

TOMO CHI-CHI KNOLLS

40W095 Freeman Rd.
Gilberts, IL 60136
(630) 232-5980

Now owned by Kane County and next to the Freeman-Kame Meagher Forest Preserve, Camp Tomo Chi-Chi Knolls used to be owned by the Des Plaines Valley Council, and was the site of many Fellowships and work weekends for Pachsegink Lodge. Sold in 2006 to Kane County, Camp Tomo has a rich history of lodge activity. Troops can still camp at camp Tomo, and in fact, the camp is specifically reserved for youth group camping. This camp is close to council, and older scouts will appreciate the nostalgic feeling of being back at the camp that has been a "home away from home" for so many scouts and scouters. Although the OA firebowl is gone, the camp still has a lot of tradition in those old trees.



Camping

Fees/Availability: Six tent sites are available at \$25/site for in-county youth groups, and \$35/site for out of county youth groups per day. The lodge is available to rent for \$100/day for in-county youth groups, and \$150/day for out of county youth groups. If all 6 tent

sites are rented for the same youth group, lodge rental is free.

Activities in Camp: While you're in camp, why not take a hike around the Leekwanai Trail? Starting near the entrance of camp, this trail winds its way along the back of camp, along the wetlands, and loops back to the Gilwell field. Many older scouts and scouters will recall doing various service projects along this trail, from clearing brush to marking trails. You may also find old, abandoned campsites used years ago along this trail, such as Bobwhite or Eagle's Nest (named so for the highest point in camp). This camp is also a great place to get back to the basics of camping. Young scouts can work on advancement, such as cooking, knots, hiking, and wilderness survival requirements. The Gilwell field is also a great place for some fun games during the day or night.

Area Attractions: Being close to Chicago, there are plenty of activities nearby, and Gilberts has been growing incredibly fast over the last decade. Medieval Times is about 20 minutes away, and you can literally hike to the Huntley Outlet Mall (about 4 miles) to pick up supplies or food. Culver's has always been a favorite restaurant of many scouts visiting the camp, which is right next to the Huntley Outlet Mall.

Interesting fact about the park: Tomo Chi-Chi was a Native American of the Yamacraw tribe, part of the Creek Indian Nation. With Oglethorpe, he has been called the co-founder of Georgia. He was a good friend to the English, which was an important relationship to the establishment of the colony as a military outpost against Spanish invasion. He died in 1739, and was buried in Savannah with military honors.

Must do before you leave: Hike the Leekwanai Trail. Many of our lodge members' blood, sweat, and tears went into maintaining this trail. Keep in mind that much of the trail may be overgrown, so take a map with you, and pay attention to the trail markers.

Authored by Chris Brown