pax” was selected as a reminder to our Movement of the importance of peace in our world. On March 15, 1991, Princess Benedikte of Denmark officially opened Pax Lodge. The doors of Pax Lodge were donated by members of the Baden-Powell family as a symbol showing that the doors of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting are open to all girls around the globe. The Pax Lodge song is deeply rooted in the values of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, with emphasis on peace, love and harmony as well as friendship and unity within Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Its symbol, the white dove, is a clear reminder of peace for all. Pax Lodge runs several events throughout the year to engage girls and young women from across the globe. Jambrownee, Friendship Week and World Thinking Day are popular events each year. Pax Lodge continues to bring girls and young women together through activities and volunteering opportunities. Volunteers leave Pax Lodge with a new sense of global citizenship, global connections and friendships that last a lifetime.



Sign-up for the 35th Birthday Celebration by clicking [here](#).

We are also accepting donations in honor of the 35th Birthday!

“Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting can be the magic thread which links the girls of the world together.”

Juliette Gordon Low



Girl Scout Convention Details

58th NCS and Girl Scouts Unite Event

(<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/national-council-session.html>)

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW

Washington, DC 20001

Event Name & Theme:

58th National Council Session- First 3 days - July 20-22, 2025

You do not have to be a registered GS to attend BUT you do have to pay the NCS registration fee. Based on the draft agenda, the NCS delegate education sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. ET on Monday, July 20. The NCS closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 22. *These times are subject to change. The National Council can vote to extend the meeting.*

Girl Scouts Unite Event-July 23-25, 2025

- girls in grades k–12 (members and non-members), parents, caregivers, siblings, and troop 2 leaders,
- Girl Scout alums and volunteers,
- industry leaders who care about girl issues.

Based on the draft agenda, the Girl Scouts Unite event will begin at 9:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, July 23. The Girl Scouts Unite event closing ceremony will end by 6:30 p.m. ET on Saturday, July 25. *These times are subject to change.*

Registration for the 2 Events:

- The 3-day All Access ticket is for the Girl Scouts Unite event taking place Thursday, July 23, through Saturday, July 25, 2026. This ticket does not cover NCS.
- The 6-day All Access ticket is for those observing NCS, taking place Monday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 22, and participating in the Girl Scouts Unite event.

Hotel and Travel Information:

GSUSA has secured room blocks at 17 hotels within one mile of the Walter E. Washington 3 Convention Center. You can select the hotel that best meets your budget and convenience needs. No hotel is considered the main hotel for the event. The Marriott Marquis is connected to the convention center. The hotel reservation portal opened for the general public on September 3, 2025. Hotel reservations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. Fees, if applicable, vary by hotel and will be disclosed when the hotel reservation is made. *Hotels.com and Expedia.com may have the same hotels available that GSUSA has at a lower rate with all fees included. They offer refundable and non-refundable rates on rooms as well as additional insurance if desired.*

Local Transportation:

The shuttle from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center to and from the hotels with GSUSA room blocks will be available Monday, July 20, through Saturday, July 25. The shuttle is available to 3- and 6-day ticket holders free of charge.



Why I'm a Proud Friend of Pax Lodge

Barbara Johnson

My journey with Girl Scouts began long before my daughter Laura graduated high school in Florida in 1995. She had been a Girl Scout for 12 years, and I was honored to be her leader throughout. My own Girl Scouting roots run deep. I was lucky to have a dedicated leader for five years, and when our troop disbanded due to a lack of volunteers, I made a personal commitment: I would continue leading as long as girls wanted Scouting in their lives. That promise still holds true today, in 2025.

My passion for global connection started early. At 16, I traveled to England to meet my pen pal Richard and his family. That visit blossomed into a lifelong bond—I gained a fourth brother and a second family. The summer I turned 18, I stayed with Aunty Ann and Uncle Ed, and spent time with three German teens. It was a transformative experience that opened my eyes to the richness of cultures beyond Georgia. I've believed ever since that every young person should have the chance to explore the world.

