



REVOLUTIONARY TRAILS COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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Dear Scouters,

At the end of my third month as your Scout Executive, I had the awesome experience of attending Beaver Weekend at Cedarlands Scout Reservation. I found out that a little slice of paradise clearly exists in Upstate New York. Our council is truly blessed to have three wonderful properties for year-round camping opportunities.

In addition to touring the areas around base camp, I had the pleasure of meeting over 45 dedicated volunteers who gave up their weekend to prepare Cedarlands for the forthcoming camping season. While fighting the rain and the notorious black flies, the work crew managed to: repair and opened water lines, restore phone service, install a new dishwasher, renovate storage areas, continue construction of tent platforms and outriggers, and clean various campsites. In addition to their blood, sweat, and tears (see black fly reference) these volunteers also donated over \$6,000 to provide new furniture and fixtures for McRorie Lodge, our new welcome center.
THANK YOU!

My trip was also educational. I'll have to admit that I have been reading a lot of material and having many conversations related to Cedarlands these past few weeks. Visiting camp allowed me to connect what I have learned with reality. I experienced firsthand the need for managing the health of the forest and learned how that management can help our council realize the original vision for Cedarlands.

I was really excited to see the area cleared for the new three sided climbing tower that's been erected and will be ready for use this summer. The site cleared to expand the rifle range and erect a new range building (coming summer 2009) is equally promising. When finished, our new welcome center will serve us well for many purposes. Not directly related to program, but needed improvements nonetheless, are an expanded parking area that better accommodates and directs traffic and improved roads, trails and drainage.

Our Camping and Properties committees have additional projects in mind such as improving and expanding current campsites to better accommodate the number of patrols attending with larger Troops, the creation of additional campsites, and the acquisition of new program supplies such as tents, platforms, and cots.

We have a tremendous responsibility in preparing our young people for their future and your continued involvement is important not only to camp facilities, but also to the programs, and most importantly to our young men and women. **Thank you for all that you do!**

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Garrett
Scout Executive & CEO

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