



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Revolutionary Trails Council

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January 17, 2012

Dear Fellow Scouters,

As members of the Council's Executive Board, we want to take this opportunity to inform you that the Council Executive Committee has decided to close the summer resident camp program at Cedarlands Scout Reservation. Although this decision was not easy, it is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of our camping operation and our council. The following information was considered in our decision:

- At a critical time in preparing for camp, we simply do not have enough committed campers to offer a meaningful program.
- Only about 25% of our Boy Scouts (500) attend one of our council's camps with another 500-600 Scouts from outside our council. A Boy Scout Council is doing well to have 62% of its Boy Scouts attend a camp.
- For the past 30 years, our council has been challenged with maintaining three summer programs and three camping facilities with limited volunteer, staff and financial resources. Unfortunately, the expenditure of these resources has not had a meaningful impact on increasing our membership or camp attendance. In fact, camp attendance has steadily declined over the past 10 years.
- It is the conclusion of the Executive Committee that the level of excess capacity along with declining attendance and the steadily increasing operating costs of offering a summer resident program at three camps is inefficient and has the high potential to cause our council to fail in the near future. Unfortunately, several councils in central New York have experienced such failures and their programs, membership and Scouts have suffered as a result.

We want to assure you that closure of the summer resident camp at Cedarlands does not mean that we will lose all of the programs that have been offered at the camp. At this time, we are working on a plan to use Camp Russell as a base camp for units that want a high adventure experience. In short, units will arrive at Camp Russell to receive an orientation and depart for a high adventure destination including Cedarlands Scout Reservation. Upon completion, they will return to Russell's base camp.

We realize that there may be a lot of questions regarding our decision. As such, we have designated Mark Miller 315-736-3300 or mgmiller55@juno.com and Dave Manore 315-735-4437 or dmanore@bsamail.org to answer any questions. In addition, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

Yours in Scouting,

Tony Colon, Council President

Mark Miller, Council Commissioner

Dave Manore, VP Program

Gene Quadraro, VP Finance

Peter Hedglon, Camping Chair

Rick Rotondi, Director of Camping

OUR VISION: We will prepare every youth for their future and ensure that integrity and personal responsibility are woven into the fabric of our community.