

**Camping Opportunities Update**  
**March 15, 2006**

Bill Seith, Council President  
Ross Johnson, Camping Opportunities Committee

We are pleased to report that the Des Plaines Valley Council (DPVC), in partnership with the Three Fires Council (TFC), on March 9, 2006, entered into a historic Joint Venture Agreement to develop a Cub Scout Resident Camp near Rochelle, Illinois. In several previous Updates, we have discussed the evolution of this agreement and the exciting opportunities it affords both Councils to expand our mutual Cub Scout camping opportunities, as well as to provide a range of facilities to meet training, winter camping, and other needs of our Councils.

DPVC President Bill Seith and Council Executive Irene Szinavel joined TFC Board Chairman Joel Aaseby and Council Executive Dennis Cook in signing the Joint Venture Agreement, the first such collaboration nationally for the Boy Scouts of America. This new initiative leads the way as a new direction in our efforts to meet the needs of our youth while making the most of our camping assets.

The door was opened to this historic step at the DPVC Executive Board meeting Tuesday, February 28. Two key decisions were made by the Board at that meeting:

1. The Board voted unanimously to enter into the Joint Venture Agreement with Three Fires Council to develop a Cub Scout summer camp and year-round camp for all Scouts on TFC's property in Rochelle, IL, known at the "Ranch."

The key elements of this Joint Venture Agreement have been reported in previous Updates and posted on our Web Site. In brief summary they include:

- Our Council will be an equal partner with Three Fires Council on the Joint Venture Board in decision-making, and share 50/50 in ownership of property assets, regardless of the amount of our later capital contributions.
  - DPVC will make an initial capital contribution to the Joint Venture of about \$2.4 million.
  - DPVC commits to enthusiastically participate in a fund-raising campaign through the Joint Venture to develop the new Camp.
2. The Board also voted overwhelmingly to put Camp Tomo Chi Chi Knolls up for sale, subject to terms and conditions to be later approved by the Board, to raise the approximately \$2.4 million required to fund our participation in the Joint Venture Agreement.

Importantly, after our initial investment in the Joint Venture of approximately \$2.4 million is deducted from the sale proceeds, the remaining proceeds will be set aside in the DPVC Endowment Fund for our Council's use and will remain available to address other Council needs and priorities, as should be determined by the Board.

Several activities are currently underway, previously approved by the Board, to pave the way for implementing the new agreement. The Camping Opportunities Committee and DPVC professional staff has begun discussions with potential buyers to determine the market value at sale of Camp Tomo. Those discussions are on-going and expressions of interest are beginning to be received.

The Council also approved at an earlier meeting that we should enter into a contract with a firm also used by Three Fires Council, Dini Partners, to do a Campaign Planning Study. In doing this study our Council will benefit from the groundwork already done for Three Fires Council, reducing costs to us. Discussions of this study are moving ahead.

Many of our Scouters have asked questions about the cost of developing the new facility and what funds will need to be raised. Preliminary estimates by National's architect John Stewart are that the build-out of the new camp will cost approximately \$ 8-10 million. We will have a much better idea about this later this spring when John completes his preliminary design and cost estimate. If it turns out that not all of these funds can be raised by our two Councils in the near-term, we will take a phased approach to development of the new Camp. A Joint Campaign Readiness Committee has already been formed from representatives of the two Councils to oversee the fund-raising and an initial meeting held.

Some Board members and other Scouters have expressed concern about where DPVC activities that have been carried out at Camp Tomo will now be hosted. First, the sale of Camp Tomo will not happen overnight. We expect that Camp Tomo will remain available, at a minimum, through the fall of this year. Secondly, TFC has already invited our Council to use facilities at the Ranch. Between these two facilities, any DPVC activities that have been previously carried out at Camp Tomo will continue to be supported as the sale and new Camp development move forward.

We believe the new Joint Venture Agreement will provide exciting new opportunities to encourage growing Cub Scout membership in both our Councils. In doing so, we are taking the best possible approach to enhancing our overall Scout membership and the vitality and success of the Scouting Program. We look forward to your support and participation as we move ahead.