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Dear Girl Scout Supporters:

I am writing to you today to inform you of some significant decisions recently made by our Board of Directors. At the June 29th meeting of the GSGWM Board of Directors, our Long Range Property Planning task group presented a motion to divest of certain camp properties. The intent of this letter is to ensure that you are one of the first to know about these decisions.

A Long Range Property Planning (LRPP) task group was appointed by the board in September of 2010 with the charge of evaluating all outdoor activity properties owned or operated by the Council. The LRPP was comprised of volunteers, staff, board members and community members. These members reside throughout our council. A full list of the members and the towns/states they are from is listed on the property section of our website. Individually and as a group, the LRPP members spent hundreds of hours asking for and listening to input, researching facts and options, thoroughly inspecting properties, and most importantly, deliberating on all the factors that go into property planning to ensure a healthy future for the council, the girls it serves, its dedicated volunteers, and the communities that support it.

The LRPP looked in depth at each camp with an eye for the following: program potential, safety of campers, ability to market to girls, ability to market to outside groups, and cost to bring camp up to basic safety standards. A full list of the sub-groups and the charge for each group is listed on the property section of our website. An LRPP member presented at each of the Governance Forums held in late March/early April in each of the 10 districts. Enormous effort went into inviting all members of our council to attend, ask questions, and challenge the methodology being used to arrive at these decisions to make the process fully inclusive. Feedback was taken from these meetings and considered prior to the final recommendation that was made at the June 29th Board of Directors meeting.

The LRPP recommended that the council divest itself of the following properties:

In Vermont:

- Wapanacki
- So-Ko-We-Gi
- The Vermont House

In New Hampshire:

-Sunset Valley

-Anne Jackson

The GSGWM Board of Directors voted in favor of this recommendation and has instructed me to start the process of selling (or transferring, in the case of So-Ko-We-Gi, which we do not actually own) the aforementioned properties as soon as possible.

The decision to divest of Wapanacki, The Vermont House, So-Ko-We-Gi, Sunset Valley and Anne Jackson was not taken lightly. We are aware that there is a tremendous emotional connection that campers have with their camp. All decisions were made with the goal of improving the camping experience for our current and future members. With that in mind the Board of Directors also voted that all net proceeds from the sale of these properties go into a board-designated fund. That fund will be used solely to improve and maintain our program properties.

This decision will not affect camping at Anne Jackson this summer nor will it affect any camp rentals through the fall for both Anne Jackson and Sunset Valley. Our fall and spring program guides will be updated appropriately to show what camps are available for rental and the various summer camp options for 2012.

I want to acknowledge again that this decision was arrived at with a significant amount of thoughtful research, conversation and debate. The council worked very hard to encourage all of the membership to be a part of the conversation and debate and thus be part of the decision. As I move to the phase of putting these properties on the market, I want to encourage anybody with questions or concerns to contact me.

Thank you for your support and participation in Girl Scouting! I am confident that together we will be able to continue building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia K. Mellor
Chief Executive Officer