

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



TownMapsUSA.com



**TOWN OF HOOSICK &  
HOOSICK FALLS, NEW YORK**

Created By  
Samantha Brewer  
Gold Award Project 2013

# The Purpose

The history of Hoosick Falls cannot be told without including stories of local service organizations. All the organizations in this brochure have played an integral part of the history of this wonderful town.

I wanted to publish this brochure to promote all these organizations as well as help them to grow and continue to prosper.

I am sure many families can tell stories of being involved in at least one of these organizations and how it helped or changed their life. Volunteerism in the country is not as popular as in years past. People are busy and do not know how to get involved.

This brochure will be your guide to finding the organization best fit for you. Everyone can find time to volunteer if they try. Volunteering is the most rewarding experience you can have.

No matter how much time you can give, both your life and the lives of others will be touched through this act of volunteerism.

## Town of Hoosick Information

Town of Hoosick offices are located at  
80 Church St, Hoosick Falls, NY  
(518) 686-4571  
[www.townofhoosick.org](http://www.townofhoosick.org)

Village of Hoosick Falls offices are  
Located in the Municipal Building  
24 Main Street, Hoosick Falls, NY  
(518) 686-7072  
[www.villageofhoosickfalls.com](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com)



# Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad

The Town of Hoosick Volunteer Rescue Squad is one of the few volunteer rescue squads left in Rensselaer County. With a history that dates back to 1957, the rescue squad has seen its numbers decrease steadily. The most members it had was 52, the fewest was 17 and as of 2012 it has 22. With more people traveling to work, people feel they cannot be on the squad. That is not correct. The rescue squad is accommodating to every person who volunteers. If the rescue squad ceases to exist it could take over one hour or more to get an ambulance to an accident scene. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM.

Rescue Squad Building  
21 First St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090  
(518) 686-4105



# Table of Contents

American Legion
Boy Scouts of America
Hoosick Area Church Association
Hoosick Falls Community Band
The Fraternal Order of Eagles
Freemasonry-Van Rensselaer Star Lodge #400
Girl Scouts of the USA
Hoosick Grange #1127
Fire Departments
Hoosick Falls Kiwanis Club
Knights of Columbus
Town of Hoosick Lions Club
Parent Teacher Association
Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad
Voice of a Vet
Youth Rescue Squad

## American Legion & Auxiliary Post 40

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919, as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our community advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Anyone currently on active duty, serving the United States, anywhere in the world, or have served honorably during any of the eligible war eras, is invited to become a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary strengthens the power to just as the Legion does. Women veterans who served honorably during any of the eligible war eras or are immediate family members of a veteran who served during any of the eligible war eras are invited to join the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary meets on the first Thursday of each month.

Hoosick Falls Post 40 is located at 150 Main Street  
PO Box 211, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Monthly meetings are being held on the third Tuesday, starting at  
7:30PM

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)



## Parent Teacher Association

The PTA of Hoosick Falls Central School encourages parents, faculty and community to support the HFCS PTA by becoming a member. Memberships are just \$5.00 and some of the benefits of membership include valuable discounts at major retailers for goods and services and access to extensive resources through the national PTA website. Your voice can be heard both locally and nationally through the extensive PTA advocacy network.

All meetings take place in the elementary library at Hoosick Falls Central School.  
[www.hoosickfallscsd.org/clubsorgs/pta](http://www.hoosickfallscsd.org/clubsorgs/pta)



## Town of Hoosick Lions Club

The Town of Hoosick Lions Club was formed and chartered on October 20, 1960 with 26 members. When it comes to meeting challenges, the Hoosick Falls Lions response is simple: We serve. They are part of the world's largest service organization; an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 205 countries

and geographic areas who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world. The Hoosick Falls Lions host many events throughout the town each year. The Penny Hunt is a 50-year tradition and the Wood Memorial Road race has been run since 1986. Membership in Lions International is always open.

Hoosick Falls Lions Club meets the first and third Thursday, 6:30PM, except July and August, at Falls Diner, River Road, Hoosick Falls, NY  
<http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/townofhoosickny>



## Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating, citizenship, and develops personal fitness. Boys age 7 or 1<sup>st</sup> grade and above can join. Hoosick Falls Scouts are part of the Twin Rivers

(800)734-2721

253 Washington Avenue Ext  
Albany, NY 12205

Hoosick Falls

<http://www.scouting.org>

Look for Facebook pages for Hoosick Falls  
Boy Scouts



## Hoosick Area Church Association

The Hoosick Area Church Association (HACA), a volunteer organization formed over 40 years ago, is comprised of nine Christian churches from the Hoosick Falls area. Their goal is to serve the Hoosick Falls community both spiritually and physically. Some of their services include the Food Pantry, VITA (free income tax services), Back to School Boost, emergency services, and Christian Unity services. Volunteer opportunities abound within HACA. HACA exists thanks to the generosity of the Hoosick area community. None of the work they do would be possible without the faithful volunteers who regularly give their time to fill the many positions. They plan programs, stock shelves, order food, complete reports, prepare tax returns and personally assist clients each week. New volunteers of all ages are always welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

HACA

(518) 686-5163

26 John St, Hoosick Falls, NY, 12090

[hacainc12090@gmail.com](mailto:hacainc12090@gmail.com)



## Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church while enhancing your own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing your family life. The local Knights of Columbus is based at Immaculate Conception Church, Hoosick Falls. They hold their meetings monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00PM at ICC.

