

CAMP CONEWAGO

100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUTH



CAMP CONEWAGO | BATTLEFIELD DISTRICT | NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM COUNCIL

THE FOUNDING OFFICERS OF CAMP CONEWAGO

In 1919, the Conewago Council formed with representatives of the Hanover, Littlestown, New Oxford, Locust Grove, Abbottstown, and East Berlin troops.

They saw a need for a Boy Scout Camp, solicited funds, and were overwhelmed by the generous responses of over 200 businesses and individuals.

On September 13, 1919, 25 acres of land were purchased, and the Conewago Councilmen established Camp Conewago.

We are forever grateful for their vision and financial guarantee that Camp Conewago will thrive for generations to come.

H. D. Shepherd

R.L Ehrhard

C.N. Myers



Dr. Geo. Seaks

Paul Winebrenner

H.S . Weidner



Andy Lawrence speaks at the Camp Conewago 100th Anniversary Celebration.

A TRIBUTE TO CAMP CONEWAGO

By Andrew Lawrence

HERE IN THIS PLACE, WE ARE SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE, A PLACE SIGNIFICANT TO the memory of scouts—experiences woven into the life of the Scout and a perennial place where we can be together as patrol, as troop and even as district. Today, we celebrate Camp Conewago's 100th Anniversary and how it has become a place that is integral to who we are as Scouts.

An author, G. K. Chesterton wrote, "Men did not love Rome because it was great. She was great because they had loved her." What if we contemplate Conewago as the object of consideration instead? Then we could say, "Scouts did not love Conewago because it was great. Conewago was great

because Scouts loved her." We don't deny the beauty of this corner of creation. At the same time, the greatness of this place is forged by our experience of it, our celebration and participation in it. Our experience of this Camp teaches us the importance of the essentials: water, fire, food, shelter, fellowship, character, and honor for the place that offers this collection of opportunities.

Like the constellations in the heavens, character can be found within us when we search for it and choose to keep these in our sights. We demonstrate character by



2019 CAMP CONEWAGO COMMITTEE

Shawn Leppo, Chairperson
 Todd Weidner, BSA Council Representative
 Dean Norris, Camp Caretaker

MEMBERS

Rick Clingan
 Sam Coover
 Richard Crouse
 Ray Deardorff
 Bill Grandia
 Bill Klein
 Robert Larsen
 Steve Leonard
 Dean Norris
 Tom Washburn
 Eric Wolfe
 Randy Hahn
 Vonnie Heavner
 Jim Long

*“There is no tonic like the free life
 under the open sky.”*

From *Essays on Nature and Culture*
 by Hamilton Wright Mabie
 Printed in the *Conewago Eagle*
 May-June, 1924 issue

keeping the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We demonstrate character at Camp through doing our part, through teamwork, through leadership, through listening. We demonstrate it even if the rain comes down, whether our feet get wet or stay dry, whether there be a gentle breeze or a great enduring blustery wind. We demonstrate it through Class B and Class A uniforms. We demonstrate it through the honoring of our Nation's flag. We demonstrate it through saluting this place, this old friend, Camp Conewago.

This place had a beginning. It started as a thought, became an idea with clarity, was put into action. It was funded by single-hearted leaders of the community, focused on creating a place for Scouters to gather, and launched by a dedicated committee. The committee not only employed their brain power to lay out the camp but quickly put their boots on the ground, literally, to build it and maintain it. And because of that dedication, Camp Conewago lives on strong today. The current committee members are custodians of place, and I hope that you too will participate in being a custodian of this place, a custodian of beauty, a custodian of Scouting in our extended backyard.



A SPECIAL SPRING CAMPOREE

ON APRIL 27, 2019, THE CAMP CONEWAGO COMMITTEE, LOCAL SCOUTS, AND VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED THE CAMP'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUTH.

Local Troops gathered for the 2019 Battlefield District Spring Camporee with the theme *Emergency Preparedness and First Aid*. They set up camp, met up with Scouts from other Troops, participated in preparedness demonstrations, and joined the Camp Committee, volunteers, and other friends of Camp Conewago to celebrate Camp's 100th anniversary.

