

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Girl Scouts of Alaska****Federal Tax ID: 926000179****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

# Girl Scouts of Alaska - Edmonds Lake Singing Hills Facility Reconstruction

**State Funding Requested: \$1,613,898****House District:** Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Rebuild cabin on Edmonds Lake that was destroyed in 2009 by arson. Girl Scouts of Alaska plans to better utilize our Chugiak property for year-round Girl Scout leadership programming.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost: \$3,070,252

Funding Already Secured: (\$581,824)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$1,613,898)

Project Deficit: \$874,530

*Funding Details:*

*Pro-bono design, surveying, geo-technical investigation and site planning are secured. The master plan is complete. In 2011 the Alaska State Legislature gave \$500,000. Girl Scouts of Alaska has \$581,824 in hand, and is committed to raising the \$874,530 needed for project completion.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Girl Scouts of Alaska serves over 6,000 girls a year, which is more than 11% of all girls. We serve more than 90 communities directly, 37% of which are off the road system. The Singing Hills facility will serve girls from all over the state with leadership; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and outdoor programs.

Girls who want to make the world a better place join Girl Scouts of Alaska for new experiences and adventure. Girl Scouts of Alaska recently conducted surveys and focus groups with girls across Alaska (Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts). Girls affirmed for us that they want meaningful programs -- especially travel, outdoor activities and service projects, and flexible ways to participate.

**SINGING HILLS**

Girl Scouts of Alaska has owned a 40 acre parcel on Edmonds Lake in Chugiak since the early sixties. In 2009, the primary structure on the property was burned to the ground in an act of arson. Recognizing the need to meet long range objectives of GSAK Strategic Priorities, to replace the lost cabin with an appropriate new facility, and to better utilize the property for program delivery to more girls, GSAK began the development of a long range plan to improve Camp Singing Hills.

The need for a main building was the original focus for the long range development. RIM First People/RIM Architects worked with GSAK to develop a concept design and prepared a fundraising packet. GSAK successfully secured a \$500,000

legislative grant in the 2011 legislative session. RIM First People/RIM Architects (RIM) conducted a number of interviews with Girl Scouts and Leaders at 2011 Encampment and from that expanded the initial concept and scope, including some visioning of full site needs.

As GSAK considered the allocation of its financial and operational resources, it became apparent that a more detailed look at building and site needs was required. With grant funds, GSAK has been working with RIM and USKH Inc. to develop a more holistic concept that better matched needs.

#### Science and Outdoors Center

Girl Scouts' proposed facility at Singing Hills would serve as a program and leadership development center for girls from across the state to work together to discover, connect, and take action. Outdoor education and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) will be the program focuses for the Singing Hills facility. Strides have been made, but men still outnumber women (73 percent vs 27 percent) in overall employment in science and engineering. Lack of encouragement in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) subjects in school, salary differences and bias in hiring and advancement and life/work balance are some of the challenges women face in these fields. That's why Girl Scouts of Alaska puts an emphasis on science in ways that girls want to receive it. Girl Scouts of Alaska hosts several science events a month and for 6 months of the year we train and support volunteer coaches for Girl Scouts Robotics teams as they team-build, learn, and compete in Lego robotics challenges. Girl Scouts has the expertise to help girls succeed in STEM and build skills in the outdoors. What we lack is the facility to deliver regular programming for girls.

#### Day Camp

Singing Hills will host Girl Scouts Day Camp. Our day campers include multiple ethnicity groups, a range of socio-economic backgrounds and wide ranging abilities. Girl Scouts of Alaska believes that girls benefit emotionally, socially, physically, and spiritually from spending time in close contact with the natural world. This critical connection is essential to healthy development. In addition to connecting with the outdoors, girls learn about themselves and how to work with others. Guided by trained staff, campers learn communication skills, build conflict, resolution skills, and practice group decision making. We use hands-on activities to teach girls to be self-reliant, to value themselves, and stand up for their beliefs while learning to respect differences in others. Girls put these skills into action as they learn how to become strong respectful leaders of their own lives.

