

Fiction v. Fact - Keeping Our Promises

Fiction – GSHPA is not using resources wisely.

FACT:

- Board decisions, especially the most difficult ones, are driven **by thoughtful deliberation and a commitment to good stewardship and the safety** of our girls.
- GSHPA remains **committed to the camp experience but must balance the costs and safety of camps with low attendance rates**, costs for innovative new programs and resources needed to better support adults as troop leaders and volunteers.
- GSHPA's **public audit and accounting reports are posted on our website** and cite specific information ranging from the governance process to answering questions about how gas royalties have been spent.

Fiction – GSHPA is not being transparent with its decision-making process.

FACT:

- GSHPA is **governed by a volunteer Board, which meets quarterly, and is driven by fiscally responsible decisions** that will serve girls over the long run. We abide responsibly and enthusiastically by our governance structure. Moving forward, Board Meeting summaries will be posted to the GSHPA website.
- In terms of financial transparency, **GSHPA financial statements are audited annually** by an independent and reputable accounting firm. While some have questioned the integrity of GSHPA's financial records, these **annual audits validate that there is no misconduct or misrepresentation** of financial disclosures.
- It is **incorrect and misleading to suggest that GSHPA has not been transparent or provided accurate long-term forecasts** and attendance rates for each property.

Fiction – GSHPA is selling camps indiscriminately.

FACT:

- The GSHPA **Board made its decision on the sustainable investment of outdoor programs and properties in November 2017** based upon recommendations from a volunteer committee and as part of a long-term strategic planning process.
- The Board decided that the dedication of **adequate resources to maintain seven camp properties in good, acceptable and functioning condition was not be sustainable** and, in several cases, it was deemed necessary to divest of some or all of a property.
- **Costs are very high to maintain properties that meet our standards**, facilitate the experience we want to create and meet liability requirements. This was an important consideration when we looked at our property holdings and determined what type of camping experience we were trying to offer.

Fiction: GSHPA is not keeping its promises related to camps.

FACT:

- GSHPA has a fiduciary responsibility to move the organization to a position of fiscal strength and operational health but **remains committed to providing girls with safe, rewarding experiences at camp** and outdoor programs that help Girl Scouts discover and connect to the outdoors.
- GSHPA is **moving forward to address the needs of each camp individually** whether related to promised property improvements or retirement. We have kicked off the 2018 camp season with programs and reservations at five camps in our footprint. Camp Echo Trail and Camp Louise are closed for safety reasons.
- GSHPA **staff continues to meet with community groups to look for local solutions** at the same time that we are listing for sale those properties identified by the Board for retirement.

Fiction – GSHPA is blocking out dates so that camps cannot be used.

FACT:

- **GSHPA is not blocking out dates for camps** that have not been closed due to safety reasons.
- For the properties that are open for campers, **GSHPA members are encouraged to make reservations** by visiting www.GSHPA.org or by calling 1-800-692-7816.
- Members now can **access updates from the Property Committee on a new page on the GSHPA website.**
- Following monthly meetings, interested members can visit the **Property Committee** page on the GSHPA website, www.gshpa.org/en/our-council/Property-comm.html.
- Additionally, we will hold quarterly town-hall style webinars. Questions related to properties will be addressed as part of the webinar series.

Fiction: GSHPA is making it difficult for delegates and service unit leads to network.

FACT:

- Delegates are **encouraged to attend regional governance meetings and annual meetings to actively engage** in the process of growing and strengthening GSHPA.
- We **do not discourage networking** among delegates or service unit leads but are required to honor the privacy of members' contact information and not distribute it across the organization.

Fiction: There is no difference between Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

FACT:

- There are **a lot of myths about how Girl Scouts compares to Boy Scouts** – starting with the stereotype that Girl Scouts is like the pink toy aisle – all glitter and sparkle. The reality is that Girl Scouts provides girl-focused programs, challenging activities and progressive learning experiences that build girls of courage, confidence and character.
- The Boy Scouts are actively recruiting girls. We must **actively protect the future of Girl Scouting** and advocate for a safe, girls-only environment.
- We know girls. **No other program in the world can do what Girl Scouts does for girls.**
- Everything at GSHPA—from holding troop meetings to selling cookies to outdoor experiences to exploring STEM—is safe, girl-focused and girl-led.

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