



DuPont Program Center Update

Dear Girl Scout Community:

In 2017, Girl Scouts of Western Washington made the difficult decision to put our DuPont Program Center on the market to allow us to find a location more accessible to membership across our southern counties. We received an offer a few months ago that has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, which the full board authorized for this action at its November meeting.

The Buyer

We are pleased to announce that the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and Girl Scouts of Western Washington have agreed to the purchase by the Tribe of the DuPont Program Center. The Tribe will use the site to provide medical and cultural services to Cowlitz Tribal members as well as to other American Indians and Alaska Natives living in the area. "We are very happy to be able to acquire this beautiful property from the Girl Scouts. The site is part of a historic area of deep cultural significance to the Cowlitz, the Nisqually and the Puyallup peoples." explained Tribal Chairman Philip Harju. "It is very near where Cowlitz Chief Scanewa, who had numerous wives and ruled over 17 regional subchiefs, traded with the Hudson Bay company at Fort Nisqually in the early 19th century".

Cowlitz operates Indian Health Service clinics in King, Cowlitz and Clark Counties. Last year the Tribe began exploring opportunities to expand into Pierce County where a great number of their members reside, many of whom are descendants of Chief Scanewa's daughter who married a Hudson Bay trader. The property's wooded outdoor gathering area and spacious building will provide a calm, natural environment to support the wellbeing and recuperation of patients. Just as importantly, the property will serve as a place to convene Tribal Elders and members for cultural events, meetings and knowledge sharing so that future generations can learn the ways of the Cowlitz, the forever people.

Next Steps

Staff will be moving GSWW property out of the building throughout the next few months and we expect to be fully vacated no later than the end of April. In moving forward with this transition as we're still enduring the

pandemic, relocating the store is the priority for our Girl Scout community, so we are currently exploring where to best position a retail location in the southern counties. Some key considerations for this new space include:

- The ability to have a showroom with core store products, while also providing inventory storage, space for processing online order fulfillment, and room for curbside pickup.
- Easy access off a main thruway for both our current members and future Girl Scouts, as well as being accessible to racially and ethnically diverse communities.
- Accessibility to our members in the south, with central driving distance between Renton and Olympia.

With respect to opening a new office in the south, we are committed to locating a GSWW facility to serve our southern communities. As we have begun research into all of our offices, though, we have found that GSWW physical office and program center spaces do not get as heavily utilized by our members as we anticipated and have historically only served a small subset of our overall membership. This finding has led us to shift our immediate focus to new ways to serve current and future Girl Scouts through partnerships in the local community, collaboration with our volunteers, and virtual learning and camp programming opportunities. Given restrictions on access to office space due to COVID-19 as well as our need to both ensure financial stability and sound allocation of council resources, we are not moving into an office location immediately. Instead, we are taking the time to define what this future office space will be like as part of the property assessment that is currently underway, evaluating all of our council's office and camp facility needs. [Property Assessment is discussed in questions 44-46 in the Camp Town Hall Q&A document on the Council Updates page.](#)

Honoring the Legacy

We do know that the DuPont Program Center holds a special place in our organization's history, and we will not let that important fact go unnoticed. Many committed donors supported the building and design of this space for our Girl Scout community. The gifts of our donors continue to be honored by the myriad girls and volunteers who discovered Girl Scouts there. Their legacy will live on, rippling through every Girl Scout served, every voice amplified, and every life changed through Girl Scouting. On behalf of our members, Girl Scouts of Western Washington is forever grateful.

In the time of COVID-19, however, we cannot come together in person to recognize the significance of this space. We do want to capture the special memories so many have in the DuPont Program Center:

- We will be putting together a video to share with our Girl Scout Community. If you have memories (videos, pictures, or stories), [please share them here](#). Password: DuPontMemories2020
 - If you would like to keep your brick as a keepsake, please contact us and we will arrange time for a pick-up in the new year. Please include the name on the brick so we can pull it for you.
 - We will share additional donor recognition plans in January.

Questions? Email DuPontMoveTeam@gsww.org.

For a link to the FAQs about the DuPont move, please refer [here](#).

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe has invited Girl Scouts of Western Washington to join them in a celebration when we are able to be in person again. I'll look forward to sharing more information on that in the coming months.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Megan Ferland