Celebrating
100 Years



One Troop's flags fly at the entrance of its campsite.



Committee members stand as they're recognized by those gathered for the 100th Anniversary program.



Scouts gather on the ridge for the raising of the flags at the 2019 Battlefield District Camporee.

Celebrating
100 Years

Gettysburg TIMES



T.W. BURGER/GETTYSBURG TIMES

Garrett Phillips, left, and Gabe Cromer, both 15 and members of Boy Scout Troop 110 of Hanover, finish off the lunch dishes Saturday at the Boy Scouts of America Battlefield District Spring Camporee at Camp Conewago near New Oxford. Part of the celebration this year is commemorating the founding of the campground in 1919.

Boys Scouts marking camp's 100th year

By T.W. Burger
For the Gettysburg Times

Boy Scouting in what is now the Battlefield District of the New Birth of Freedom Council of the Boy Scouts of America has been around almost as long as scouting itself.

The Boy Scouts of America was chartered in 1911, and by the end of that decade troops

were being created in south-central Pennsylvania.

The troops in Hanover and Adams County were looking for a location to hold outdoor activities. Material provided by the district states that local citizens joined forces with the then-new Conewago Council to pull together the money to purchase 25 acres that is now Camp Conewago.

On Sept. 13, 1919, approximately 25 acres of land in Hamilton Township, Adams County, from George T. Gitt.

The camp is located at the "Forks" where the Little Conewago enters into the Big Conewago stream. A trader's cabin was formerly at the point where the collection of furs and trad-

(See CAMP on Page A8)

A8 GETTYSBURG TIMES • MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

DARRYL WHEELER/GETTYSBURG TIMES

CENTURY OLD — Tom Washburn, left, and Peter Sheppard hold a plaque that will be displayed at Camp Conewago. Sheppard's grandfather was instrumental in starting Camp Conewago 100 years ago. They held a ceremony on Saturday to celebrate the anniversary of the camp's founding.

Camp

(Continued from Page A1)

ing was done with early settlers and the Conewago tribes in the area.

“Originally, this camp was used only by local scout troops,” said Dean Norris, caretaker for the camp. “Now, seventy percent of those who come here are from out of the area.”

Non-scouts can use the campground as well, but have to provide their own insurance,

but Girl Scouts, church groups, even the Delone football team use the grounds, Norris said.

The weekend camporee included a special observance of the 100th anniversary of Camp Conewago on Saturday. The keynote speaker for the event was Andrew Lawrence, now 44, and a graphic designer.

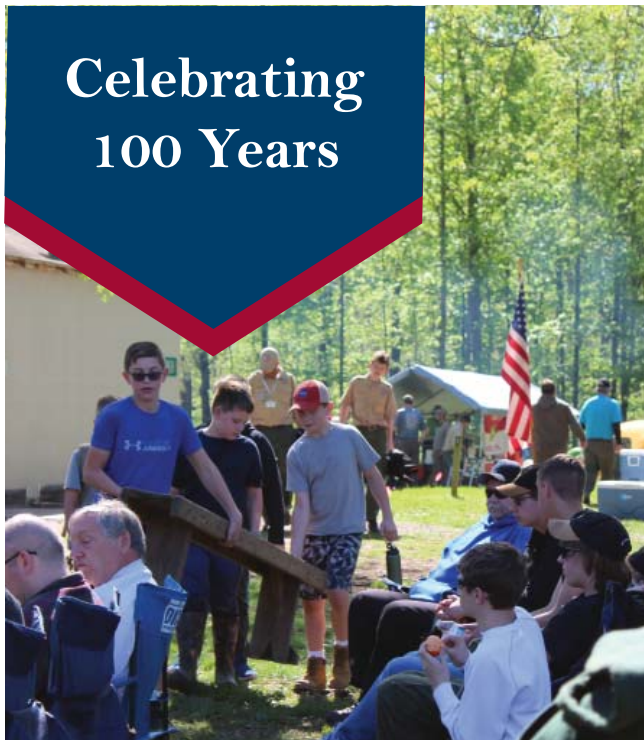
Lawrence became in Eagle Scout while a member of St. Joseph's Troop 103 in Hanover.

