

News Release

For Immediate Release



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Girl Scouts of Western Washington Charts a Future for Camp Klahanee

**An opportunity for continued stewardship and property access
for Girl Scouts**

(Seattle, WA) December 7, 2022. Girl Scouts of Western Washington has announced the possible sale of Camp Klahanee.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington was approached by an Olympic Peninsula-based community organization regarding the purchase of this camp property. This organization intends to create historical and environmental education opportunities on the property with overnight accommodations available to visitors. The organization will remain anonymous since we are in preliminary discussions and a memorandum of understanding has not been finalized.

The council is exploring this sale as a stewardship opportunity. Through the sale agreement, an ongoing conservation easement would be established to protect the environmental resources at camp as well as guarantee that it never be clear cut or subdivided. This sale would result in the reopening of the camp for regional community use in a way that preserves the historical significance of Camp Klahanee for the greater Grays Harbor County community, tribal communities in the region, and Girl Scouts.

Safety remains a top priority for Girl Scouts of Western Washington. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the unfortunate closure of camp programming and property site use at all seven of Girl Scouts of Western Washington's camp properties. During this period of unuse, maintenance needs were discovered at all of these properties. Many of these identified needs have since been addressed, as seen by the reopening of six properties—Camp Evergreen, Camp Lyle McLeod, Camp River Ranch, Camp Robbinswold, Camp St. Albans, and Camp Towhee—in 2022. However, Camp Klahanee remains closed due to continued maintenance needs.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington purchased Camp Klahanee in 1957. The name Camp Klahanee was adopted in 1959—“Klahanee” translates to “friendship” in the Chinook language. Thanks to tremendous efforts from property site staff, Girl Scouts, and members of the community, in addition to donated materials by many local businesses and organizations, the property was transformed into a Girl Scout camp between 1959 and 1964. Notably, “Klahanee Day” on April 25-26, 1964, welcomed over 28 caregivers and more than 200 Girl Scouts to help complete maintenance projects before the camp’s opening. Camp Klahanee officially opened for Girl Scout property use in June 1964.

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About Girl Scouts of Western Washington

Girl Scouting builds youth of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. At Girl Scouts of Western Washington, our community is strong and our vision is clear. We invest in our community through Girl Scouts. Our community represents every race, ethnicity, income level, sexual orientation, ability, and religion; reflects a spectrum of gender identity; and connects across geographic locations. By focusing our attention on community members who are furthest from racial, economic, and social justice, Girl Scouts can be an instrument of change, promoting equitable outcomes for all. We wholly commit to taking action to grow as an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization so that, through Girl Scouts, our members are affirmed as they strive to make our community and world better.

We acknowledge that Girl Scouts of Western Washington’s many offices and properties in the Western Washington region occupy the ancestral lands of many indigenous communities. Though displaced, these people are the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. To say this is to acknowledge a debt to those who were here before us and to recognize our role as colonizers and our responsibility to respect and honor the intimate relationship Indigenous peoples have to this land. This acknowledgment is a small step toward reconciliation and improved relations with the tribal communities in our region. It’s done to remind us of the history that has shaped our present and will continue to shape our future. It also reminds us to be intentional in our relationship with the land and with the people indigenous to this region. Our council’s work needs to be informed by that history best serve our communities and realize our commitment to be an anti-racist organization.