

## Cedarlands Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What will be the future of Cedarlands Scout Reservation?**

A: At this time, our council president is in the process of following the direction of our strategic plan that was developed and approved in 2008-09 and will be appointing an asset utilization committee to recommend the best possible uses for our all our assets including Cedarlands Scout Reservation. Our immediate plan is to use Cedarlands as an outpost for high adventure with units being based out of Camp Russell’s base camp. Once the asset utilization committee is formed we will notify all of our volunteers and Scouts so they may offer ideas for consideration.

**Q: So, Cedarlands will be used as an outpost camp. What does that mean?**

A: Although we are still in the process of refining the final program. We expect that we will be able to offer most of the adventure that was planned at Cedarlands Scout Reservation with some exceptions. Units will check in at Camp Russell and receive an orientation (medical checks, swim tests, etc.) and, depending on their program choices, depart for a one day or multi-day adventure to Cedarlands or other destinations. The council will provide transportation. We anticipate having a choice of a one day, two day or three day outpost experience at Cedarlands offering the following choices:

### Cedarlands Outpost Experience Ideas

Mountain Climbing (O.A and Masters)	Hiking, biking, canoeing around Lake McRorie	Bass fishing expedition
Rock climbing and rappelling	Day of conservation and forestry	Geocaching and Orienteering
	Mountain biking	

Units and Scouts will be able to choose these (and possibly other activities) for a 1, 2 or 3 day Cedarlands experience. We anticipate that we will have a final program offering in place in the next 2 weeks.

In addition, we anticipate being able to offer canoeing and hiking treks similar to the ones listed in the 2012 Cedarlands Guidebook.

As you see, we will still use Cedarlands and the Adirondacks, in general, for ADVENTURE. The change...we are shifting the administrative duties and some basic programs to Camp Russell. By shifting these items we can eliminate duplicative programming and staffing and reallocate resources to such things as: additional program staff and additional program supplies that directly benefit our Scouts.

**Q: How can interested individuals get a resident camp program up and running at Cedarlands Scout Reservation for 2012 or in the future?**

A: As the executive committee voted to close the resident camp program at Cedarlands, any interested individuals or committees would have to formulate a plan for consideration. The plan would need to be presented to the camping, properties, finance and risk management committee for input and advice. The executive board and/or executive committee would then have the final approval on such a plan.

**Q: Can Camp Russell absorb units and Scouts who traditionally attended Cedarlands Scout Reservation?**

A: Yes. Camp Russell has a capacity of over 300 participants per week while, generally, having about 150-200 participants per week. In addition, the council is in the planning process of developing “wilderness campsites” on the south side of Route 28 in the “Conservation Area”.

*OUR VISION: We will prepare every youth for their future and ensure that integrity and personal responsibility are woven into the fabric of our community.*

**Q: Ok, so Camp Russell can serve more Scouts but what about program for older Scouts? Isn't Camp Russell's program more merit badge based?**

A: In order to serve the diverse needs of our Scouts, the program at Camp Russell will definitely evolve. For example: Camp Russell will be able to:

- Offer patrol cooking for every meal or any combination of meals that a unit desires.
- Offer a balance between **advancement** and **adventure**. At this time, we are developing a program that will offer merit badges in the morning and adventure in the afternoons. In addition, Camp Russell has always offered a solid "day-tripper" program.
- We will be able to offer a trek program based out of Camp Russell for those units who would like to choose from pre-made trek programs.

**Q: *Since we are in the process of hiring a new Scout Executive, is there a possibility that this decision will be changed?***

A: No. This decision was made by the Council's Executive Committee. The members of our Executive Board and Committee are responsible for the strategic direction of the council. As such, the future use of our assets, including Cedarlands, will be determined by the Executive Board/Committee. Our Scout Executive and other staff members are only responsible for the day-to-day operations of the council as determined by the Executive Board/Committee.

**Q: *What will the asset utilization committee consider?***

A: With respect to camp properties, the committee will be charged with determining the appropriate level of capacity in terms of facilities and program supplies (canoes, tents, bikes, etc.) while maximizing our ability to have a positive impact, with a quality program, on the largest number of youth members in light of our resources. One of the main topics that will be considered is capacity: Our camps have more capacity than we have Scouts. We have over 3,950 spots available for a week-long summer camp experience (615 Scouts x 6 weeks) for 3,100 Scouts. Even meeting the national average of 62% of our Scouting camping, we still have an excess capacity of over 2,000 camping spots.

**Q: *What will happen to the summer camp staff that worked at Cedarlands in the past?***

A: Each staff member who has submitted a 2012 application for summer employment at Cedarlands will be contacted to determine their interest in working at Camp Russell or as a outpost guide. As no one has been hired as a seasonal staff member, interested individuals will be interviewed and fairly considered for employment in a position that matches their abilities. We expect interviews to take place in mid-February.

**Q: *How will this decision affect the use of Cedarlands Scout Reservation during the "off-season"?***

A: Our decision will have NO impact on the "off-season" use of Cedarlands.

**Q: *Was this decision made based on the need for the council to balance its operating budget?***

A: Although our council has been able to balance its budget in the past several years, the impact of owning, operating and maintaining three programs and facilities was considered so as to prevent future problems. We studied the financial failure of several councils across the nation (including some in central New York) that were in a similar position (multiple camp properties) and concluded that in all cases, the councils failed due to the erosion of their assets under the strain of maintaining excess capacity. It is important to note that the loss of assets included financial assets as well as volunteer resources.