

## **Camping Opportunities Committee Update February 23, 2005**

Bill Seith – Council President  
John Zick- Camping Opportunities Committee Chair

In our last Update we reported that the Camping Opportunities Committee had begun discussions about a possible collaboration with another Council to provide expanded camping opportunities for our Cub Scouts. Those discussions, with the Three Fires Council, have now reached the point that the Committee reported on progress at the January 18, 2005, Executive Board Meeting.

John Zick reported that he, Bill Seith, Irene Szinavel and Tony Roth attended a meeting on December 20, 2004, with representatives from the Three Fires Council regarding a joint venture for a Cub Scout Camp at the property known as TFC Ranch in Rochelle, IL. A *first draft* of a Proposed Joint Venture document was presented and discussed by the representatives of both Councils. The document defines the purpose of the Joint Venture as "...acquiring, holding, and operating various properties for the development of a Cub Scout Resident camp." The DPVC representatives were informed that the Executive Board of the Three Fires Council has seen this document and has approved it, in principle. Our representative concluded that, while there are several specific points that will need to be addressed, overall, the concept appears to be a workable one.

After discussion, the Committee received the Board's approval of a Resolution by voice vote authorizing the Committee to formally enter into negotiations with Three Fires to develop a formal proposal. Once completed, this proposal will be submitted to the Boards of both Councils for approval prior to any commitments being made or actions taken. The Committee's Consideration of the Wisconsin camp properties as an ongoing issue will continue to be addressed, but does not directly relate to the proposed joint venture with Three Fires Council.

The Executive Board also considered the recent information about a possible merger of several Chicago Area councils and how this could affect the future plans for the Des Plaines Valley Council, especially the work of the Camping Opportunities Committee. It was decided that the best course of action would be for the Camping Opportunities Committee to continue on its current course until more information on a possible consolidation becomes available.

The Risk Management issue regarding the Township Road running through Shin Go Beek was also discussed. The National Council recently formally notified our Council that this road presents a potentially dangerous situation for our Scouters that must be addressed by our Board. Due to these safety concerns and the liability exposure for both the Council and members of the Executive Board, this matter was referred to our Risk Management Committee for further study and development of recommendations to the Executive Board on how to best address this issue.