

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Long Range Property Plan

Q&A

1. What is the purpose of the Long Range Property Plan (LRPP)?

The objective of the LRPP is to evaluate our Council's outdoor programs and properties and develop a plan that meets the needs of our membership and is economically sustainable by the Council.

2. Who is on the Long Range Property Committee?

Three interests make up the LRPPC, and include a Program interest, a Property interest, and a Market Research component.

3. What does the Program interest do?

The Program interest will analyze our outdoor programs, program attendance, looks at the benefits provided by the programming and performs some competitive analysis.

4. What does the Property interest do?

This Property sub-committee assesses the physical and financial aspects of all our properties.

5. What is the Market Research Component?

The Market Research component designs and implements a survey tool to assess the interests of current and prospective members' and capture the council's demographics.

6. What does the plan include and when is this happening?

The plan developed by the LRPPC will contain a recommendation for girl outdoor program offerings and property holdings to the Board of Directors. This process will take some time and will likely result in a recommendation sometime in 2010. The responsibilities of the LRPPC include a physical assessment of each facility, a program analysis of outdoor offerings for girls and how they support the Girl Scout leadership experience, and market research about the needs and wants of girls in our jurisdiction.

7. How will volunteers and Girl Scout families know what's going on?

There are several tools available to help our Girl Scout families know what is going on.

- Council website (this will be updated as new information is available)
- Information will be included in a newsletter for Leaders

8. How can the Girl Scout membership voice their opinions?

Surveys that assess the wants and desires of our girl, parent, and volunteer audiences will be available in the Summer/Fall of 2009. This is your best opportunity to let us know what kinds of Girl Scout outdoor activities are important to the Girl Scout experience. We want to hear from as many members as possible. Results from the surveys will be shared with the membership once the surveys are distributed, completed, and compiled.

9. What are the criteria for making property decisions?

Criteria for making property decisions are based on a number of things, including our ability to provide girl programs that reflect the Girl Scout leadership experience, participation rates, growth prospects, cost to maintain properties, and effective use of Council resources.

10. Will volunteers/ staff have an opportunity to voice their opinions?

There will be the opportunity for girls, parents, and volunteers to participate in the surveys. You contact LRPP@gsmw.org to voice your thoughts and opinions. It is likely that property decisions will be made by the board in 2010. The Council's board of directors is aware of the emotional impact of any property decision. Efforts will be made to honor our Girl Scout traditions and provide appropriate avenues for closing any property.

11. How can the budgets for the properties we own be reduced and/or restructured?

Over the past years, property committees and staff have reviewed property budgets, made cuts where possible, and kept investments to a minimum. The LRPPC's plan will include any further opportunities for reducing or restructuring programs and properties based on their work this spring.

12. How can Service Units in the area help with property expenses?

The best way Girl Scout families and volunteers can help with property expenses is to (a) actively participate in the product sales, and (b) sign up and participate often in the many outdoor experiences – from residential camp to troop camping to challenge course programs. Product sales helps girls earn money for activities they like to do and helps fund the expenses of program and property management. More troop and individual participation provides girls a rich outdoor experience and provides economies of scale in offering our programs to girls.

13. How long is “long-range”?

To insure the financial health of the council, decisions about what programs and properties to keep and/or sell will likely be made in the next year to eighteen months. However, the long-range property plan will include a multi-year approach to property improvements and utilization.

14. Will the properties be repaired and updated?

The goal of the LRPPC is to come up with a plan that meets the outdoor program demands of our entire girl membership – providing quality facilities that are safe, secure, and affordable. The plan would include areas for property improvements and maintenance based on financial capabilities of the Council.