

Our History

Camp Marshall features almost 250 acres of prime forest land, approx. 12 acres of that is state land leased from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, bordering Thompson Pond. For almost 70 years, it has been nestled in the rolling hills of Spencer Massachusetts. Camp Marshall is a non-profit organization, governed by its Board of Directors, that strives toward providing quality outdoors and educational programs to the children of our community as well as several public events and fundraisers for the whole family to enjoy.

Camp Marshall was originally built as a Civilian Conservation Corp Camp in the mid 1930's. The director's lodge, the arts and crafts building and the recently demolished Smiley's Hall are the original buildings. The first 25 year lease was granted by the state in 1948 for a residential summer camp program. Our overnight rustic cabins were built during the 1950's by towns sponsoring different local 4-H clubs, each club working to raise money and materials for each cabin. The property that now makes up Worcester County 4-H County Inc., was acquired over a period of the 50's and 60's. A combination of purchases and donations has resulted in the present 278 acres, approx. 20 acres of this land being leased from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This includes the land that the Equestrian Center was built on and Buck Hill Conservation Center. In the early 1960's, Mass 4-H offered two, one-week horse camp sessions during the summer. The original building, a steel barn, was an open sided clear span building with movable stalls for the horses. As the program grew, wings were built for the additional stalls. In the early 1970's, Wells Williams Arena and the stalls south of the arena were built for expanded horse and livestock shows. The steel barn was converted to its present condition and named Andrew's Hall, now used as the main dining hall.

Our facility offers a large commercial kitchen, large function/dining hall, and numerous outbuildings for indoor activities. Rustic cabins provide sleeping accommodations for up to 150 people. In addition, 2 athletic soccer fields, a beach/waterfront area, and 2 shooting ranges are available for outdoor activities. Our scenic waterfront is the perfect setting for swimming and boating or relaxing on the beach. Miles of wooded hiking trails make our facility unique. The facility features 3 large riding rings, an indoor arena and an event course. Our 4 shed row barns are currently home to 32 horses year round and upwards of 50-60 in the summer months. Spacious fields and miles of riding trails make this site ideal for any horse related activities.

Camp Marshall today is still open year round and offers a variety of programs and events along with facility rentals for weddings/birthdays and more. We have a wide range of year round youth programs, Equestrian Center, horsemanship programs for Girl/Boy Scout troops, school vacation activities, and outdoor educational field trips. Camp Marshall has so much to offer for our community, please visit our websites for more information on all programs, upcoming events and summer camps and what else we have to offer.