



PUBLIC RELEASE

New Special Initiatives Facility to be available in Jackson, Michigan

- ***Camp Teetonkah is located in the Irish Hills of Michigan. The camp consists of 240 acres on the shore of Big Wolf Lake and is owned by the Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America.***
- ***Camp to be re-opened for special initiatives with community partners and collaborations such as STEM, Healthy Living Initiatives and Leadership.***
- ***One of the oldest Scout camps in the country, Camp Teetonkah offers many amenities to these future initiatives.***

The Michigan Crossroads Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has emphasized STEM through its advancement program with Scout Troops and Cub Packs for most of its 108 year history. It has taught Scouts about healthy living initiatives such as nutrition and fitness through a variety of badges and requirements. It has concentrated on leadership development through the patrol method and various training development courses and practical applications. These three efforts are just part of how Scouting has helped young people grow to become leaders in their homes, schools and communities as they learn about their personal and civic responsibilities.

This property has been a Boy Scout camp since the early 1900's and has primitive tent campsites, several buildings for programming and shelter, trails for hiking and fitness, areas for field activities and sports, much wilderness for conservation and ecology study, group dynamics initiatives and so much more. In recent years, it had served Scouting units as a convenient nearby camp for weekend adventures but was deactivated. The Michigan Crossroads Council, BSA has accelerated its emphasis in STEM, Healthy Living Initiatives and Leadership to help meet growing community needs throughout southern Michigan. Thus, they have decided to re-open Camp Teetonkah to focus on impacting these interest areas both internally and collaboratively with the community partners.

Ray Davis, Michigan Crossroads Council President commented; "We are excited that this opportunity has presented itself in southcentral Michigan. This property, that was recently deactivated for traditional Scouting activities, will be re-opened and continue to be focused on some significant initiatives that will impact Scouting and our communities for the foreseeable future. Scouting works to instill values in young people, that allow them to make ethical and moral decisions over their lifetime. Leadership development, STEM and Healthy Living Initiatives are growing areas of focus in society and Scouting continues to be a leader in our communities in these three areas of interest."

Don Shepard, Michigan Crossroads Council CEO agreed; "We are thrilled that we are able to engage the community and help to foster these three initiatives. This will be a new venture for Michigan Crossroads Council as traditionally we utilize camps to foster advancement related programs for Scouting members only. There is an increasing need for education and interest in personal development for these areas and we look forward to providing a *Special Initiatives* facility that can focus on them with community partners to enable our youth to make decisions impacting their life direction."

About the Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America:

The Michigan Crossroads Council, Boy Scouts of America was chartered to the Boy Scouts of America in 2012 as part of a consolidation of 9 legacy Michigan Councils. Scouting in Michigan is now in its 108th year. The Council provides a variety of youth development and camping programs that promote character, leadership and life skills to more than 68,000 Michigan boys and girls. The Council works with nearly 25,000 adult volunteer leaders in conjunction with over 2500

partner organizations to teach young people the values and behaviors they need to succeed in life. More information on the Michigan Crossroads Council can be found at www.michiganscouting.org/.

| **dds: 9-25-17**