

## **GSSEM Camps, Spring/Summer 2010**

In an effort to offer our members a high-quality experience while using our resources responsibly, we have been forced to make some very challenging decisions about our 2010 offerings. This means there will be some wonderful new opportunities available as well as the elimination of some options. GSSEM's commitment to outdoor experiences remains steadfast despite our need to respond to economic challenges by changing programming, adjusting price structures, and eliminating staff positions.

These spring/summer offerings reflect the operational realities of GSSEM in 2010. The current use of Council properties should not be viewed as a predictor of future development/divestment. The Long Range Property Planning Project is ongoing and will present recommendations to the Board of Directors in 2010.

**Camp Hawthorn Hollow** will offer troop camping year-round, with staff-led activities available. New this spring: All-inclusive weekends will include lodging, meals, and activities for troops, with no group-size minimum. All-inclusive weekends will be held the third weekend of each month, with the exception of during summer camp and peak months.

During the summer, Camp Hawthorn Hollow will host troop events and day camp in addition to resident camp. Resident camp will focus on a general camp experience featuring free-choice activities throughout each day. Resident campers will also have the option to attend "add-on" programs/field trips to add variety to the camp experience.

**Camp Innisfree** will offer troop camping year-round, with staff-led activities available. New this spring at Innisfree Equestrian Center: Trail rides for experienced riders. We will also be hosting all-day events for troops at the Equestrian Center. Stay tuned for more details!

During the summer, Innisfree will hold resident camp, offering specialized programs in aquatics, equestrian, and high adventure (ropes, mountain biking, etc.). Older campers will find the widest range of options at Innisfree, including 4 weeks of camp for grades 6 and up only! Troop camping will also be available during the summer.

**The Timbers** will continue to offer troop camping year round. Unfortunately, due to low year-round use and the small number of GSSEM summer campers, we cannot continue running resident camp, adventure program, and weekend events as we have in the past. On January 12, 2010, a motion by the GSSEM Board of Directors supported discontinuing these programs. After March 1, all weekend events offered by GSSEM will be suspended. There will be no resident camp at The Timbers in 2010, though several of the most popular options will be available out of Camp Innisfree. The Timbers has long been recognized for excellence in programming, and that expertise and enthusiasm is now evident at all GSSEM camps.

**Camp O'Fair Winds and Playfair Program Center** will offer troop camping to small groups. Troop camping at these sites is contingent upon sufficient reservations. GSSEM reserves the right to re-accommodate groups at other Council properties if there is not enough interest to warrant opening facilities for the season. This determination will be made for the summer months based on reservations/payments-in-full received by April 15, 2010.

**Camp Metamora** will remain in its idled state.

**If you have any questions about GSSEM camps, please contact Abby Wattenberg, Director of Camp Operations, at 810-720-9049 or [awattenberg@gssem.org](mailto:awattenberg@gssem.org)**