

Email to SUMs, All Members, & Camp Network: Camp Property Assessment August Update

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Camp Update

It's been a long two years for all of us. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Girl Scouts of Western Washington had to reevaluate how we did everything, including camp.

Back in February 2021, a group of volunteers, board members, and staff kicked off our Camp Property Advisory Group as a part of our Camp Property Assessment Project. This effort was a comprehensive review and analysis of our camp operations to inform data-driven recommendations for possible changes that may be needed to our camp property portfolio. This group's efforts helped shape what the future of our camp properties should be.

When COVID-19 restrictions began to lift in July, this allowed GSWW to shift from assessment to planning for more "open" camp experiences. GSWW is now incorporating plans to relaunch camp in the upcoming fiscal year for the 2021-2022 budget proposal—that means we can finally get back to camp!

As is currently proposed, our camps would have a different mix of site use, volunteer-led community camp, and resident camp operations to maximize participation and minimize expense.

The process for budget consideration by the board will take place in September with final approval by the end of the month. GSWW will share updates with membership in early October.

The Camp Property Assessment Project and input from the Camp Property Advisory Group were extremely helpful in informing our projected plans for camp operations in the 2021-2022 budget cycle.

We would like to thank our Camp Property Advisory Group. They accomplished their mission: to thoroughly assess our camp properties and operation to help inform our next steps as we rebuild from the impact of the pandemic. We appreciate their time and commitment to Girl Scouts and our camp program during this challenging period.

As we plan for our camp relaunch, we're watching the news regarding the spread of the delta variant and its impact on COVID-19 cases. We're committed to being as in-person and safe as possible and will also continue to offer the online programs that have proved to be the most engaging for our Girl Scouts. As always, our paramount concern is the safety of our members, donors, and employees. We're seeking to balance risk mitigation with reasonable precautions so we achieve a new normal within the world that will continue to have the COVID-19 virus present.

This is an extraordinary time in our organization as we strive to provide the opportunities we know can be so impactful in young peoples' lives. Knowing that many of them need Girl Scouts like never before brings a renewed gravity to our efforts.

Thank you for being part of Girl Scouts.