By 1995, three girls from our troop had been selected for Wider Ops (now Destinations), deepening their connection to Girl Scouting. When Laura graduated, I knew it was time to take her to England—to visit Pax Lodge and reconnect with my English family. Richard was now married with two young sons, and my own Girl Scout resume had grown: leader, Service Unit Team member, Level Coach, Camp Specialist, Council Trainer, Area 1 Association Chair, Council Board member, and Chair of the Bylaws Committee. After helping to replace our CEO, I felt my Girl Scout chapter was nearly complete. Visiting Pax Lodge was the perfect next step.

In 1993, my co-leader moved to Texas, and I joined her council's leader weekend, where international travel and Girl Scouting courses were always a highlight. It was there I met Yvonne Lowrie—an inspiring advocate for Pax Lodge. Two years later, Laura and I climbed the stairs beside the iconic red telephone booth at Pax Lodge, and who should be coming down? Yvonne herself! From that moment on, she never stopped championing support for Pax Lodge.

Since 2000, I've proudly been a member of Friends of Pax Lodge USA, working each year to strengthen my support. Today, I help with my two granddaughters' troops, sharing the message of Global Girl Scouting and encouraging every girl to embrace the life-changing power of international travel and Global Girl Scouting.



Holocaust Education Patch

Lily Sassani knew what it felt like to be the only one.

The only Jewish face in her classroom. The only one who understood what the High Holidays meant. The only one carrying both pride and isolation.

She was also a Girl Scout.

When it came time to choose her Gold Award project—Girl Scouting's highest honor, requiring 80+ hours of leadership—Lily wanted to create something that bridged both parts of her identity.

Something that would honor her heritage while serving her community.

She kept thinking about a question that haunted her: What happened to Girl Scouts and Girl Guides during the Holocaust?

The question led her to Janie Hampton's book "How the Girl Guides Won the War."

What she discovered there changed everything.

Because the story of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides during World War II wasn't just a footnote. It was extraordinary.

In the United States, Girl Scouts mobilized for the war effort on a massive scale. They sold war bonds to fund the fight against fascism.

They planted victory gardens. They collected scrap metal that would be melted down for weapons and silk stockings that would become parachutes. They served as hospital aides, farm workers, bicycle couriers.

Teenage girls doing the work of a nation at war.

But in Europe, Girl Guides faced something far darker—and responded with even greater courage.

During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Girl Guides smuggled Jewish children out of the ghetto.

They hid them with Polish families. Forged documents to give them new identities. Risked execution every single time.

During the London Blitz, Girl Guides ran toward exploding incendiary bombs—not away from them.

They climbed onto rooftops to extinguish bombs before they could ignite entire city blocks. Teenage girls armed with buckets of sand, saving London one rooftop at a time.

And in Ravensbrück concentration camp—the Nazi camp designed specifically for women—a secret Girl Guide unit did something the SS never discovered.

They kept records.

While the Nazis tried to erase evidence of their crimes, these imprisoned Girl Guides secretly documented who lived and who died. They created one of the only chronicles of what happened inside Ravensbrück, preserving the names and stories the Nazis wanted erased forever.

They were starving, terrified, surrounded by death.

And they chose to bear witness.

Lily read these stories and realized: almost no one knows about this.

Holocaust education focuses on the camps, the ghettos, the six million murdered. Rightfully so.

But the stories of young women's resistance—the Girl Guides who fought back, who saved lives, who documented atrocities—those stories had been buried.

She decided to change that.

Lily spent two years creating a comprehensive Holocaust Education Patch and curriculum specifically for Girl Scouts.

She partnered with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, which connected her directly with author Janie Hampton. Together, they developed a program that tells the stories of girls and young women whose wartime contributions have been forgotten.

The curriculum doesn't shy away from the horror. But it also doesn't leave Scouts feeling helpless.

