



## Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Properties

### Why is Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma selling Camp Kate and Camp Red Rock?

It is a matter of stewardship. This decision was not made lightly. We appreciate some reactions will be emotional, yet at the heart of these decisions was to do what is best to meet the needs of our girls today and tomorrow. A large portion of the council's financial assets are in the camp properties. However, these valuable assets are utilized by only 6 percent of our membership, while none of these properties brings in enough revenue to cover the direct expenses that the council incurs each year to maintain, insure and offer a leadership experience for girls at these sites. These properties represent a drain on our liquid assets and annual revenue. Our camp properties need improvements and by divesting ourselves of underutilized property, we'll be able to reinvest in the camp pathway.

### What criteria were used to determine which camps would be closed and/or sold?

The Property GAP Team, comprised of staff, board and volunteers, spent many months researching all the camp properties of Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma. Sixteen percent of the budget is allocated to property used by only 6 percent of the membership. By focusing our efforts and reinvesting in the primary camp locations, we anticipate an increase in our usage rates for girls to experience an expanded camp pathway.

### Why are the camps underutilized?

There are many demands on the time and attention of girls and their families today. Many troops/groups do not take advantage of weekend camping because of the busy schedules and varied interests of girls. The distance and travel time to our camps is a deterrent for some. The amenities at our camps are very basic, and girls and their families seek summer camps that offer more modern facilities and more specialized programming. In addition, the Girl Scout program has changed over the years and different settings are needed.

### How will the sale of these properties affect camping at Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma?

***It is critical to remember that camping is an important part of the Girl Scout tradition and will continue to be an important pathway in our council.*** Outdoor education and the learning that takes place at camp contribute positively to the Girl Scout leadership experience for girls. We want as many girls as possible to have the opportunity to build friendships and learn leadership skills in the great outdoors. Girl Scouts has a rich tradition of outdoor education. New trends and changing girl's interests lead our council to be proactive in making changes to our properties in order to most effectively serve our girls.

### What will happen to the equipment used at these camp locations?

We are in the process of inventorying all materials and equipment at the two properties. We will be moving equipment such as the part of the ROPES Course at Camp Kate, to one of the remaining properties so that we can continue to provide all kinds of learning opportunities to girls that were offered at the retired locations.

### Will the sale affect our ability to raise funds to support Girl Scouts?

Donors and funders look to not-for-profit organizations to use their assets wisely in pursuit of their mission. The board of Directors is confident that our individual donors, corporate supporters, as well as the public will recognize that Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma is being pro-active in determining its financial security, now and for the future. Girls, and the organizations that serve girls, deserve to have their fair share of all donor dollars. The income generated from this sale will allow the council to expand and improve services to girls, and is not meant to replace current or future public support of Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma. We will continue our fundraising, along with revenue generating opportunities, and will be able to demonstrate to all supporters that every dollar invested in girls is building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

## **When will the camps officially close?**

There are some activities already on the calendar reserved for these locations. Those events planned before normal closing for winter will be honored. Camp reservations for Camp Kate will not be available after Sept. 1, 2010. Reservations for Camp Red Rock will not be available after Nov. 7, 2010. Those who had planned to use one of these camp locations but had not yet made a reservation may call the council office to check on availability of the other camp locations.

## **What other outdoor opportunities will be available?**

Oklahoma is blessed with many locations in which Girl Scouts can use and enjoy. We have started researching those alternative locations that we feel comfortable recommending to volunteers. To help make this process easier, we will be offering special adult training that focuses on safety issues and other concerns when using non-council property for outdoor education/camping. This training will be held at our remaining camp locations so that we, too better utilize our own property for our own learning opportunities. We hope everyone thinks of Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma first when planning an outdoor opportunity for girls by using either Camp Cookieland or Camp E-Ko-Wah as the primary location for all outdoor education.

## **Will there be an official closing ceremony for these locations?**

We are planning retirement and closing ceremonies. Details for these events have not yet been finalized but will be announced soon. The ceremony for Camp Kate is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 13-14, 2010, and for Camp Red Rock on Nov. 6-7, 2010. We also are considering naming opportunities at the remaining two camp locations in honor of the closed camps.

## **Can donations be made to cover costs that would keep either or both camps open?**

No. The board voted to retire and sell the two camps and use funds from those sales to reinvest back into the Camp Pathway. We cannot accept or approve donations or fundraising activities to keep open camps that have already been voted to retire and sell.