



Property Planning Update

Dear friends,

I am writing with important new updates regarding our Long Range Property Plan. In my last email, I committed to this transparency about the council's plans for our properties.

First, I want to share our council's Property Vision Statement, which is guiding our decision-making process.

Property Vision Statement

Our properties are self-sustaining places that provide fun, new, varied, memorable leadership experiences for every girl; and that have the capacity to be maximized for our current and future use.

Information About Property Investments

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts will be investing the proceeds from three pending property sales -- The Center in Rowley, Camp Paradise in Beverly and Taupawshas in Nantucket -- in camp properties that are most heavily used and offer the widest range of activities for girls. The properties include: Cedar Hill in Waltham, Runels in Pelham, NH, Wind-in-the-Pines in Plymouth, Maude Eaton in Andover and Camp Favorite in Brewster. The investments include: installing new and upgrading existing challenge courses, purchasing new docks, boats and other programmatic components, improving entry road and parking infrastructure and renovating and upgrading buildings and other structures. We believe these investments will allow us to serve more girls and offer more varied programming.

In addition, Camp Rice Moody will transition to programs exclusively for girls in grades K-5 at a reduced cost. Also, all day camps and family camping will be run for seven weeks/weekends in the summer of 2015. Older girls who previously attended Camp Rice Moody will be able to attend Camp Cedar Hill, Maude Eaton or Runels and will be supported by bus transportation.

News on Properties to be Rested

We have made the difficult decision to rest four properties that have had declining



Camp Runels received brand new docks earlier this month, providing more value for our girls

attendance over the last four years and have very limited facilities and program offerings. The rested properties include: Camp Virginia in Bolton, Camp Winnetaska in Ashland, Camp Edith Read in Norton and Camp Greenbrier in Acushnet. We will offer increased bus routes to other camp locations and will be sending out targeted communications to girls who formerly attended the resting camps to let them know about their options to attend camp at another GSEM property. We are also working on a plan for spring 2015 celebration events that will be open to any current or former Girl Scout who would like to visit our properties in Rowley and Beverly.

Resting means that we will not schedule summer camp sessions, will suspend all other council-organized activities, except those that are already promoted in the *Ultimate Guide*, and will minimally maintain these properties. We can no longer accommodate service unit or troop overnights at these properties; however, Girl Scouts may hike the properties during daytime hours, but will not have access to buildings, except the lodge at Edith Read, which will be available for troop meetings. We have relocated tents, platforms and some bathroom buildings from Camp Virginia and Camp Winnetaska to Camp Maude Eaton, which will now be able to host encampments.



Girls sail off the docks at Camp Runels in July

These changes, approved by the Board of Directors, resulted from data collection and analysis performed by GSEM's Long Range Property Planning steering committee. The analysis showed that these four properties ranked consistently very low on a number of analytical criteria including variety of use, condition of current facilities, attendance, unique features/program spaces and amount of investment needed to meet the current and future needs of girls and volunteers.

Specific details about bus routes and camp improvements will be communicated via email from the council as they are available, and will be clearly conveyed in the Camp Guide mailed to homes in mid-January.

Please contact us with feedback or questions at LRPP@girlscoutseasternmass.org.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia A. Parcellin
Chief Executive Officer