

History of the Louis Calder Scout House

Past home to Troop 5 one of the oldest troops in Florida.

- 1952** *The Louis Calder Scout House was constructed as the home for Troop 5, one of the oldest troops in Florida. It replaced their scout hut originally located in the woods of what is now Harbor Heights.*
- 1958** *Louis Calder built the addition onto the Louis Calder Scout House.*
- 1996** *Troop 5 held their 75th anniversary celebration at the Louis Calder Scout House.*
- Present** *Troop 433 meets at what is now called The Bayfront Center on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 -8pm.*

Kiwanis Built Cabin

The Kiwanis Club became sponsor for Troop 5 in 1939 and built it a cabin in what then was a woods at Harbor View on the north shore of the bay. It had 20 double bunks with plank bottoms. Boys had to bring their own bedding and food. Cooking was over open fires outdoors.

The cabin was little used during World War II because of the strict rationing of gasoline. It was difficult get together enough gas to transport the troop to its cabin. Consequently, Kiwanis moved the cabin to Gilchrist Park at Punta Gorda.

The troop outgrew its cabin so Kiwanis raised money in 1952 to replace it with a larger, concrete structure. The principal contributor was Lou Calder, a retired New York City detective who built a luxurious hunting lodge on 500 acres along Alligator Creek, now the Burnt Store Isles golf course.

Because of Calder's generosity, the Boy Scout meeting hall, now also a community center owned by the city, was named after him. It since has been enlarged.

Troop 5 today is sponsored jointly by the Kiwanis Club and The Congregational Church of Christ. Alan Thomas is the scoutmaster. All are proud of the Troop's outstanding heritage of duty to God and Country.

Author: Lindsey Williams

<http://www.lindseywilliams.org/index.htm?Articles/Scout Troop Oldest in Florida.htm~mainFrame>



Bronze plaque from the entrance of the Louis Calder Scout House



Louis Calder Scout House circa 1955

Over 20% of BSA merit badges, activities and awards offered to scouts require direct waterfront access.