

NEWS RELEASE

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Rekindling Girl Scouts' Commitment to the Outdoor Experience:

Local Girl Scout Council Board Approves 5-Year Plan to Improve Camp Facilities and Programs

November 15, 2011 (HARRISBURG, PA) – With the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting fast approaching, the time-honored tradition of Girl Scout Camp is a top priority for the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania (GSHPA). On October 14, 2011, GSHPA's Board of Directors approved a camp development plan designed to improve the outdoor experience for girls in our council throughout the next five years.

"We are very excited to unveil this plan to our members and to the communities we serve," said GSHPA Board Chair Kate Crowley. "Our Board has been committed to determining how to best invest in our facilities and provide the best possible camping experience for our girls."

The five-year progressive camp development plan strategically incorporates new ideas, lessons learned and direction from a variety of best practices in and outside of Girl Scouts. Scheduled to begin this fiscal year and wrap-up in late September of 2016, the plan will include improvements to facilities and programming at each of GSHPA's seven camp properties—Camp Archbald in Susquehanna County, Camp Echo Trail in York County, Camp Furnace Hills in Lancaster County, Camp Golden Pond in Huntingdon County, Camp Happy Valley in Adams County, Camp Louise in Columbia County and Camp Small Valley in Dauphin County.

Improvements will vary at each camp location and will range from the addition of ropes courses, complete with climbing towers and zip lines, to enhancing current dining facilities, increasing the amount of year-round lodging and making cosmetic upgrades and improvements to septic systems, water treatment systems and roadways. "The plan will also allow us to increase the amount of on-site staff-led programming and activities which will add to the enrichment of the camp experience," Crowley explained.

“Giving our camp properties clearer, more defined purposes and updating them accordingly will give us the opportunity to provide the best possible outdoor experience for our girls and help them to achieve the maximum benefit from their stay at camp,” emphasized Crowley.

The projected cost of the 5-year plan is \$4 million. Funding for the plan will come from 100 percent of the proceeds of the sale of GSHPA’s discontinued camps in addition to gifts from GSHPA donors and money budgeted at the beginning of each fiscal year for camp facility and program upgrades.

“As we approach the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting one of our primary goals is to invest in the people and experiences that make Girl Scouting the preeminent leadership development organization for girls,” Crowley explained. “As we strive to help today’s girls become tomorrow’s leaders, we are convinced that improving the outdoor experience is one of the most significant steps we can take to help girls to develop courage, confidence and other important leadership characteristics.”

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania serves more than 27,000 girls in 30 counties in Pennsylvania and welcomes adults interested in volunteering and all girls in grades K-12. For more information visit our website at www.gshpa.org.

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