#### Troop Camp, Training & Retreat Center

Girls from the Elmendorf, Ft. Richardson, Chugiak, Peters Creek, and Eagle River areas are the most affected by the arson property loss. The Singing Hills troop camp was used by troops serving girls from kindergarten to seniors in high school, and had been in service since the 1960's. The proposed Singing Hills facility will have the capacity to host several troops of girls and chaperones on a reservation basis. Girl Scouts of Alaska now serves most of the state, from the 63rd parallel south and partners with the northern Girl Scouts. As such, we encourage intra-state exchange and travel between girls of rural and urban communities. Girl Scouts will also use the facility for our statewide Adult Learning Summit for volunteers and Board of Directors and membership meetings, trainings, and retreats, avoiding expensive hotel lodging. When the facility is not in use by Girl Scouts, it will be available to rent to other non-profit user groups as a residential retreat and training center.

#### PROCESS

RIM and USKH Inc. conducted workshops with an Advisory Group composed of Girl Scout leaders, board members, volunteers, camp counselors, and camp staff in order to understand how Camp Singing Hills works, how it needs to work, and where opportunities and constraints existed. The consultants conducted a site analysis and received geotechnical support from Golder Associates and survey support from Slana Surveys. From that they developed base maps to serve as

the basis for planning. The planning effort evaluated various levels of development, based on the capacity of the site to absorb development. Also, the planning effort considered issues such as sustainability, maintenance, security, and larger area-wide Girl Scout needs. Further, the planning effort needed to ensure that Camp Singing Hills development recognized the following elements of the Strategic Plan:

- Camp Singing Hills should provide a premier leadership experience
- GSAK's focus is on our customer, the 5-17 year old girl
- GSAK needs to diversify its funding and population
- GSAK needs to offer "new experiences and adventure"
- GSAK needs to recognize the diverse programs, specifically addressing "Pathways"
- GSAK needs to focus on the diversity of the girls and promote cultural competency

With the Strategic Plan in mind the Advisory Group developed consensus regarding how the property should operate and what elements and activities should be present on site:

- Most drop off should occur on the road
- There should be drop off and service access opportunities to the new building
- There should be parking to serve staff and a limited number of guests
- There should be a space near the main building for morning organization/assembling of the day campers, and for informal or semi-structured play
- There should be a location for a "gateway" to the site but this should not be a formal permanent structure
- There should be a ceremonial space for opening and closing ceremonies, flag ceremonies, and for skits/singing
- An amphitheater may be appropriate with consideration of weather protection
- There should be opportunities for GSAK leader gathering and training
- There should be a graduated level of service for campsites with a higher level of service intended to meet the needs of younger children and campsites that with a lower level of service that are targeted to older Girl Scouts with abilities to meet higher levels of challenge
- The higher level of service should have accessible trails, with campsites that are fully accessible.
- The lower level of service should offer a higher level of challenge with narrower trails and "Leave No Trace" campsites
- Camp sites should have firepits
- Improvements should address habitat improvement and protection at the lake edge
- Boat/kayak storage is needed

With respect to the main building, the following was established:

- We should look at a range of service levels that address:
  - oTroop needs
  - oProgram events, series, and day camp delivery needs
  - oLeader Training needs
  - oConference/Corporate/Community Retreat requirements
- The range of service should consider the incremental cost of each level of service relative to sustainability and other needs identified and discussed above
- Rest rooms are required
- Sleeping lofts should be available with room for girls and staff/supervision
- Kitchen facilities will be needed
- Office space for GSAK program staff is very desirable

The planners and architects presented a range of alternatives that reviewed square footages of the main building and potential cabins, arrangements of facilities, and costs associated with development and maintenance of the facilities. After a presentation of the alternatives, discussion among the Advisory Group, and questions and answers from the consultants, the Advisory Group offered the following recommendations:

- The camp should be designed to address the needs of troops, program series' and event delivery, GSAK training, and opportunities for retreats and conferences that would benefit from the Singing Hills setting and facilities.
  - Including the retreat and conference capabilities is only a minimal additional square footage to the needs of the troops and GSAK training thus should provide opportunities for revenue generation, though a business plan needs to be developed for this opportunity
  - The entry road should provide a circular turnaround in front of the building, facilitating disabled access, drop off in inclement weather, and service/unloading to the building.
- Parking should be located on the entry road, not in an isolated lot. This will facilitate security, reduce construction costs, limit disturbance to the forest, and provide a "good neighbor" to adjacent properties by moving parking away from their homes. A path from the parking lot to the main building should be built to minimize risk
- Sleeping quarters in cabins should be provided in a "village" layout, consolidated near the main building with development of the quarters to be in an "earth-friendly" manner, maintaining trees and being designed to control access into the forest. The location would be near, or in the proximity of "Platform 9-3/4."
  - A boat house and earth-friendly shoreline development should be provided at the current location of Whale Camp.
  - An ADA accessible trail should connect a series of "hardened", higher level of service camp sites on an inner circle of trails, 3'-5' wide, gravel surfaced.
  - The hardened campsites should include wood edging that restrains the area of use/impact. The site itself should include a gravel surface to provide accessibility, a fire pit, and area for picnic table and tent shelter.
  - The lower level of service campsites would include a trail that would be approximately 1' to 2' wide, without removal of tree roots or vegetation, other than what occurs through casual use. Campsites would be non-designated, constrained generally within specific areas, with "Leave No Trace" principles of camping employed.
  - An amphitheater constructed of wood timbers and gravel backfill would face a stage that could be used for plays, sing-alongs, or ceremonies. The site would include a flag, and a temporary cover that could be raised/lowered/extended depending on the weather.

