

PRESS RELEASE

News Media Contacts:

Bill Seith 630-620-9100

Irene Szinavel 708-354-1111 Ext. 11

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2006

Des Plaines Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Kane County Forest Preserve District Reach Agreement on the Sale of Property Near Gilbert, Illinois, in a Key Step Toward Developing a New Cub Scout Adventure Camp

The Des Plaines Valley Council (DPVC) of the Boy Scouts of America, La Grange, IL, announced today that it has signed an agreement with the Kane County Forest Preserve District for the sale of the Council's approximately 260 acre Scout camp near Gilberts, IL, for about \$8.5 million.

The Scout Camp is named Tomo Chi Chi Knolls, recognizing one of the hilly property's most notable natural features. The heavily forested camp, which has been used by the Scouts for Cub and Boy Scout program activities and training, adjoins two existing Kane County forest preserves and is near a third. It was one of three camping properties owned by the DPVC, including two Boy Scout camps in Wisconsin.

"The Forest Preserve District is ecstatic to acquire the Camp Tomo property," stated Forest Preserve District Executive Director Monica A. Meyers. "Not only does this join existing preserves to create the largest system in the county, it brings with it amenities we look forward to utilizing such as trails and program facilities."

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“This sale is good for the Kane County Forest Preserve and the Boy Scouts,” said DPVC President William Seith. “The people of this area benefit because this sale preserves the land as public open space for future generations. Our youth are also big winners because as a result of the sale we will soon be able to offer them a first-class Cub Scout camping program and facilities close enough to home that parents can easily participate.”

“Although our Council has three camps,” explained Seith, “none is really well-suited to meeting the changing needs of our Cub Scout Camping program. We were failing to meet, as a Council, the goals of the Boy Scouts of America in Cub Scout camping. We were limited in terms of the number of Cub Scouts and parents that we could offer a camping program. This sale will now enable our Council to partner with the Three Fires Council, St. Charles, IL, in a first-of-a-kind Joint Venture to build a state-of-the-art Cub Scout Adventure Camp at their existing facility near Rochelle, IL, northwest of Chicago. We are really excited about the potential of this sale and our Joint Venture to greatly improve Cub Scout camping opportunities for both councils.”

Seith noted that the two councils combined serve youth in western Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and DeKalb Counties.

Seith explained the proceeds from the sale of the DPVC property in Kane County will be used, in part, to fund DVPC's participation in the Joint Venture. This will make DPVC a co-owner with the Three Fires Council of the approximately 500 acre property in Rochelle known as "The Ranch," where the new Cub Scout camp will be developed in phases over the next several years.

Through the Joint Venture, both Councils are launching a fund-raising campaign to develop the property. He noted that design of the new camp and cost estimates are currently being developed with expert assistance from the national Boy Scouts of America organization. A preliminary estimate sets the cost of developing the new facility at approximately \$10 million.

"We hope to begin offering an expanded and greatly enhanced Cub Scout camping program at the new facility in the near future," Seith said. "The sale announced today is a key step toward this goal for our Council."