Immaculate Conception Church, 67 Main Street,  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

(518) 686-1625

[www.immaculateconceptionhf.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionhf.org)



## Hoosick Falls Kiwanis Club

Hoosick Falls Kiwanis is a very active service organization. They are “a global organization dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time”. The purpose of Kiwanis is to provide service to youth and the elderly, to the community, and to the nation. Membership in Kiwanis is open to all men and women who are willing to attend meetings, work on projects, and wish to make a difference in the Hoosick Falls community. The Kiwanis sponsors the Key Club for student’s grades 9 through 12 at Hoosick Falls Central School. Kiwanis is known for their chicken barbeque and hosting a free skating day at the Reynolds Gilchrest Skating Rink every February.

Meeting Place & Time:  
first Tuesday of Month

Round Table at different locations  
second, third, and fourth Tuesday of Month -  
6:00PM.

Falls Diner - 22 River Road, Hoosick Falls  
<http://www.vanrensselaerdivision.org/Hoosickfalls>



## Hoosick Falls Community Band

The Hoosick Falls Community Band is a continuation of the Van Surdam Band which began entertaining the community in 1873. Today it is still going strong with members that stretch over four generations, playing at events throughout the community and providing free weekly evening concerts in Wood Park July and August. Under the direction of William Gaillard, the band is over 50 persons strong, ranging in age from 14 to 60 plus. It is never too late to bring your instrument and play. The band practices on the first, fourth and fifth Wednesday of the month.

Hoosick Falls Central School,  
21187 NY 22, Hoosick Falls, NY.  
Hoosick Falls Community Band  
C/o William Gaillard  
[gaillardia@roadrunner.com](mailto:gaillardia@roadrunner.com)

<http://www.hoosickfallscommunityband.org>



## **The Fraternal Order of Eagles #2467**

“People helping People” is the motto of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. They support many groups in the Hoosick Falls community needing financial assistance. This also includes helping individuals in the community with devastating illnesses or families that have suffered loss from natural disasters. The National Fraternal Order of Eagles is affiliated with the Junior Eagles for the younger generation and also the Ladies’ Auxiliary. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international organization with over 50 clubs in New York State. Anyone interested in joining the Eagles is more than welcome to apply. All current members have an application if you ask. Also, you can go to their club and pick up an application. They hold meetings the first and third Monday of each month.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles  
35 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hoosick Falls, NY  
(518) 686-7439  
<http://www.foe.com>



## **Local Fire Departments**

### **Buskirk Volunteer Fire Department**

2217 Buskirk-West Hoosick Road, Buskirk, NY  
12028 Non-Emergency Phone: (518) 686-9966  
Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM.

### **Hoosick Falls Volunteer Fire Department**

P.O. Box 312, 3 Griffin Avenue, Hoosick Falls, NY  
12090 (518) 686-7427  
<http://hoosickfallsfiredepartment.org>  
Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00PM.

### **Hoosick Volunteer Fire Department**

P.O. Box 100, South Street, Hoosick, NY 12089  
(518) 686-9650 911 Reflective Address Markers  
Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:30PM.

### **North Hoosick Volunteer Fire Department**

P.O. Box 94, Route 22, North Hoosick, NY 12133  
Non-Emergency Phone: (518) 686-5322  
Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00PM, except for July.

### **West Hoosick Volunteer Fire Department**

1270 Pine Valley Road, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090  
Non-Emergency Phone: (518) 686-1814  
Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30PM.



# Fire Departments

The Hoosick Falls area is fortunate to have five volunteer fire departments in the town. They have to protect the life and property of over 6,900 people within 63 square miles. Each fire department is made up of community members who step up to help their neighbors. Members of each department travel to schools, daycares and health facilities offering education on fire prevention. Each Fire Department has its own meeting times and drill sessions. Stop by your local fire house to volunteer. Even if you are not able to fight fires you can offer your time to cook or serve as support staff.



# Freemasonry-Van Rensselaer Star Lodge #400

Freemasonry is the oldest, largest and most charitable men's fraternal organization in the world. The freemasonry is not a secret society. Information about Masons can be found in any library or bookstore. Family values are critical to the Masons. The Grand Lodge of New York State was chartered in 1781. Van Rensselaer Star Lodge has been part of the history of Hoosick Falls for many years. Meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30PM.

The Masons use the Grange Hall in Hoosick.  
Hoosick Grange Hall  
County Road 95  
Hoosick, NY 12089  
[www.rsmasons.org/vanrensselaerstar40](http://www.rsmasons.org/vanrensselaerstar40)



# Girl Scouts of the USA

Girl Scouts of the USA is the largest organization for girls in the world. Their mission is to build girls' courage, confidence, character, and make the world a better place. Through activities in science and technology, business and economic literacy, and outdoor and environmental awareness, Girl Scouting provides girls with opportunities for fun and friendship while fostering the development of leadership skills and self-esteem.

