To: Friends of Camping and Outdoor Adventure in Erie Shores Council

From: Ed Frey, Vice President, Program

The challenging times in which we find ourselves require that our decisions with respect to summer camping offerings be made in a highly disciplined manner which takes into consideration the input and concerns of all Stakeholders. As always, it is important that all decisions be made in an open and transparent manner.

The purpose of this update is to provide you with both: a.) a summary of the COVID-19 related factors which govern Erie Shores Council decisions with respect summer camping offerings in general; and, b.) the current status of Erie Shores Council plans and decisions regarding summer camp offerings at Camp Miakonda and Camp Frontier.

General COVID-19 Operational Considerations and Decision-Making Factors

Our focus is first and foremost on:

- Safety of all - youth, adult leaders, staff, parents and other visitors, and vendors
- Compliance with all Center for Disease Control, State of Ohio, State of Michigan, and Boy Scouts of America policies and procedures
- Communication and transparency with all stakeholders

The decision-making process for any activity must include, but is most certainly not limited to, answering these five questions:

- Is the activity safe? – Separate and distinct from regulatory requirements, do we feel our Scouting family will be safe if we conduct the activity?
- Are our policies, processes, and procedures in compliance with applicable laws and regulations?
- Is the activity financial practical?
- Will all necessary resources be available to conduct the activity? – e.g., staff, vendors, equipment, books, food, and program supplies.
- Presuming the first four questions can be answered in the affirmative, what is the sentiment of all stakeholders, including the public, with respect to camp offerings.


- No decisions have been made to date.
- While Camp Miakonda and Camp Frontier have a similar high-level mission, our two summer camps serve different age groups and use differing Scouting methods to attain their respective missions. As well, Camp Miakonda and Camp Frontier have different physical features and different facilities.
- Accordingly, there will be a separate plan for each camp.
• Literally hundreds of parents, leaders, and other stakeholders participated in comprehensive surveys conducted by each camp. This valuable feedback is critical to the planning process.

• The staff at each of our camps has been diligently planning for a summer camp experience which adheres to the above considerations for safety, takes into consideration the expressed wishes of our stakeholders, and is in keeping with the mission of each camp.

• A comprehensive update on the planning process, decision-making process, and the summer camp draft plans for each camp was presented to the Council Camping Committee on Thursday, April 30, 2020. District Camping Committee representatives will be able to report on these draft plans at their respective District May Roundtable meetings.

• It was not possible to finalize these plans in April as certain governmental policies and regulations, as well as certain recommendations from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), policies were not yet available.

• Information critical to the planning and decision-making process was released by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the State of Ohio, the State of Michigan, and the BSA on May 1 and May 4, 2020.

• Each camp staff is now formalizing their recommended plan for summer camp offerings. The two camp staffs are interacting frequently with the Scout Executive during the planning process.

• Once finalized, the recommended plans will first go to the Council President, the Council Commissioner, and the Scout Executive; these individuals are known collectively as the Council Key 3. Subject to input from the Council Key 3, the plans will then go to the Council Risk Management Committee and the Council Executive Committee. Subject to input from the Risk Management Committee and the Council Executive Committee, the plans will go to the public for input.

• Following a reasonable period of time for consideration and input, the two plans will then go to the Executive Board for discussion and possible approval.

If you have thoughts, suggestions or specific concerns which you would like to pass along to the Camp Miakonda staff or the Camp Frontier staff as they formulate their respective plans, they would very much like to hear from you. Please forward your Camp Miakonda suggestions to Brandon.Holt@scouting.org. Please forward your Camp Frontier suggestions to Stephen.Porter@scouting.org.

These are issues about which we all care very much. We are passionate about protecting our Scouting family. Within the context of safety, we are also committed to offering – as best we can - a fun-filled, quality learning experience to our youth. Time and time again, history has proven that the wisdom of the group exceeds the wisdom of any one person. By working together, in a Scout-like manner, we will arrive at the best course of action for the youth we are so blessed to serve.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Frey
Vice President, Program
Erie Shores Council – Boy Scouts of America