

# Girl Scouts of South Carolina - Mountains to Midlands

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHARTER

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Property Committee is to research and make recommendation to the Board of Directors on a strategic process that focuses on a long-range property plan that meets the council's future programmatic goals and interests of girls while balancing environmental issues with the council's ability to finance and maintain property assets.

This board-level governance committee is focused on effective property utilization and financial responsibility in meeting the identified quality programmatic needs of girls. Goals for properties are to be determined so that as many girls as possible can try new experiences and challenges, increase their self-confidence, and gain new skills which provide them personal growth and leadership development. The operation of these properties should be as efficient as possible. Because location, setting, and facilities exert major influences on the quality and scope of Girl Scout program, property considerations are essential to the effective delivery of Girl Scouting.

### **Purpose of Property in Girl Scouting**

Girl Scout councils use property to make it possible for girls to participate in special, creative, and educational experiences within a group setting that can help their mental, social, and physical growth. Girl Scouts property provides places for girls to have fun together under the supervision of caring and competent adults. Sometimes these places are camps, where girls have special opportunities to learn to appreciate and understand nature. In other cases they are sites chosen for their special relevance to girls' particular needs – such as drop-in centers for urban dwellers, gymnasiums, or athletic fields.

### **Membership and Organization**

The Property Committee shall be an 'ad hoc', or temporary organizational committee and shall consist of:

- Property Committee Chair who shall be appointed by the Board Chair.
- Committee members will include:
  - a minimum of three members from the Board of Directors
  - a minimum of three 'experts' from the community at large
  - a minimum of three current volunteers
  - a minimum of three volunteers with in-depth knowledge about the sites and history of the three previous councils
  - and any members of the community who are appointed by the Finance Committee Chair with input from the CEO, the Governance Committee, and the Board Chair.
  - The Board Chair and CEO serve as ex-officio members.
- The Vice President/COO, Indirect Services shall serve as staff support to the committee without privilege of vote. Additional staff, including the Director of Program and Director of Facilities and Property, will assist the committee without privilege of vote.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The work of the committee revolves around the following major areas.

1. Gather information for analysis.
  - Review council property portfolio and visit site/s.
  - Assess usage to capacity by site based on provided data and best practice comparatives.
  - Understand financial income and expenditures by site against program goals.
  - Understand the councils' current and potential financial resource capabilities.
2. Ensure that the process is based on accurate and objective community and constituency input.
  - Work with outside expert who can garner input, assess, and make recommendations about each of the sites based on various constituency input.
  - Utilize research trends, benchmarking, evaluation, and feedback to formulate recommendation.
3. Ensure that strategies are congruent with corporate plans and goals.
  - Meet GSUSA's safety and security guidelines, program standards, and camping standards.
  - Documented process to show objectivity and accountability to reliable data.
4. Ensure recommendation to the board is developed and includes strategic alternative and prioritized recommendations.
  - Propose strategic alternative and prioritized recommendations to the board in the form of a combined property plan. The recommendations should be based on the programmatic input of the surveyed constituencies and include, as relevant, acquisitions, future development, maintenance activities and sustainability, policy development, and divestment.

## **Plan of Work and Member Time Commitment**

The Property Committee meetings will be held over a 9-12 month period of time. It is anticipated that 3-6 large group meetings will be scheduled during this timeframe in addition to site visits. The calendar for regular meetings will be confirmed as a group after receipt of service proposal bids (RFP's). However, an anticipated overview of the plan of work includes:

## **Board Policies/Standards Committee is Responsible for Monitoring**

Monitor all board policies regarding property, as well as any Council Performance Assessment (CPA) indicators of financial solvency, best practices, or GSUSA property demographic research.

Members of the Property Committee must commit to the stated mission and principles of the Girl Scouts. Members should remain informed of issues by either attending meetings or participating in other scheduled communications. Adherence to a strict confidentiality of work agreement is expected of each member.