



MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL
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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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March 12, 2008

Dear Scouters,

As you are probably aware, our Council is facing a serious challenge in regards to preserving Camp Minsi as one of our summer camps. We need the help of all our Scout families to secure state funding to repair the Dam on Stillwater Lake, and I'm writing to update you on our situation and ask for your help.

In 2002, the State of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reclassified the Dam on Stillwater Lake as a B2 High Hazard Dam. As such, we are required to rehabilitate the Dam at a projected cost of \$3,000,000. If we do not implement the prescribed repairs, the DEP has stated that they will move to breach the Dam and drain the lake until the repairs are completed.

Through the help of State Representative Mario Scavello (R, Monroe County), \$2,500,000 has been placed in the State's Capital Budget for the repair of the Stillwater Lake Dam. However, the funds need to be appropriated through the state's R-CAP budget, a process which requires the approval of Governor Rendell, our state Senators, and state Representatives.

To help encourage our state officials to release these funds in time to meet the DEP's deadlines, we are asking each of our Scout families to send three letters – one each to the Governor, their respective state Senator, and state Representative. Our goal is to deliver 10,000 letters to Harrisburg this spring to show our elected leaders the broad support that saving Stillwater Lake has in our community.

If you have already written your letters, *thank you!* Please bring them to your March Roundtable or make sure they are delivered to the Scout office no later than April 2nd.

If you would like to write a letter in support of Camp Minsi, a sample letter is attached to this email with some letter writing tips and a list of our State legislators.

We have a number of Packs, Troops, and Crews who have already written over 150 letters each from their unit. What they did was simple...during their unit's meeting, a leader stood up and explained the challenge we face. (A sample presentation is attached to help you make this presentation. If you'd like, we can send this to you in PowerPoint.) They then asked all parents and Scouts to stop by at a table in the back of the room and take a minute to write their name and address on top of a stock letter. Many of these parents also wrote personal notes or personalized letters to their legislators.

We plan on taking a group of Scouts to Harrisburg this spring and carrying the letters in backpacks from office to office, asking our legislators to support the release of these funds.

The timetable we have is very short. Please help us **Save Stillwater Lake** and **Save Camp Minsi** by sending us your letters by April 2, 2008.

We appreciate your help!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas R. Harington".

Thomas R. Harington
Scout Executive

TRH/kms

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