Lawrence, paraphrasing author G.K. Chesterton, said

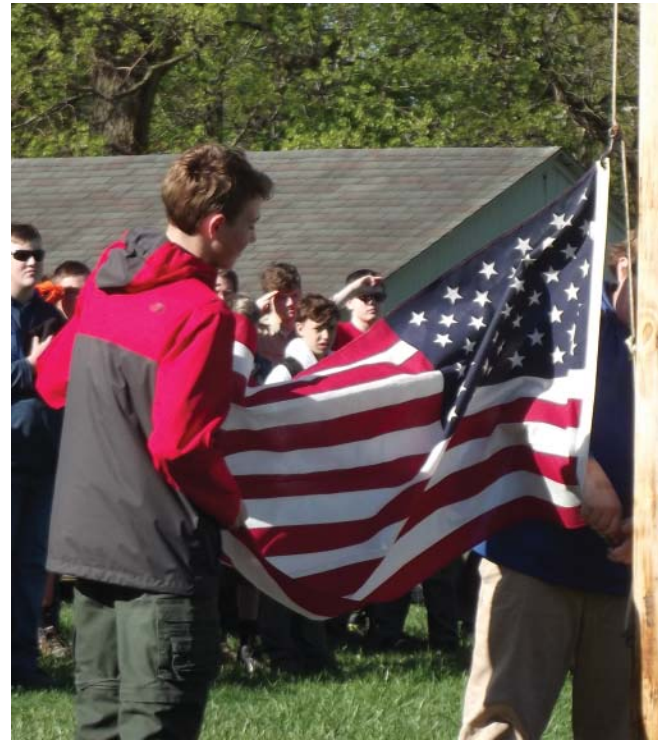
“Scouts do not love Conewago because it was great. Conewago was great because Scouts loved her.”

Conewago's greatness is forged “by our experience of it,” he added.

The Battlefield District of the BSA serves Adams and Southwestern York counties. The district is made up of Bermudian Springs, Conewago Valley, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Hanover, Littlestown, South Western, Spring Grove, and Upper Adams school districts.



Scouts lend a hand with seating for the 100th Anniversary Celebration.



As the American flag is raised, Scouts show their respect.



Camp Conewago and Boy Scouts of America history is on display.



Mr. Peter Sheppard, grandson of a Camp Conewago founder, at the 100th Anniversary ceremony.



Scouts move through many demonstrations to learn emergency preparedness and first aid.



At one demonstration they build a campfire that they'll use for the night's festivities.



Scouts create distress signals that may be seen by air with materials that can be found in the wilderness.



Volunteers teach Scouts important first aid skills.



ABOVE: Scouts learn how drones can be used in an emergency.



TOP LEFT: Scouts listen as a drone operator explains how drones operate and the cone and landing pad setup in the field behind him.

CENTER: Before they get to try their hands at flying, Scouts check out a drone controller.



BOTTOM LEFT: Scouts watch as the drone operator successfully lands a drone despite the windy day.

BELOW: A Scout prepares to make a drone take flight.





Volunteers demonstrate knot tying and hashing, then Scouts practice the proper steps and celebrate their success.





The 2019 Spring Camporee patch



TOP: Local Fire and Ambulance teams prepare for EMS demonstrations.

CENTER: Scouts interact with local EMS teams and learn about the gear and tools they use as they serve the community.

BOTTOM: A Hurst tool is on display for Scouts after firefighters explain how they use it.



THE LEGEND OF CAMP CONEWAGO

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN TO SHARE IN 1969, THIS STORY HAS REGALED MANY A SCOUT AROUND A CAMPFIRE.

At the very beginning of the 18th Century—in the month of September, as we know it—or the year we call 1712, a group of Tuscarora Indians were migrating north, being forced from their homes in the Carolinas by the white men and other hostile tribes.

