



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
GULF STREAM COUNCIL

Dear Scouting Family,

As you may already know, the Boy Scouts of America reached a settlement with abuse survivors in the amount of \$850 million so that victims can be fairly compensated. \$500 million dollars of this settlement is expected to come from local councils in the form of cash or properties. To be a part of the settlement and to receive the benefit of protection from any claim litigation relating to allegations of past abuse, the Gulf Stream Council must contribute \$1.1 million in either cash or property.

To enable our Council to participate in the settlement, the Gulf Stream Council board, after very lengthy deliberations over many months, made the difficult decision to *pledge* one of its locally owned properties, Camp Oklawaha. This pledge was made because the Council, in part due to operational losses and expenses incurred as a result of the COVID pandemic, simply does not have \$1.1 million in cash or liquid assets to meet this obligation. The GSC board explored multiple options for funding the \$1.1 million contribution, including incurring additional debt and expending other assets.

In our effort to save Camp Oklawaha for the continued use of our Scouts, the GSC board will attempt to raise the \$1.1 million in cash in lieu of contributing Camp Oklawaha. The objective is to continue providing multiple local camping options at one of our beloved camps for all Scouting families. This \$1.1 million dollar campaign is a one-time, small-window and separate campaign not to be confused with the vital annual Friends of Scouting campaign, the NextEra Pacesetters event, or any other fundraising effort held by the Gulf Stream Council. To be clear, this campaign is in addition to the forementioned and no funds from any of these other current programs will be used to fund this campaign. The Gulf Stream Council must raise these funds or contribute the camp before the end of 2021.

Camp Oklawaha is a beautiful scrub oak flatland in Sebastian, on the banks of the Sebastian River, which includes large and beautifully shaded campsites, a large parking lot near the front of camp, swimming lake, canoeing/kayaking, shooting sports range, amphitheater, chapel, and a large main pavilion. Camp Oklawaha is truly a gem that provides all the necessary facilities while giving the primitive aspect of camping that is perfect for everyone. Scouts in Gulf Stream Council are very privileged to have such a great facility so close to home and the GSC board is undertaking efforts to keep it for years of future use.

If you have a desire to participate in this effort, be on the lookout for the campaign details. On behalf of the thousands of youths we serve, we thank you for all you do for Scouting. For more information or questions, please contact a local GSC board member or email Terrence Hamilton at Terrence.Hamilton@scouting.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Donnelly
Council President

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