

GSGLA Property Update

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) has a few updates related to properties to share.

Camp Lakota

As many of you are aware, the Dining Hall at Camp Lakota was lost in a fire in January of last year. The dining hall was a total loss, but fortunately no campers were onsite at the time and the fire was contained to the one building.

The Dining Hall was a 50-year-old building that was originally built to serve a much smaller Girl Scout Council prior to the merger of 2008. As part of GSGLA with a girl membership exceeding 40,000, the fire presented an opportunity to consider the needs for camping programs to serve the newly merged and larger council for years into the future.

Since the fire, the council has been working with the insurance adjuster and considering the needs for the new building. Volunteer input was gathered through an open house at the council's Headquarters and online surveys. Program staff input was sought as well, and the end result will be a new and expanded Lakota Lodge that will include a dining capacity of 150 campers, bunk accommodations, improved restrooms with showers, audio/visual capabilities, outdoor eating patio, new commercial kitchen, and more.

The architecture firm of Harley Ellis Devereaux was selected by the GSGLA Property Committee to design the new Lakota Lodge. Because the building will expand and amenities will be upgraded, *preliminary* cost estimates greatly exceed insurance proceeds. Given the cost implications, the GSGLA Board of Directors voted to invest the upfront costs of soils engineering, surveying, and project design work, which is now underway. The board further voted, however, that construction would be delayed until GSGLA raises the additional funds necessary to build the new Lakota Lodge.

GSGLA is working with the architects and Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding the desire to make the Lakota Lodge a Zero Net Energy (ZNE) building, which would have a long-term operating cost benefit and align with Girl Scouts' values as stewards of the environment. GSGLA is also seeking the pro bono ZNE engineering that SCE provides to selected organizations as part of a special program and is awaiting SCE's response.

Please stay tuned for more information, as the council completes the Lakota Lodge design over the coming months. Many troops and volunteers have already asked how they can help rebuild the Lakota Lodge. Once the design is complete and costs are finalized, GSGLA will be sharing information on the design, fundraising target, and opportunities for all to be involved and support.

Skyland Ranch

After nine years with Girl Scouts, Ranger Roy Frazier at Skyland Ranch will be retiring September 30th. We thank Roy for his years of service to Girl Scouting and his stewardship of the camp, located near Idyllwild, CA. Both Roy and his wife Belinda will be missed.

GSGLA will be hiring a Camp Ranger to replace Roy. Effective Sept. 1, the council will be closing Skyland Ranch for a transitional period to allow for the hiring and orientation of a new Ranger and to conduct an assessment of the camp.

The well being and safety of girls is GSGLA's top priority. Taking the camp offline for an assessment period will allow the council time to review the numerous health and safety issues at the camp and the extent of necessary improvements and capital investments. All reservations prior to Sept. 1 will be honored and as the assessment wraps up, information will be shared.

Long-Range Property Strategic Plan

On the heels of completing the council's Strategic Plan last summer, GSGLA is in the planning stages of a Long-Range Property Strategic Plan that will help the council ensure it has the facilities necessary to serve the program needs of girls into the future.

The Property Strategic Plan will:

- Assess program centers and camps
- Review future program priorities for the council to ensure that the properties support the needs of program
- Help the council decide where to invest its limited capital resources
- Consider areas of the council that may be deficient in program space

The Property Strategic Planning Process will be transparent and allow volunteers and members the opportunity to share their input and ideas. Please stay tuned for future information. Should you have any questions related to GSGLA properties or have any resources or potential funding partners to share, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Sylvia Rosenberger at 626-677-2232 or srosenberger@girlscoutsla.org.