THE TUSCARORA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Their leader was Chans, whose name means Older Brother in our tongue. They had heard of the great Indian nation of the North who lived in peace; this nation was the Iroquois. When they reached the northern part of what is now Maryland, Chans was taken gravely ill, and as he lay dying, he appointed Chuppecat, whose name means Deep Water, as the new leader.

WINTER APPROACHES

Things were quite bad for the Tuscaroras, they had been pursued by whites and Indians for many miles, their food was almost gone, many were sick, and winter was approaching. Already the leaves of the Black Gum were scarlet red. Chuppecat knew they could not go much further before setting up a camp for the winter. But where in this strange and unknown area?

CHUPECAT HAS A VISION

In his sleep one night, Chuppecat had a vision—a vision of a camp where waters of two streams came together, where fish and game and food were abundant, where large nut trees were everywhere in sight. Toward the end of the vision, a voice spoke to Chuppecat and said, “Seek this land,

Chuppecat,
and you shall
find it before
the sun dies
from the sky
for the number
of times you
have fingers
on your hand.”

A Campfire Legend

THE TUSCARORAS FIND THE CONEWAGO

Gathering his band of sick, tired, hungry Tuscaroras together, Chuppecat started slowly toward the north, and on the afternoon of what we would call the fifth day, they came to the place known today as Camp Conewago. There were fish in the waters, hickory and walnuts thick as carpet on the ground, and deer, and rabbits, and squirrels everywhere. “Here,” thought Chuppecat, “is the place of my vision.”

Here on this site, which is now our camp, the Tuscaroras set up their winter lodges, but not before prayers were offered to the Great Spirit for leading them to its safety. Not once, until the spring blossomed forth, were the Tuscaroras bothered by unfriendly humans. Not once during the winter was the stomach of a single member of Chuppecat’s band empty, not once did dreaded evil spirits bring disease or sickness. “Truly,” thought Chuppecat, “this is sacred ground—this is the earthly home of the great and good spirits.”

THE TUSCARORAS GIVE THANKS

Before continuing their trip in the spring, a whole moon was taken in giving thanks to the spirits for the safe winter. Each brave made a gift of his favorite pipe and arrowhead to the Great Spirit by burying them in the ground. Nights were spent in ceremonial dancing to the spirits.

THE GHOST OF CHUPECAT

Some say that even today at Camp Conewago, the ghosts of Chuppecat and his braves can sometimes be heard dancing to the Great Spirit, and some claim that the pipes and arrowheads buried so long ago are still here, perhaps under the very ground on which we sit.

The Early Years



1910

THE BEGINING OF BSA

Boy Scouts of America is founded by William D. Boyce, modeled after the Boy Scout Association, established by Baden-Powell in Britain in 1908.



1914 TO 1918

THE FIRST TROOPS

First local troop, Troop #1 of St. Mark's Lutheran Church organizes. Their first summer camp is at Witmer's Park along the Hanover-Littlestown trolley line.

From 1915 to 1918, Scouts camp above Kintzing's Cottage along the Conewago Creek.

Hanover Troop 1, pictured here at the first Camp Conewago Summer Camp in 1920.



1916

MORE TROOPS JOIN

Several other troops begin to organize in the Hanover Area. Soon, there are

- Troops 1 - 8 in Hanover
- Troop 9 New Oxford
- Troop 10 Abbottstown
- Troop 11 Littlestown

Troops 1-8 operate under the York County Council.



SUMMER 1919

A NEW COUNCIL & CAMP

The Conewago Council organizes and gains jurisdiction over Hanover, Littlestown, New Oxford, Locust Grove, Abbottstown, and East Berlin with 60 Boy Scouts.

With funds raised from local people and businesses, they purchase the new Camp Conewago where the Little Conewago enters the Big Conewago.