### Project Timeline:

Master Plan, complete  
Build, Summer 2013

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Girl Scouts of Alaska

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Marge Stoneking  
Title: CEO  
Address: 3911 Turnagain Blvd. East  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
Phone Number: (907)575-7116  
Email: mstoneking@girlscoutsalaska.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No









## *Inspiring girls to lead in...*

- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- Kodiak
- Aleutian Chain
- Pribilof Islands
- Prince William Sound
- Copper Valley
- Anchorage Bowl
- Bristol Bay
- Southeast Alaska
- Matanuska-Susitna Valley
- Kenai Peninsula



Over **6,000** girl members  
Over **11%** of all girls in the council territory  
**37%** live off the road system  
**1,500** adult volunteers

[girlscoutsalaska.org](http://girlscoutsalaska.org)

800.478.7448





## Communities Served

Akiak	Kwigillingok
Alakanuk	Manokotak
Anchor Point	Marshall
Anchorage	McGrath
Aniak	Metlakatla
Angoon	Moose Pass
Bethel	Mountain Village
Big Lake	Napakiaik
Chefornak	Newhalen
Chevak	Newtok
Chuathbaluk	New Stuyahok
Chugiak	Nikiski
Clark's Point	Nondalton
Cordova	Nunapitchuk
Coffman Cove	Palmer
Craig	Petersburg
Dillingham	Pilot Station
Eagle River	Quinhagak
Elmer	Russian Mission
Emmonak	Sand Point
Ft. Richardson	Saxman
Girdwood	Scammon Bay
Glennallen	Seward
Goodnews Bay	Sitka
Gustavus	Skagway
Homer	Soldotna
Hoonah	St. Mary's
Hooper Bay	Sterling
Houston	Sutton
Iliamna	Talkeetna
Juneau	Thorne Bay
Kake	Togiak
Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Kasigluk	Tuntutuliak
Kasilof	Tununak
Kenai	Unalaska
Ketchikan	Valdez
Klawock	Ward Cove
Kodiak	Wasilla
Kongiganak	Willow
Kotlik	Wrangell
Kwethluk	Yakutat



***Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.***



## STEM Programs

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

- Women of Science & Technology Day  
Bethel, Sitka, Dillingham, Juneau  
Kodiak, Soldotna, Ketchikan, Anchorage,  
Mat-Su
- Galileo Scopes, Astronomy
- All-Girl Lego Robotics Teams

## Camp Programs

**Camp Togowoods** in the  
Mat-Su Valley

**Camp Featherwinds** in  
Southeast Alaska

**Camp Kenai Lake**

**Day camps** in over 30  
communities in  
Southeast, Bristol Bay,  
Southcentral and  
the YK Delta

**Encampment** is a  
biennial statewide  
event at the Palmer  
Fairgrounds



Dear House Finance Committee,

I respectfully ask that you include the Girl Scouts of Alaska grant funding for \$1,700,000 to begin rebuilding the Singing Hills facility in Chugiak when you sign the Alaska budget into law.

As a resident of Eagle River, former Girl Scout, Girl Scout volunteer, Girl Scout Staff member and mother to three current girl scouts I firmly believe that the rebuilding of Camp Singing Hills would be extremely beneficial to the lives of the girls throughout Alaska. Our girls need a safe place that they can explore the outdoors in an environment that they can call their own. There are currently over 400 girls in the Eagle River/Chugiak Service Unit who ask me why they don't have a special place to visit and camp. Most of them know the history of Singing Hills and are still saddened that some teens made a bad decision when they committed arson there, leaving the Girl Scouts in Eagle River/Chugiak no safe place, close to home, where they could have their first Girl Scout outdoor experience.

