

NYSEA CAMP COMMITTEE INFORMATION

At the 2013 Spring Convention, the NYSEA Advisory Board appointed a committee to pursue the establishment of a State Elks Camp of Kids, (both Elk family and non Elk related). Members at that time included PSP Rick Wunder, Chair, PSP's Dan Capella and Charlie Noonan, as well as State Treasurer, Chris Maddock, and State Trustee Scott Hirst. At the Fall Conference in 2014, PSP Mike Bloss and PDD Mel Oliveira were added.

Initial Meeting Agreements by Committee June 20, 2013,

Location Property should be located in the central area of the state, between Herkimer and Syracuse, 30 to 40 miles north or south of the state thruway. **Rationale**-the price of property in this area is relatively cheap in comparison to that in other parts of the state. Also, there are a significant number of lodges and general population located within a 3 hour radius that extends from Albany to Buffalo and from Northern New York to Binghamton.

Purpose of the Camp In a previous attempt to establish a camp, the purchase of property centered upon the establishment of a camp for handicapped children. It was decided that this would be too difficult due to the many medical requirements, as well as state and federal laws, and the cost of necessary staff. Use of our camp by handicapped children could be done under the supervision of organizations such as Enable, or United Cerebral Palsy of NY by having them assume full responsibility for staff, activities, insurance etc. for specified periods of time. Additionally, the property could become home to the soccer shoot-out finals, a headquarters for the NYSEA, be used for Elk and non-Elk meetings, and serve as a get-away area for Elks, Veterans and non-Elks during the year. Other purposes could also be pursued.

Type of property Ideally, the property in question should include flat areas for ball fields, hills, a stream/pond, woods, hiking areas, and be easily accessible by all who visit.

Time Table The committee felt it would be wise to pursue a course of action that would start slowly and proceed cautiously.

- **To date, 16 official committee meetings have taken place at Oswego Lodge, Liverpool Lodge, Utica Lodge, Jerry Shook's Homecoming and at Fall Conferences and Spring Conventions.**
- **On Site Visitations have numbered twelve and have included scout camps, private properties and a visit to the Vermont State Elks Camp near Middlebury. Other properties have also been suggested and reviewed.**

Property being Considered

The committee has visited the Girls Scout Camp, Camp Near Wilderness, nine miles off Interstate Route 81, off the Parrish exit. It is approximately 180 acres, including North Pond. The property borders nearly 400 acres of New York State Property that is accessible, has well water, electricity, one very large flat area to be used for ball fields and a recreational vehicle camping area, a road system, a few wooden structures, and a large meeting building. The drainage is good, and a meeting with the two town supervisors within whose jurisdiction the camp is located was very positive in nature.

Current Status---The committee met on 8/5/15 and agreed that this property best meets our needs and agreed to submit a Conditional Contract in the amount of \$379,900. The asking price is \$429,000. A vote will be taken at our 2015 NYSEA Fall Conference.