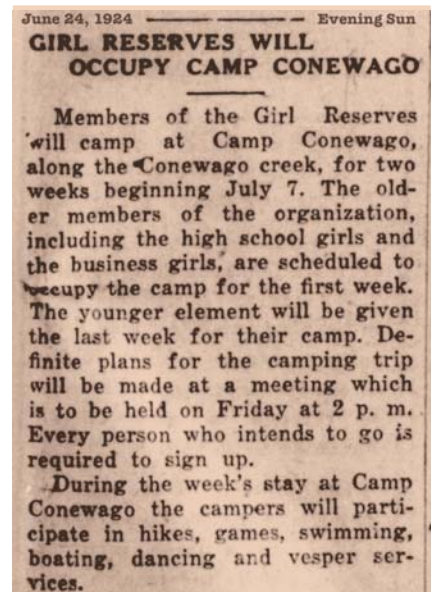


1920

FIRST SUMMER CAMP

The Ice House, the first building erected at Camp Conewago, stores vegetables, milk, and meat. The lodge is built shortly after.

The first summer camp is held. Boys sleep on "Camp street," a row of tents with wooden floors on the ridge along the Little Conewago Creek.



1920s

WOMEN AT CAMP

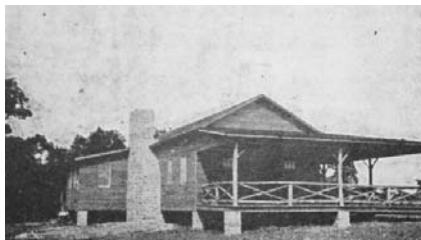
Women and girls have never been strangers to Camp Conewago. Even in the 1920s, groups like the the Girl Reserves and the YWCA held retreats at Camp.



1925

TROOP 1 BUILDS A CHAPEL

The dedication of the Memorial chapel at Camp Conewago took place on Sunday evening. The chapel was constructed by scouts of Troop 1, Hanover, as a tribute to the former athletic director of the council camp, the late Rev. A. A. Fuhrman, and is located back of the camping ground on the ridge overlooking the South branch. The chapel is furnished with Cathedral chimes, the gift of alumni members of Troop 1. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Nicely, former pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran church, Hanover, and other ministers.



1930s

A NEW COUNCIL

Conewago Council and York County Council merge into the York Adams Council #544 Boy Scouts of America

Camp gets upgrades including

- An administration building in memory of Camping Chariman H. Merle Stokes
- A rifle range
- New "straw ticks" for cots



FRESH FOOD FROM LOCAL FARMS

Some time in the 1920s, a man named "Barefoot John" Staub built this swinging bridge over the Little Conewago. Farmers and campers used it to bring milk, eggs, meat, and produce to camp from local farms.



1947

A NEW TYPE OF CAMP

Camp Tuckahoe opens as the York-Adams Council summer camp. Camp Conewago becomes a favorite place for pre-camp Jamborees, troop setups, Cub Fun Days, fall and winter camping, Camporees, and training events.



1969-2019

CAMP CONEWAGO'S LEGACY

Camp Conewago sees Scouts from all over the country, visiting year-round, as they immerse themselves in natural beauty and the rich history all around us.

Volunteers work hard to keep camp in shape and promote its long-lasting legacy.



The First Rothrocks

The first permanent camping structures were called Rothrocks, named after the Chairman of the Dept. of Forest and Waters. Each wooden platform was built with a roof and frame on which canvas sides could be hung.

Camp in 2019

A CAMP FOR ALL SEASONS

IN 1919, LOCAL SCOUT TROOPS GATHERED AT CAMP CONEWAGO FOR SUMMER CAMP. TODAY, SCOUTS CAMP YEAR-ROUND, GATHER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS LIKE CAMPOREES, AND VISIT FROM OUT OF TOWN. CAMP CONEWAGO'S MISSION HAS CHANGED, BUT ITS NATURAL BEAUTY REMAINS.



WHO COMES TO CAMP?

In the early years, Camp Conewago was a retreat for area scouts and other local groups. Local groups still camp here year-round, but Camp is also a retreat for Scouts from further away. Located in the Battlefield District of the New Birth of Freedom Council, it's a great place to camp while Scouts visit Gettysburg National Military Park, Hershey, and Washington D. C.



