

MEMO

Attachment D



Date: April 8, 2016
To: Board of Directors
From: Sue Gantz Matz, Task Group Chair
Subject: Outdoor Experience Task Group Report

The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio board has identified the outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, including activities at our camp properties, as an important part of the Girl Scout experience. In June 2015, a task group was initiated to study and educate the board about:

- The current research on the impact of outdoor activities.
- The current outdoor program offerings.
- The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio camp property descriptions, conditions, and usage.

The task group was also charged with developing updated guidelines for decision-making on camp property. A copy of the task group charter is attached (Attachment E).

This project takes place within the context of a larger, societal discussion of the importance of outdoor experiences in healthy development. The Girl Scout Research Institute also conducted a study on the impact of camp and outdoor experiences, especially in Girl Scouts. These findings were included in the information presented to the board. A graphical summary is attached (Attachment F).

At the January board meeting, the task group engaged the board in an exercise to review and develop the:

- Values Statement on Outdoor/Camp Program Sites
- Decision-Making Criteria for Property

These statements will be used by the board, staff, and volunteers, to guide and support communication about outdoor and property decisions in the future. Based on the board's feedback, a final recommended version of these statements is attached (Attachment G) for approval.

At the April board meeting, we will also provide a brief recap of the task group findings and update on camp projects and usage, along with a summary information packet for reference in future discussions and decisions.



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