

## Camp Traditions

Camp Wendy has a “Peter Pan” theme. In addition to the units Jungle, Pioneer, Greenwood and Cooks Cabin (which was once called Hook’s Cabin), there is also Pirates Cove by the Indian Ceremonial grounds and Lost Boys (the site of the Quiet Place). Near the craft house in Greenwood where cabins called Mermaids Lagoon and Tiger Lily Lodge. Some traditions go back to the beginning of Camp Wendy while others have been added through the years. They all add more charm to our camp. Below are some of the fun traditions.

**Wishing Bridge:** The bridge near Greenwood leading to the Pioneer unit. Campers stand on the center of the bridge, close their eyes, make a wish, turn around three times while holding a pebble. The camper then throws the pebble into the air and runs across the bridge. If she makes it to the other side before the pebble hits the water, her wish will come true.

**Pirates’ Cove:** Also known as Indian Hill. A small hill close to Lake Louise just slightly past Jungle tents going towards Romany. Tradition has it that Indians used to bury the chiefs there, but because this scared campers, we now call it Indian Ceremonial Grounds.

**Quiet Place:** Back in Lost Boys, which is the unit to the right of the Dining Hall (through the woods and over a little stream). This unit was cleared by the L.I.F.E. Group and a Quiet Place was built there by the Algonkonian Senior Troop.

At many camps you’ll find a “Quiet Place”. It’s a thatched roof with a bulletin board hanging from it where a camper can go to be alone with quiet thoughts or with others to do a “Scouts Own” or to write some poetry. Tradition has it that if you find a thought or poem on the bulletin board that you want to take, you may, as long as you leave something in its place.

Our Quiet Place was dedicated in honor of Kit Hammett, author of “Camp Craft” and a very active Girl Scout who knew Juliette Low. You will find a poem she wrote just for us hanging over the stove in Martin Lodge.

To the right, after the stream, on your way to the “Quiet Place”, look for the rows of trees that look like a “W”. The easiest way to see it is to look up toward the sky and you will see that they way the trees were planted forms a “W”, for “Wendy”.

**Brownie Tree:** Years ago when Camp Wendy first opened, the Brownie unit used to meet out in the parking lot. There were no trees for shade, so around 1 p.m. every day the counselors would bring the campers back behind the shower house in main camp. In the middle of the clearing was a huge tree which soon became known as the Brownie Tree. To amuse the campers, the counselors would have them all hold hands and see how many campers it took to circle the tree trunk.



**Poppy:** Poppy is a fairy who lives at the top of the Brownie Tree and is Camp Wendy's own guardian fairy. She always watches over our camp. In order to help campers fall asleep for a quiet time nap, counselors would tell them how Poppy always knew everything - who was sleeping and who was not, who was homesick, who had a baby sister, a new puppy, etc. If everyone went to sleep, Poppy would leave a letter.

Campers are no longer required to take a nap during quiet time, but if you would like to continue the tradition and be "Poppy", write a note to your group or to an individual who has accomplished something special or needs a boost and leave it for them to find at Poppy's house. Juniors love notes from Poppy, too!

**Wishing Boat Candle Lighting Ceremony:** After a campfire, the girls walk down to the lake, two by two, singing "Barges". They place their boats in the water, light the candles, make a wish and let them go. If their boat makes it to the other side, their wish comes true. Boats are made from small pieces of wood, bark or walnut shells with small decorations glued on or colored designs and a candle. Please do not pick live plants for materials.

