

SPINKS MEMORIAL CAMP

CAMPER & VISITOR INFORMATION

2022

HISTORY OF SPINKS MEMORIAL CAMP

Marcellus Citizens, Inc. invites you to share the adventures that await you at Spinks Memorial Camp. It is situated in the town of Marcellus in southwestern Onondaga County, the fifty-nine plus acres of woodlands and fields lie just south of the Village of Marcellus on Route 175. The youth recreation area is available for day hikes, while overnight camping is allowed with a permit. There is a \$1.00 fee per camper per night camping, and the group will be assigned a project to help with the upkeep of our camp. Water is not available at the camp but with the camp roadway, water is easily obtainable at nearby Marcellus Park.

Spinks Memorial Camp was established more than fifty years ago when Amos Spinks and his brothers donated the land to the Marcellus Boy Scouts. The Marcellus Citizens Inc. was established to act as a holding company for the scouts. The land was used for many years but in time, local scouting groups grew disinterested in the camp, and it quickly became run down. Standing dead and leaning timber made the camp unsafe, and the camp roadway slowly eroded and became unusable. Open fields were quickly reclaimed by nature.

In 1982, members of Explorer Post 266 began what become known as the "Spinks Memorial Camp Revitalization Program". The first order of business was the re-establishment of the Marcellus Citizens Inc. The new organization became the chartered partner of the Post and the Post's new number became 666. There was much work to be done and post members soon enlisted the help of Boy Scout Troops 66 and 266, along with Cub Scout Pack 166.

Since the project, much has since been done. Dead trees and leaning timber have been removed from much of the camp, new trails, many of them suitable for cross-country skiing, have been constructed. Seven new campsites now dot the wooded area of the camp. The camp game field has been reclaimed and is excellent for large group camping. The camp access roadway has been completely refurbished, including drainage, and pull-offs, making it passable for all types of vehicles. However, the half-mile long roadway is not plowed during the winter months, parking on the road at the base of the hill or at Marcellus Park is available. A perennial flower garden graces the camp entrance but has fallen into a state of disrepair. A woodland garden can be found at the top of the camp along with a Memorial Arboretum. Many new trees have been planted over the years throughout the camp.

In 1991, Marcellus had the honor of local Boy Scout, Jeramy Amidon, attaining the rank of Eagle. He was the first local scout to earn this award in eight years. Marcellus Citizen's Inc. was proud to boast that Jeremy's project was the construction of 8 picnic tables for Spinks Memorial Camp. Many of these tables by 2008 (16 years later) need to be refurbished. 1993 marked the date of yet another local scout attaining the rank of Eagle. Ryan Gates' project, created the James M. Spinks Memorial Trail, starting at the flowerbed at the bottom of the camp and wandering up the hillside to the arboretum. It is a lasting tribute to his former scout leader. Marcellus Citizens Inc. is sincerely honored by Ryan's project. The trail needs a lot of annual maintenance to keep it in shape after 20 years of time. In 1994, two more local scouts attained the rank of Eagle, both of whom constructed their projects at Spinks Memorial Camp. Ryan Riefler built an Adirondack style lean-to, which was a beautiful addition to the camp. The lean-to is still in excellent shape and is used by visitors and campers for overnight shelter. Nate Legnetto created the camp's pond that had been a former wet area. The pond has since been over-run by aquatic vegetation and needs to be dredged out and restored. All of these projects were welcome additions to the camp but need periodic maintenance to keep them viable. In 2009, Sam Schneider rebuilt the bridge over

the ravine at the north end of camp and renovated benches at the fire ring. In 2017, Max Heinekamp built 6 additional picnic tables for camp use. Also in 2017, John McManus constructed an additional lean-to for the south side of the camp.

More recently, leaders and scouts from the local troops have performed many service projects at the camp. Some of these projects include trail maintenance, bridge repair, campsite maintenance, burn barrels, fire ring seating, and construction of a new outhouse and woodsheds.

