



girl scouts
of louisiana
pines to the gulf

**Girl Scouts of Louisiana
Pines to the Gulf**

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Dear Girl Scout Friend,

For over 100 years, Girl Scouting has provided girls of all ages with opportunities to learn new skills, engage in character and confidence- building activities and establish life- long friendships and memories through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girl Scouts provides unmatched camping experiences, which enables girls to discover the world around them and learn to use their resources wisely. Girl Scouts of Louisiana – Pines to the Gulf (GSLPG) strives to provide safe, well-maintained facilities that meet current girl needs and can grow to meet future needs of girl scouts. This includes providing properties that enhance the volunteer and girl experience, are accessible to all and ensure the highest standard of satisfaction.

GSLPG's Council Board of Directors is comprised of committed volunteers who regularly assemble to review business processes throughout the council to ensure that girls develop a premier leadership skill set, based on our mission: **Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.** The Council Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to the membership of managing council assets. The board must deliberate not only about immediate ramifications, but must bear in mind that any decisions made will affect future generations of scouts in our council. Occasionally, that requires tough decisions that can stir emotions. In these cases extensive research, data collection, evaluations and discussions are protocol. Managing properties is an expensive and complex venture. Due to this fact, a comprehensive review of all properties began over three years ago and has been ongoing.

In October of 2009, the Board began a discussion concerning long-range property planning. In March 2010, the Property Task Force was formed. The Property Task Force consisted of 7 volunteers and volunteer board members, 3 staff advisors and a property consultant from GSUSA. All properties were visited and data was collected pertaining to all sites. Many factors were considered including, but not limited to, finances, ownership of properties, ease of use, accessibility, location, number of girls in the area, usage history, usage options, and size of property. In June 2012, after diligent review and careful consideration of the data collected and membership input, the Board decision was made to pursue the sale of Indian Creek. In September, 2012 the board engaged in additional discussion involving the Long Range Property Plan and decided to engage in further study of all properties. Closure of Indian Creek was postponed from December 3, 2012 until after the Board made a decision in January 2013.

After further intensive and exhaustive study conducted by a special Task Committee comprised of volunteers from the Board, the recommendations from the Task Force were presented to the Board. The Board made a data-driven decision to close Indian Creek Camp in Chatham, La and Pine Wood Camp in Sterlington, La and to actively pursue the sale of both camps. The camps will close May 1, 2013.

It is the Board's role to ensure that GSLPG offers the Premier Scouting Experience, not only for today's scouts but for generations to come- and make the most prudent decisions for the future of the council. Girls today tell us they would like more modern facilities, and we can only imagine that girls 20 years from now will want and expect state of the art camping opportunities as well. As a result, the Board vote and decision is to focus its efforts on developing two camps, one camp in the south and one camp in the north. This decision will allow the resources at hand to be utilized in the most efficient way, enabling us to invest in our future and provide superior outdoor fun and educational leadership opportunities to reach even more girls and meet their needs not only today but in years to come. Camp Bon Temps in Breaux Bridge, La and Camp Wawbansee in Simsboro, La will remain open for all girl scouts in GSLPG so that the Girl Scout journey can continue in building friendships, discovering their resources and gaining important outdoor education. Girls will be able to enjoy building fires, singing songs, camping in cabins or tents, gazing at the stars, canoeing on the lake, hiking through the woods and much more. Camp Wawbansee is within 50 miles of both Indian Creek and Pine Wood and easily accessible with acreage that can be improved upon.

The next phase of property planning will be to develop master site plans for these two camps. When the planning process kicks off, girl and volunteer input will be solicited to help create a vision for the future of camping in GSLPG. It will be an opportunity to build the facilities of our (GSLPG) dreams. Right now, we don't know what this vision will look like, but together we (GSLPG) will surpass our individual imaginations.

We understand that this may be emotional for some, but please be assured that our focus is on enabling girls to have a Premier scouting experience whenever and wherever they participate in Girl Scouts.

Sincerely,



Susan Shirley
Board President
GSLPG



Susan Sewall
Chief Executive Officer
GSLPG