

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Property Plan

The property committee is committed to providing properties that are relevant for our Girl Scout program and outdoor camping education and are fiscally sustainable through the best use of our resources to provide value to our girls. The committee will align with the needs of today's girls and the leadership development mission. Camp for 2013 is planned as scheduled. Resident camp will take place at Camp Conestoga and Camp Little Cloud. Camp Tahigwa and Camp L-Kee-Ta will both offer a variety of programs for girls of all ages.

Our members clearly communicated that they, as volunteers, want the opportunity to raise funds to support local traditional camping opportunities; support, market, and lead local year round programming for girls; and mentor leaders and girls in camp traditions.

Therefore, it is recommended we develop one new resident camp property for Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Plans should include modern and rustic elements, as well as buildings equipped for year-round use and ADA accessible facilities wherever possible. Our new GSEIWI resident camp should meet the program and outdoor educational needs of today's and tomorrow's girls. A task force of girls and volunteers from GSEIWI will be asked to participate in the designing, naming and planning of this project.

Our most centrally owned property is our camp in New Liberty, Iowa. This property is within 65 miles (an hour's drive) of 75% of GSEIWI's girl population. This property will be the home of our new GSEIWI resident camp. Starting in the fall of 2013, the redevelopment of this property will begin with an estimated completion date of 2015. After the project is complete, land which is not needed for the new camp will be divested. GSEIWI will work with potential buyers who will focus on keeping the land as natural as possible. Safety will be our number one priority as we move forward with the developed portion of the property which we retain and with the decisions related to the divestiture of the adjacent property.

Our property in Epworth, Iowa, Camp Little Cloud, will be the interim resident camp for GSEIWI during the build out of our new GSEIWI camp, with an estimated completion date of 2015.

Our properties located in Allamakee County, Camp Tahigwa, in Danville, Iowa, Camp L-Kee-Ta, and in Epworth, Iowa, Camp Little Cloud, will be used to serve the girls of GSEIWI for troop activities, service unit events, overnights, council events and activities in their respective geographic areas and the Council as a whole. These outdoor program centers will be supported by volunteers and part-time staff who will provide program and maintenance needs. When the specific land and facility needs for these properties have been determined, and the new resident camp project build out schedule has also been finalized, land which is not needed for these outdoor program centers will be divested. GSEIWI will work with potential buyers who will focus on keeping the land as natural as possible. Safety will be our number one priority as we move forward both with the developed portion of the properties which we retain and with the decisions related to the divestiture of the adjacent property.

As we move forward with our outdoor program offerings to our girls we will continue to provide scholarships to our girls who attend resident camp. We will also provide transportation from our leadership centers in Decorah, Waterloo and West Burlington locations for council resident camp at no extra cost to our girls.

The board voted 18-5 in favor of the recommendation April 11, at 4:30 p.m. via video conference from the regional leadership centers.