Every year, the local scout groups put on an event, called the All Scouting Outing. Held in the fall, this mini-camporee lets local Girl, Cub, and Boy Scouts get a taste of the camporee atmosphere. The Citizens provide refreshment and prizes for the scavenger hunt, while the scout troops create and run various events. There are fun event stations, as well as ones that focus on scouting skills.

Future projects for the camp include an improved access road, water supply, orienteering course, geo-caching station, and a small pavilion.

The Marcellus area has much to offer, most of it within walking distance of Spinks Memorial Camp. For example, Marcellus Park offers baseball fields, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and a great place for a family picnic. Baltimore Woods with its many trails and exhibits lies just across the valley from Spinks Memorial Camp. Disappearing Lake is a rare oddity and depending on the time of year, groups can hike around the lake or explore the dry lake bottom. Marcellus Falls and the Martisco Railroad Museum make for a fine adventure for those seeking a five-mile hike. Nearby Nine Mile Creek offers the best in trout fishing.

If you would like to learn more about Spinks Memorial Camp, would like to arrange a tour or become of member of Marcellus Citizens Inc. contact Ed Riefler at 315-256-6313 or email: eriefler28@gmail.com.

CHECK OUT THE POSSIBILITIES!

MARCELLUS CITIZENS, INC.
SPINKS MEMORIAL CAMP
General Camping Rules

12-09-22 Revision

1. Application for Short-Term (weekend) Camping Permits are to be made no later than two (2) weeks prior to weekend dates desired. Camp conservation and "Good Turn" projects are available. Most projects are designed to be completed by groups during an hour or so. All groups using Spinks Memorial Camp should consider a project during their weekend schedule. A donation fee of \$2.00 per individual for every person (Adult and Youth) camping overnight, each night is required.
2. Camping at Spinks Memorial Camp is limited to organized youth groups. Groups must provide proof of liability insurance before camp use will be allowed.
3. A minimum of two (2) leaders is required for every group regardless of size. One adult (age 21 plus) or an assistant leader (age 18 plus) must be present with the group at all times. If female youth are part of the group then a female leader must be in attendance. The group leaders will be held responsible for the conduct of the groups at all times.
4. Each group assumes the responsibility for payment of any damaged or neglected facilities.
5. All vehicles are to be parked in the areas provided. At no time are vehicles to be used in or near camping areas. Groups should minimize driving into the field when wet and particularly in and out of the camp after dark.
6. All accidents and illnesses are to be reported to the Marcellus Citizens, Inc. It is visiting group's responsibility to administer first aid and it is strongly recommended that each group have a qualified First Aider and first aid kit present. In the case of an extreme emergency, use the alarm at the Marcellus Fire Station.
7. No alcohol, illegal drugs, or fireworks are permitted on camp property at any time. This includes both youth and adult members.
8. No water is available on camp property. All water must be brought with the group from home.
9. Be careful with fire. Do not leave fires unattended. Fires will be made only in existing fire pits or in areas clear of needles, leaves, and grass.
10. Firewood is available. Use only dead or downed timber for firewood or use wood previously cut and stacked. In general, the cutting of dead material for firewood should be done with a bow saw.
11. No live trees are to be cut without prior permission. A charge of \$1.00/ft. will be charged to units cutting live trees without prior permission. No nails or hooks are to be driven into any trees.
12. Firearms and hunting are not allowed on camp property.
13. All garbage should be taken home. Do not bury garbage or dump it in toilets. If toilets are soiled, the group should clean them before leaving. The group must remove all equipment and

supplies as they depart. Dishwater should be poured on the ground away from campsites and trails. There should be no littering, i.e. candy wrappers, cigarette butts, bottle caps, etc.

14. In general, evenings should be quiet. Leaders should attempt to minimize group noise after sundown.

15. Folding tent-type campers may be allowed if prior permission is obtained.

16. ATVs and snowmobiling are not allowed on camp property. Snowmobiles may be used to haul equipment for winter camping if prior permission is obtained.

Please do your part to keep camping at Spinks Memorial Camp an enjoyable and healthful experience for all by abiding by the rules and leaving a neat, well-ordered campsite.
Thank you.