INDOOR CAMPING

Today's Rothrocks keep out the wind and elements a little better than the first of their kind built at Camp, which had canvas walls. Campers can seek shelter in Rothrocks at the top of the ridge. There's also indoor camping, with a toasty woodstove, in the Administration Building as Troop 368 from Newport News, VA knows well.



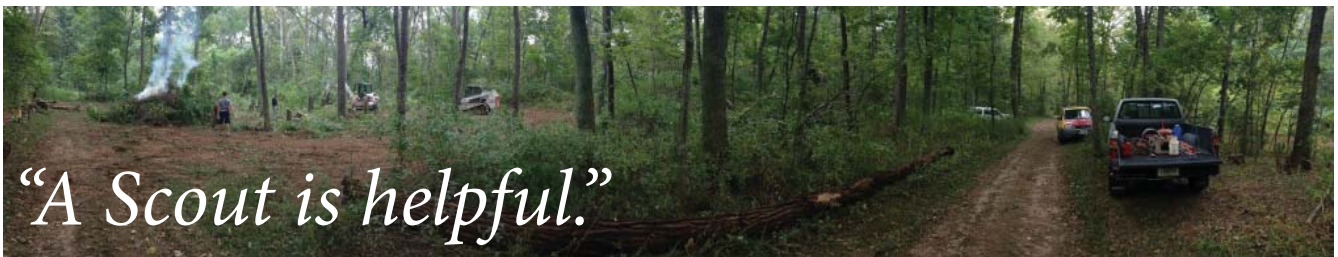
FALL AND WINTER CAMPING

Camp Conewago has moved beyond summer camp. It is a great place for fall and winter camping!



CAMP SITES

In the 1920s, local Scouts set up a row of tents called Camp Street. Today, there are many different camp sites at Camp Conewago. Some campers choose to hike to their sites, but there are sites where Scouts and Scout Leaders can pull up their trailer right to their camp site.



“A Scout is helpful.”

VOLUNTEERS

Adult volunteers from our local community have always kept Camp Conewago running well. They clear trails, chop wood, maintain buildings, create new campsites, and feed us. Our volunteers remind us of the tenants that Scout Law asks us to live up to.



Scout's Basin

This basin is a "relic" from Camp Conewago in the late 1930s and early 40s.

Upon arrival at camp for the first time, each Scout had to purchase a basin for use in his personal cleanliness. The basin was hung on a nail on the end of the bunk in his Rothrock or tent.

Scouts also found other uses for it. The Frisbee had not yet been invented, but the scouts were very ingenious and found that the basin would sail very well when thrown with the right wrist movement. Very few basins survived a week at camp without a few dents.

A Scout's initials were stamped on the basin. He could take it home and use it in future years at Camp Conewago. This basin belonged to Charles R. Petry.



A SCOUTMASTER'S PRAYER

A little boy came knocking at my Scout room door,
 An awfully little fellow, just twelve and no more.
 His eyes danced as he watched my gang at rowdy play.
 "I would like to be a Scout," he said, "I'm 12 just yesterday."
 In the weeks to come he found his place, a trim young Scout he made.
 The tests he passed with eagerness, a thorough job sure paid.
 The oath, the laws, the knots and flag were taken to his heart.
 A better man he was sure to be though he'd just begun to start.
 By the candle-lighted darkness I watched his round face beam
 As the oath and law he pledged to keep - just like a prayer it seemed.
 The years to come were happy ones as we

followed on the trail
 That greater men had laid for us, far up where eagles sail.
 I watched him grow from boy to man, the days were far too few,
 To try and teach the important things that Scouting said were true.
 He thanked me once for what I did so many years ago.
 It was not his thanks that paid me because he did not know
 That greater thanks he'd given me a thousand times before
 By his dancing eyes and smiling face - could one ask for more?
 There are other boys a-knocking, I must invite them in.
 Please, God, give me strength to make them better men.



CAMP CONEWAGO—100 YEARS!

