

BOARD UPDATE

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to update you on the status of the Girl Scout property in New Liberty, Iowa – the property selected to become the premiere resident camp for girls in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. To make the necessary renovations, a \$3 million capital fundraising campaign was launched. These dollars will support a Phase I plan that was developed to create the “heart” of camp.

A volunteer campaign team, led by Girl Scout and community leader Marie Ziegler, got to work and created the Outdoor Odyssey campaign. To date, this dynamic team has raised \$2,655,000 toward the \$3 million goal! As the campaign continues, there will be a formal opportunity for members, troops and service units to be a part of this special project with naming opportunities for all levels of giving! If you can't wait and want to give now, you can do so [here](#).

The Phase 1 updates include:

A NEW LODGE with a dining area to hold 250 people, an up-to-date kitchen, camp staff office, trading post, health lodge and storm shelter. The lodge will have three attached cabins to accommodate up to 30 people each. Each cabin will have its own fire circle, gathering space, and kitchenette with a microwave, refrigerator and stove. This will be a great place for girls to enjoy programs year-round with a climate controlled environment. Of course girls can still enjoy a complete rustic experience as well!

A NEW EQUESTRIAN CENTER will be created in a central area of camp that is much more accessible for the girls. This will include a program building, covered arena, tack house, plenty of pasture for the horses, and new trails in addition to existing ones. The new center will allow Girl Scouts to offer additional equestrian program opportunities.

OTHER UPGRADES include an ADA compliant shower house, technology upgrades, new roads, and activity improvements.

The camp will be open and ready for the 2016 summer camp program!

Naming the camp

We understand that changing the name of a long-standing camp can be difficult. We had a long, in-depth conversation about this, as well as the importance of being inclusive to all areas of the council. After inviting Girl Scout members to share names for the ‘new’ camp, we quickly realized we needed to put a process in place. We created and voted on the following criteria and formally invited all members to submit their ideas to give the camp a new name. We asked that their submissions follow these criteria:

- Does not consist of any current camp names, legacy councils, or any combination of either
- Resonates with the community
- All-inclusive to represent GSEIWI
- Can be understood and pronounced at all age levels

Many creative names were submitted! The names that fit the criteria were reviewed by the volunteer outdoor program committee made up of girls and adults throughout the council. They narrowed the list down to three names which will be sent out to all girl members using a formal survey process. Once the voting is complete and the top name is selected, it will be announced in the October issue of The VINE (your monthly electronic newsletter).

Sale of parcels

Following our original [property recommendation](#), we have selected the parcels of land that will be offered for sale. Using input from experts in land design and land sales, usage numbers, and surveys, it was determined what land could be sold that would have no impact on our programs. (See [attached map](#) with designated areas for sale). We are fortunate to have great camp neighbors and will offer them the first opportunity to purchase the designated parcels. If they are not interested, the land will be open for public bid with certain restrictions.

The other camps – Tahigwa, L-Kee-Ta, and Little Cloud will continue to be used for troop, service unit and council programming, as well as for outside rental. The usage of these properties will continue to be tracked and evaluated according to the [original timeline](#) developed.

We are so excited about the wonderful things happening with our outdoor program! You can follow the building progress by going to our [Outdoor Odyssey](#) website. If you would like a tour, just give us a call!

Thank you to everyone who has shared their visions and dreams to help make this a reality! Your support, enthusiasm, and dedication to this effort are greatly appreciated!

We will keep you up-to-date as the renovation progresses!

Teresa Colgan, Board Chair and GSEIWI Board of Directors