

October 20, 2017

Dear Girl Scout members,

In October of last year, the Board made some critical decisions about camp properties. So far, Camp Charlevoix and land across the road from Camp Anna Behrens have been sold. Offers to purchase Camp Little Deer and a 15-acre section along the Shelby Road side of Camp Anna Behrens have been accepted and are expected to close before year end. The last piece, a 70-acre section of Camp Anna Behrens, is listed for sale now.

The Board also decided to close Camp Saki for one year and assess the council's ability to continue outdoor programming there. You will remember that GSMISTS leases Camp Saki from Rotary Camps & Services of Traverse City. In working with Rotary Camps, we learned that the Boy Scouts terminated their lease of Camp Greilick in December of 2016. With Boy Scouts stepping out, Rotary Camps is recreating Camp Greilick as the Greilick Outdoor Recreation & Education Center (GOREC) with a plan to offer an outdoor facility that is open to and appeals to a variety of groups.

With that plan in mind, Rotary Camps approached GSMISTS with a proposal to shift our outdoor programming from Camp Saki to GOREC. We have had a series of very productive conversations to assess whether GSMISTS' goals and needs for outdoor programming for girls fit well with Rotary's plan. We learned that historically, GOREC was a shared property used by Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Boy Scouts. We have also considered what is financially viable and in the best interest of the council.

Rotary Camps has proposed and GSMISTS has accepted an agreement whereby GSMISTS will release our lease on Camp Saki and offer designated weekends each year exclusively reserved for GSMISTS camping and outdoor programming at GOREC. This new partnership also includes the vision for a new Camp Saki Troop House at GOREC, with GSMISTS and Rotary Camps working together to make that vision a reality within next several years.

We will all be sad to say farewell to Camp Saki, but the new partnership with Rotary Camps will enable us to use our resources wisely and assure outdoor opportunities for girls in the Traverse City area. With the savings, GSMISTS can help support the cost of using GOREC and invest in the maintenance and improvement of other properties. We hope that you will see this as a win-win.

We are so grateful for your support and understanding during this time of transition. The future is looking bright for outdoor program opportunities for the girls of GSMISTS.

The GSMISTS reserved dates for GOREC are listed below. We encourage all of you to begin planning now for your outdoor experience at GOREC. We will have more detailed information available as soon as we can.

Until then, you can visit <http://greilick.org> for more information about the facilities. There will be an open house this Sunday Oct 22nd from 1-4pm with activities, tours and S'mores, the property is located at 4754 Scout Camp Rd. in Traverse City, take the family and enjoy a day outside!

Deborah Hughes
Board Chair