Many of these girls have brothers or cousins who share wonderful camp stories about their exploits at the Boy Scout camps across the lake. More than anything, I would love to have a similar location for girls to develop their own stories. My middle daughter, Caroline is 11 years old. Her troop was the last troop to camp out at Singing Hills before the fire. Those 14 girls were so excited to be in that one room cabin, huddled close due to cool weather and space constraints. I cannot relay how beneficial that was to have a place close to home that the girls could still feel close to parents that they may have never been away from in the past. A ten minute drive still made it feel that mom and dad weren't really that far away and empowered the girls to expand their horizons and spread their wings.

My youngest daughter Caitlin, a Kindergartner at Alpenglw Elementary School here in Eagle River, wanted me to let you know that this summer's day camp experience at Singing Hills was her favorite experience of the summer. She learned to canoe, build shelters and make so many new friends that she is always running into someone from camp when we are out and about in Eagle River. She was so proud to arrive at camp each morning with her sisters and friends and to spend the day learning new things.

My oldest daughter, Maddie, a freshman at Eagle River High School, was so proud to help develop leadership skills while working with these younger girls as a program aide. The time she spent at Singing Hills this summer wasn't just about the week she spent singing songs, playing games and connecting with the other girls. It was about learning how her actions can make a difference to those around her. She may have spent a couple of weeks learning about Girl Scout leadership, but she takes with her the skills of a lifetime. The confidence her camp time gave her has prompted her to promote Special Olympics at her high school and to volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters as well. She tells me that she wants to make a difference, and what she learns through Girl Scouts encourages her to do this.

Many of the new leaders and volunteers that I recruit and work with tell me that their jobs of helping the girls experience Girl Scouts would be so much better if they had a place where the girls could hold meetings, camp and enjoy outdoor activities closer to home. I know this to be a fact concerning my own daughters, I want to send them to camp where they are free to explore and learn in an environment that is safe and encourages them to do so.



The purpose of this money is to build a multi-purpose facility in which to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This Girl Scout program helps girls discover the leader in themselves. They develop a strong sense of self, develop positive values, gain practical life skills, seek challenges in the world, and develop critical thinking. A facility like that proposed by our property committee will also help girls connect with other girls. They develop healthy relationships, promote cooperation and team building, can resolve conflicts, advance diversity in a multicultural world, and feel connected to their communities, locally and globally. Finally, this experience encourages girls to take action, to make the world a better place. Girls in Girl Scouts can identify community needs, are resourceful problem solvers, advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally, educate and inspire others to act, and feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

Let this letter act as a testament to how those girls take action in their communities. My daughters and entire family stand behind me as I write this letter for support. They have all experienced camp Singing Hills in the past and want to make it part of our future. My daughters have all asked to have their names added to this letter so that they can advocate for themselves and their friends. I hope that when the budget is announced, they will be proud to say that they made a difference in their community by sending this letter.

Sincerely,

Ann, Maddie, Caroline, and Caitlin Corbett

Thank you for helping us to continue to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Ann Corbett  
Member Services Specialist  
Girl Scouts of Alaska  
907-273-0314  
Fax: 907-243-4819  
[acorbett@girlscoutsalaska.org](mailto:acorbett@girlscoutsalaska.org)

Terry O. Dittman  
2644 Brookstone Loop  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
907.345.2018 [terryrh@aol.com](mailto:terryrh@aol.com)

January 6, 2012

The Honorable Anna Fairclough  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Fairclough,

First of all, I want to tell you that I appreciate the sacrifice you are making to serve in the Legislature! I know, from many years of observing and working with members of our community (and you,) it is a thankless job, and involves many, many unseen hours of dedication and hard work. Second, I am in support of the Girls Scout's request for \$1.7 million dollars to restore the Singing Hills camp facilities that were destroyed by fire.

I am a 46 year Alaska resident, the mother of 4 and grandmother of 9½! I was a Girl Scout as a young girl, and a Girls Scouts leader for 13 years in Anchorage. My main focus was teaching young teenage girls (age 14-18) how to lead, be responsible adults, explore new ideas, to make decisions, live in the wild and; help each girl in my charge become the best person she could be. Our GS Troop #83 took on incredible projects - one was restoring the historic Iditarod trail Crow Pass section from Girdwood to Eagle River - approximately 28 miles! This project took several years and a tremendous amount of training, planning and fund-raising. These skills were an important part of the training... Also part of the training was the proper way to clear a trail, locate an old trail, establish a succinct route, how to preserve the wild, and still allow the hiker/camper to enjoy the wilderness at our doorstep in the Chugach State Park. We were able to do this historic project because we prepared. We trained hard, learned the required skills, and developed a doable plan that was accepted by the State Park administration. Most of the training for this took place at Singing Hills. We were able to create some small trails, locate old/moose trails, practice building bridges and many other tasks right there throughout the property at Singing Hills; and in the process learned the above mentioned skills.

