

Properties FAQ

The Michigan Crossroads Council recently announced a change in our council property ownership. As good stewards of Scouting, managing our resources wisely help us make a life-changing impact on the youth in the communities we serve. It's important to know that the Scouting experience will not change for Michigan youth. As a group we will work to ensure a seamless transition for our Scouts, parents, leaders, and local volunteers.

We are committed to keeping you updated on this process and will share news and information here as it is available moving forward. We have provided you with a list of questions and answers below, which provide background into our decision-making process and next steps. In the meantime, if you have questions about this process, please contact Frank Reigelman, Outdoor Adventures Director of the Michigan Crossroads Council, via email at frank.reigelman@scouting.org.

1. How did you reach this decision?

We believe the principles of conservation and responsible land management are included in the pillars of Scouting, which the BSA has practiced and promoted for over 100 years. This decision was not made lightly, and is the result of more than four years of study, long-range planning and an evaluation of each camp's performance and expenses. Through this analysis, we found that the capacity of our camps was nearly double what is required to serve our current membership. As such, the council's volunteer leadership and professional staff have decided to close five of the council's camp properties. With this, camps will no longer compete against each other, rather, they will offer an exciting and varied menu of program opportunities designed to complement each other and to support unit programs.

2. Which camps are closing?

These five properties include Greilick, near Traverse City; Kiwanis, near Lansing; Northwoods in Ogemaw County; Tapico in Kalkaska County; and Teetonkah in Jackson County.

The council will still operate Cole Canoe Base, D-bar-A Scout Ranch, Gerber Scout Reservation, Camp Munhake, Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation, Camp Rotary and Silver Trails Scout Reservation, which together comprise over 5,000 acres for Scouts to discover nature, learn life skills, and become leaders with character.

3. What was the decision making process for which properties were selected to be closed? How did you decide on five, and not more or less?

After more than four years of study and careful analysis, we found that the capacity of our camps was nearly double what is required to serve our current membership. Volunteer leadership and professional staff ultimately decided to close these five camp properties, which will better meet our needs. To ensure that the Scouting experience would not change for any youth members, we've made adjustments to travel times, condition of properties, future membership growth and other factors.

4. Who made the decision?

The Strategic Plan Task Force for Camp Properties, which consists of representatives from each of the field service councils, prepared a recommendation for the council board. The board carefully reviewed the recommendation and voted to take action.

5. What is the timeframe for implementing this decision?

Event reservations will be honored through August 2016, with campsite and cabin reservations available throughout the summer. Then, in September, as the annual winterization process takes place, we will prepare these properties to be closed. Each camp property will continue to have an on-site ranger/caretaker present.

6. What will happen to the property once the camp is closed? Are you planning to sell these properties?

The council's Properties Committee is developing a comprehensive long-range plan to consider all possible options for these properties. If any property is sold, we will place priority on partnering with new owners to create opportunities for Scouting's continued use, while reducing our expenses and the

number of properties owned and operated by the council. Proceeds from any property sales are determined by the council's Executive Board on a case-by-case basis, and will be stated in the final approval. The board will act in the best interest of our youth members and delegate any proceeds to the enhancement and support of our remaining operational camps.

7. Will any volunteers or employees be terminated as a result of this matter?

Council leadership takes this matter very seriously and, as always, any decision or resolution will be based on what is best for the council and our youth members. There are many opportunities for volunteers to serve in the camping program or other roles in Michigan.

8. Do you anticipate any additional camp closures in the future?

No. We believe these seven core camps are necessary for our foreseeable future needs.

9. What if our unit has a reservation for 2016? Do we need to cancel it or move it our reservation to another camp? And, where can our Troop go camping next summer?

We will honor reservations for all 12 camp properties through August 2016. The council will still operate seven camp properties where Scouts can find outdoor experiences and adventures that they cannot get anywhere else.

Units can attend any of 12 operating camps in 2016, as camp properties will not be closed until the end of the 2016 season. After this time, units can attend resident or weekend camping experiences at our other properties, which include Cole Canoe Base, D-bar-A Scout Ranch, Gerber Scout Reservation, Camp Munhac, Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation, Camp Rotary and Silver Trails Scout Reservation, together comprise over 5,000 acres for Scouts to discover nature, learn life skills, and become leaders with character.

10. Will the Scouting experience change for Michigan's youth – how will they experience the outdoors?

The Scouting experience will not change for youth in the state. As a group we will work to ensure a seamless transition for our Scouts, parents, leaders, and local volunteers.

In addition, the council will still operate seven camp properties where Scouts can find outdoor experiences and adventures that they cannot get anywhere else. For more than 105 years, the BSA has delivered the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Camps are just one way among many that we work toward our mission by providing character-building opportunities, a respect and appreciation for the outdoors, physical fitness, and leadership development.