



Des Moines County Conservation

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Board of Directors and Diane Nelson, C.E.O.
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois
940 Golden Valley Drive
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Dear Ms. Nelson and Board,

As a fellow outdoors enthusiast and one who oversees outdoor education programs, I am concerned about the potential loss of Camp L-Kee-Ta. In today's electronic age, our youth are spending less time outdoors and the consequences of that nature deficit are being realized in many ways. I'm concerned that shuttering one of this community's outdoor education facilities will only further this trend.

However, as one who is all too familiar with tightened budgets and increased operational costs, I can relate with the realities of the business side of our efforts. And it is because of that understanding that I am not just advocating for the facility to remain, but I am offering to be part of the plan going forward to help make that happen. Though I cannot at this time offer anything specific, I would be open to a discussion with the Girl Scout organization as to whether there are potential partnership opportunities between our respective organizations and how those opportunities may in fact be mutually beneficial to our missions.

Our mission states, "Des Moines County Conservation is dedicated to the sustainability of natural resources through land stewardship, conservation education and by providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities." The outdoor education, recreation, and land stewardship opportunities associated with a potential partnership in the future of that Des Moines County camp facility seems to fit our efforts well.

I understand your organization has some tough choices ahead of it. As Director of Des Moines County Conservation and board member of other non-profit organizations, I can sympathize. I just wanted to offer a possible opportunity to prevent the loss of what is undoubtedly a great asset to our community.

Please feel free to contact me any time if you'd like to discuss how we might work together on this in more detail. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Lee, Director
Des Moines County Conservation
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