It shows them what courage looked like at their age. What resistance looked like. What refusing to be a bystander looked like.

In 2024, Lily completed her Gold Award project.

The Holocaust Education Patch is now available to Girl Scout troops across the United States.

Thousands of girls—many of them the same age as the Girl Guides who fought Nazis in Warsaw, who extinguished bombs in London, who kept records in Ravensbrück—are learning this history.

"I hope my patch touches a lot of people," Lily said. "It tells stories of the Holocaust specific to the experiences of women, children, and affected civilians across the world as a whole, which I don't think a lot of schools talk about."

She's right. Most schools don't.

But now, in troop meetings across America, girls are pinning on a patch that honors the teenage resisters who came before them.

They're learning that Girl Scouts aren't just about cookies and camping—they're part of a legacy of courage that stretches back to the darkest chapter of human history.



A Note From Susan

In 1988 I heard the bad news- Olave House was closing! Since I had already been to Our Cabana, Olave House was the next World Center I planned to visit. Quickly trying to find someone to go with me I kept hitting roadblocks until my Mom said she'd come with me, her first of many trips out of the U.S. to visit four World Centers.

Two months before closing we were situated in our fifth floor room. A troop of Brownies had passes to see the Changing of the Guard from the inside of the Buckingham Palace gates and invited us to join them. It was truly a great experience.

A short two years later Mom and I were back in London for a stay at the new Pax Lodge. The main doors still had temporary door handles! On that visit we went to Charles Dickens museum on an exploratory mission.

Soon Mom and I were back at Pax Lodge, joined by our dear friend Joan Paull, FoOur Chalet. This time at the Dickens Museum we met Charles Dickens' great, great grandson and donated a steel engraving of Charles Dickens that had been in our family for a long time. On that trip Pax Lodge was also the scene of our surprise 60th birthday party for my Mom's dentures!

I had another opportunity to visit Pax solo and then to give my husband a tour when we visited London in 2012.

In my Girl Scout career I had served on the troop, Council and national leadership levels. I had just finished serving two terms on the GSUSA national board and was looking for my next Girl Scout mission of service. International Girl Scouting complimented my work with the US Department of State and the international travel I was experiencing.

I was excited when Sue Williams, a former FoPL member, asked in 2009 if I would like to join the committee. Of course I said yes and joined several colleagues from my time in the 1960's in Greater New York Council. "Make new friends but keep the old..."

I was also recruited to join the Olave Baden-Powell Society so I'm ready for my next adventure.

Susan



Check This Out!

We have recently added a new game to our Evening Programme options and two groups have been playing – Chalfont St Giles Rangers and Sussex Hive Trefoil Guild. Pax Lodge is a member of the Goose Network, an informal network of Scout and Guide Centres across Europe. The aim is to share ideas, activities and information on the environment, nature and culture. The Goose Network embodies a powerful concept. Just as flying geese in a V-formation travel further together than they would alone, we have chosen to follow a similar path. That's why being an informal network is central to our identity. We take turns organizing all our events each year, understanding that not every center can contribute equally.



However, it's crucial to emphasise this as centers, we can support one another in improving, and as each center enhances its capabilities, it can in turn assist others. Occasionally, we even extend our help to centers outside our network, and we eagerly learn from them as well. The philosophy is simple: we can all learn, and we should always strive for growth. This expectation applies to our Scouts, so it must hold true for us as well.

“I liked how we found out about the different centres around Europe”

The Goose Game was created by members of the Goose Network with each centre submitting their own games/activities.



Active games alongside calmer activities



“Really enjoyable activities with different levels of difficulties”.

An incredibly fun evening included games, crafts and guessing games that really got everyone moving. The highlight from the start was the range of activities that the Goose Game has to offer, accommodating to everyone from Brownies to Trefoil Guild members. The activities played during the Goose Game are planned and prepped by each Guide and Scout Centre. Travel from Centre to Centre, play a fun game or do an interesting craft until you reach the finish line.