The Hoosick Falls Girl Scouts is part of Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York (GSNENY). Girl Scouting is open to girls from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Adult volunteers are comprised of a diverse group of women and men who want to help girls grow into leaders of tomorrow. GSNENY will work with you to figure out the best volunteer opportunity for you.

GSNENY

8 Mountain View Ave., Albany, NY 12205

[www.gsneny.org](http://www.gsneny.org)



# Hoosick Grange #1127

Hoosick Grange #1127 is a rural community organization. It is composed of families and individuals who share an interest in their community and seek to keep rural America strong through local Grange leadership. The Hoosick Grange promotes the rural life of Hoosick Falls. At a time when many farms have been sold or farmers have retired, the Grange continues to promote agriculture and encourage the preservation of farmland. The Hoosick Grange is a member of the New York State Grange. The organization plays a significant role in promoting regulations in the USDA, urging continued appropriation of Environmental Protection funds, working on New York State education and health legislation, as well as consumer protection of monetary funds. They meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 8:00PM.

Hoosick Grange #1127

County Road 95,  
Hoosick, NY 12089

[www.nysgrange.org](http://www.nysgrange.org)



# A Brief History

Hoosick Falls is a village in Rensselaer County, New York, United States. The village of Hoosick Falls is near the center of the town of Hoosick on NY 22. The village center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Hoosick Falls Historic District. Painter Grandma Moses is buried in the village. The site of the British entrenchments at the Battle of Bennington, 6 August 1777, is nearby and is maintained as Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site. Although this has been an issue of considerable debate, it's believed the first documented settlers came to Hoosick Falls on the Hoosic River, around 1746. *Encyclopedia Americana* reports the date of the first permanent settlement as 1688. The French drove the settlers out in 1754 and most of the settlement was burned, but they returned and rebuilt after the French & Indian War ended. Hoosick Falls was incorporated as a village in 1827.

In 1852 a blacksmith named Walter A. Wood began manufacturing a reaper in Hoosick Falls. By the 1890s the Walter A. Wood Mowing & Reaping Company was the largest farm machinery manufacturer in the world, taking up 85 acres (340,000 m<sup>2</sup>) on the west bank of the river. The Wood Company closed in 1924, mainly due to the introduction of John Deere's revolutionary self-propelled farm equipment. Most of these facilities were used by the Colasta Corporation from the mid-1920s until the late 1950s. This company manufactured radio parts. Along with the Walter Wood plant, Hoosick Falls was a boomtown in the 19th century. Many other businesses came into town, bringing people and money with them. Hoosick Falls once had factories that made Paper, small numbers of Appliances, Parts, Glass, and some nominal Soda and Beer Bottling Plants. A large number of rich Victorian homes were built during this period and are still there today. Hoosick Falls is trying for a revival with the opening of Brown's Brewing, manufacturing craft beer in Walloomsac, and a revival of the Arts in the Village proper. Hoosick Falls is rich in history of famous artists; Bob and Ray Eberle, Harriot Hocter, Jose de Creeft Grandma Moses and Jenny Holzer to name a few.

# Hoosick Falls Schools

## Hoosick Falls Central School

Home of the Panthers

Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

PO Box 192-21187 NY 22

518-686-7321

[www.hoosickfallscsd.org](http://www.hoosickfallscsd.org)

## St. Mary's Academy

Home of the Purple Eagles

parish school of the Immaculate Conception

Church in Hoosick Falls

Pre-K3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

4 Parsons Ave. Hoosick Falls

518-686-4314

[www.smahf.org](http://www.smahf.org)

## Hoosac School

Founded in 1889, Hoosac School is a coeducational college preparatory school for grades 8-12 and post-graduate students in New York

14 Pine Valley Rd. Hoosick Falls

518-686-7331

[www.hoosac.org](http://www.hoosac.org)

# Voice of A Vet

Voice of a Vet is a nonprofit organization devoted to supporting Veterans of the Town of Hoosick.

They host *Coffee and Comradery* every Wednesday morning at 9am at the Community Alliance Church on Hill Rd. This is open to all members of the military, active or retired.

Voice of a Vet also hosts annual recognition events for Veterans.

"*Liberty*", a flag being flown over gravesites of Town of Hoosick veterans killed in action has a national following. Voice of a Vet works for and with veterans no matter where, when or how long they served.

Voice of a Vet  
PO Box 558  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090  
(518) 686-9888



# Youth Rescue Squad

The Town of Hoosick Youth Rescue Squad is open to girls and boys over 12 years of age.

They get "hands on" learning all about being a volunteer on the rescue squad. When they turn 16 they are then able to begin riding on rescue squad calls if they have enough training.

This program supports the youth, offering them a safe, fun place to learn about helping others. The group participates in local parades, the annual Halloween Haunted House and many other events in the Town of Hoosick.

For kids thinking of going into the medical field this program is perfect.

The program is run by members of the Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad. They meet once a month and you can join at any time.

Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad  
21 First St.  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