By Bill Grandia

The Boy Scouts of America was chartered in 1910. The troops in the Hanover and Adams County area were active in the new Scouting movement and wanted an area dedicated to provide opportunity for the new and growing Scouting movement.

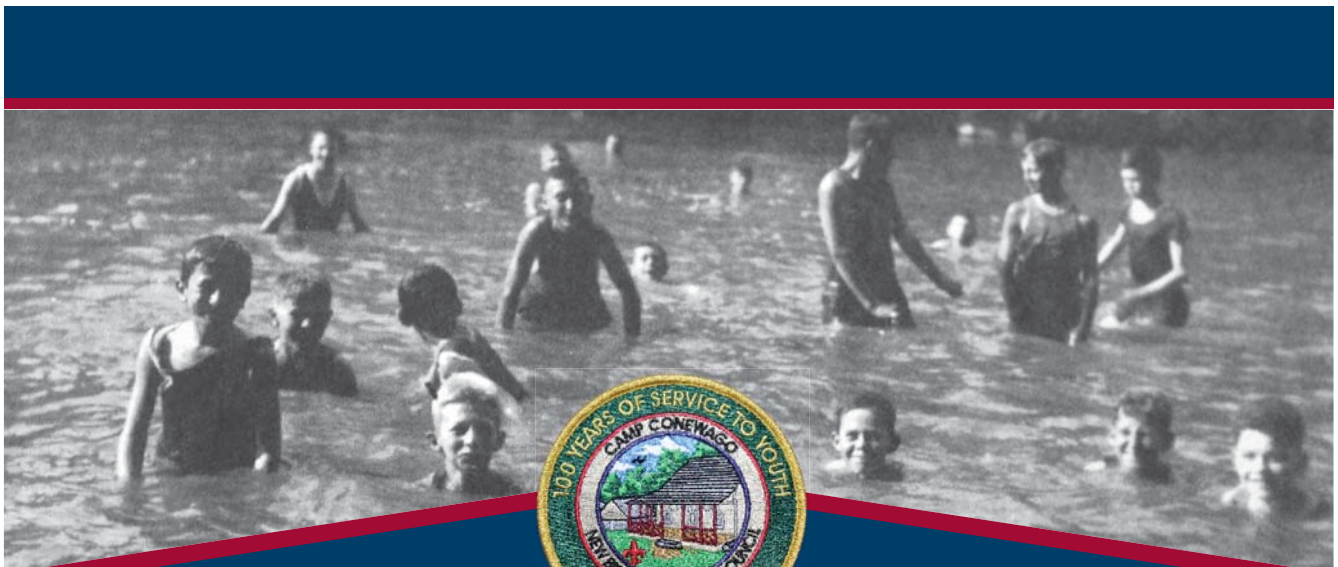
Local civic leaders, troop unit leaders, and many local citizens joined forces with the new Conewago Council to generate funds to purchase the 25 acres that are now Camp Conewago. The choice of the property with creek access for swimming, boating, and fishing, as well as fields and woods for camp sites was, and is, wonderful.

The dedication of the local support is amazing. Even during tough economic times and world wars, the camp continued with local support. Boy Scout Summer Camp began in 1920 and continued to grow and operate during summers for more than 20 years! As the century continued, needs for the camp continued to expand and meet those needs.

District Camporees, Council Camporees, youth training courses, adult leader training courses, youth service events and many other activities still make this camp a dynamic part of Scouting in our area.

One of the growing uses for Camp Conewago is for out of state units to use our camp as a base for visiting important national attractions like Historic Gettysburg, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. Many units regularly return, year after year!

100 years established, local commitment still continues with many more years of scouting units discovering the camp we already know and love, Camp Conewago!



"I was a camper in 1924-25; then a counselor in 1928. I remember well the time that the Little Conewago was at flood stage and many of the boys got into the water and floated around the forks to the main landing. I think if this occurred today, that many of the mothers would faint in their footsteps."

-Mr. George Billmeyer in a letter dated December 12, 1968

CAMP CONEWAGO | 450 BOY SCOUT ROAD | NEW OXFORD, PA 17350