“Loved seeing how competitive some of the leaders were!”



Ghana's Independence Day

March 11, 2025

March 6th is a significant day for Ghanaians worldwide, marking Ghana's Independence Day.



As a volunteer at Pax Lodge in London, I found the perfect place to bring people together through culture, food, and friendship. To commemorate the day, I prepared a traditional Ghanaian dish, **Jollof rice**, a meal that is more than just food; it is a symbol of unity,

joy, and home. Cooking Jollof for the staff and volunteers at Pax Lodge was not just about sharing a meal but about creating an experience, one that immersed everyone in the warmth and hospitality of Ghanaian culture. The rich aroma of the food filled the air, and as everyone took their first bite, I could see their delight in experiencing something new.



Being surrounded by people from different backgrounds, all eager to partake in my culture, made me feel truly at home, even miles away from Ghana.





My name is Leah Haidar and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am 19 years old and currently attend Bryn Mawr college in Pennsylvania, I am studying sociology. I decided to spend my summer at Pax Lodge because I visited this world center with my Girl Scout Troop when I was younger(2019) and loved the atmosphere! I am so excited to be able to spend my summer in London because I love traveling and giving back to the Girl Scout and Girl Guiding community. I've been a Girl Scout for over 14 years now. Through Girl Scouting, my family, and school, I've been given plenty of opportunities to travel around. Some of my favorite places include Thailand, Nepal, Cheque Republic, and more. I've been to about 26 countries as of right now and I hope I am able to discover more of the world very soon! Hope to see you around Pax Lodge this summer!



Pax Lodge July 31, 2025
TGIF from your friends at Pax Lodge! We hope you are having, have had, or will have as much fun at Pax Lodge as this awesome Canadian group. 😊



Girlguiding Middlesex West · July 21

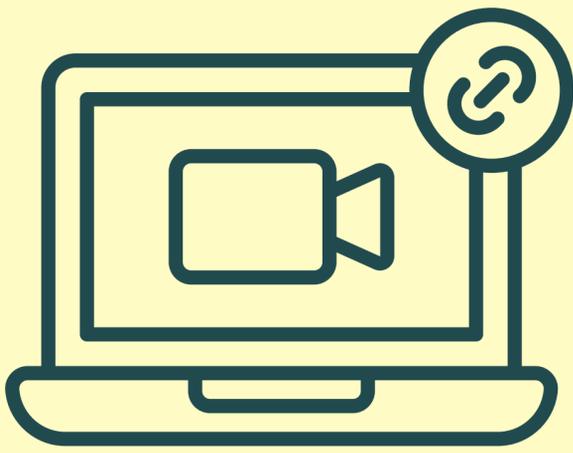
Wonderful to see our County Rangers in the spotlight after enjoying a fantastic day at Pax Lodge!

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE



Reminders



Friends of Pax Lodge USA

Zoom Meeting

February 21st at 2pm EST



Pax Lodge 35th Anniversary

Celebration:

March 15 - 20, 2026

Support Pax Lodge by clicking [here](#).

Save the Date



April 18, 2026

Fundraiser for FoPLUSA held by
Wendy Ingle of the Agnes Baden-
Powell Society



October 24, 2026

Fundraiser for FoPLUSA
hosted by Margot Iwanchuk
She will be sharing stories and treasures
gifted to her by Juliette Gordon Low



Looking Ahead

We will be putting together a small issue to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Pax Lodge. Be on the lookout for an email from Camdyn asking for your participation in this special issue.



We will also be putting together a special issue to commemorate Edith Macy as well as the 100th anniversary of the World Camp that was held there. In doing so Camdyn will be asking for your participation in reflecting on what Edith Macy means to you as well as memories of your visits to our beloved Macy.



Meghan Markle and Prince Harry Announce New
Documentary: [Cookie Queens](#)





Click [here](#) for more information about us, ways to donate, Friends of Pax Lodge, events, and more!



“We wish you peace on the wings of a snow white dove.”