Singing Hills is a fantastic little place. It works for girls of all ages, and is important to the "building of strong minds and bodies," as they say. Girls come from all over to attend events and training at Singing Hills. I believe this is a very worthwhile and important asset of our community, and hope you are able to secure funds to return it to usefulness.

I can say that one of the most rewarding experiences as a volunteer in my community is when I am working with our youth! There is nothing more fulfilling to a teenager than being given real, important and meaningful decisions to make - I consider it a privilege to be with them. Training at Singing Hills is such a place for building strong citizens whether they be young, middle size or old!

Sincerely,



Terry O. Dittman, Girl Scout  
Former Girl Scout Leader, Troop #83



*Cynthia Juettner*  
*19424 Middleton Loop*  
*Eagle River, AK 99577*  
*Phone: (907) 696-8556*

January 13, 2012

Representative Anna Fairclough  
State Capitol Room 501  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Grant for funding for Camp Singing Hills

Dear Representative Fairclough:

I am writing to you in support of the request by Girl Scouts of Alaska for funding to continue the development of the Girl Scout facility at Camp Singing Hills. I was a Girl Scout when I attended Chugiak Elementary School and I attended Camp Singing Hills in the mid 1980's. I have very fond memories of my experiences at day camp. I was really tickled when my 6 year old daughter had the opportunity to attend day camp at Singing Hills this past summer. She had wonderful stories to tell me about all of the adventures she had there.

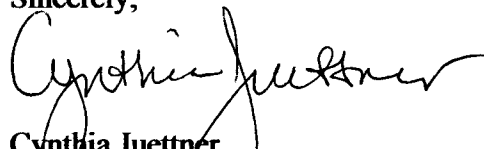
Although my daughter had a blast last summer at day camp, I was a bit disappointed that the facilities there were so basic. It had not changed in 25+ years since I had been there. In fact, since the cabin there had burned down, there were even less facilities than when I was there as a girl. Singing Hills is such a wonderful site, full of so much potential to make it a really special outdoor recreation place for not only Girl Scouts, but for our whole community to enjoy. I'm pleased to see that the State of Alaska provided funds to the camp last year, and that a Master Plan for the site has been completed. I would love to see the development of camp continue and funding from the State of Alaska would ensure that the camp would continue to grow.

At Singing Hills I learned about many important life lessons such as being a good friend, learning about the outdoors, and being active. I'm so glad that my daughter has the opportunity to experience Singing Hills and learn about all things that a camp like it has to offer.

I hope you will consider funding a grant to Girl Scouts of Alaska to continue building Singing Hills and to make it even better than it was before, for a new generation of young women to enjoy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Juettner

February 11, 2010

Representative Anna Fairclough  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough:

I am writing to you in support of the request by Girl Scouts of Alaska for a designated legislative grant to rebuild our cabin at Singing Hills. I have been a leader in the Eagle River/Chugiak area for 10 years. It would be wonderful to have a facility with running water, a full kitchen, and the capacity for a group of 20-30 girls and adults to spend the night. I have great memories of my time at Singing Hills and I am excited that Girl Scouts of Alaska is thinking ahead and making plans for a facility that will be available to all the girls that we serve with Girl Scouts!

Many of the girls I have worked with do not have a background in outdoor skills and many have never been camping in the winter. Outdoor activities and appreciation for our wilderness are both long-held Girl Scouting traditions as well as part of our way of life in Alaska. A camp where girls can be introduced to these skills in a supportive environment is ideal and a much-needed addition to recreational opportunities in this area. A well planned building and site plan will allow for girls who might otherwise not experience a wilderness setting: those who are new to Alaska and those who experience medical or physical restrictions that can limit their opportunities.

Our troop used the old Singing Hills facilities for overnight trips, weekend skills training experiences and summer day camp. Camp is an ideal place to talk to our girls about important topics like making good choices, planning for the future and living a healthy lifestyle. When so many activities and distractions compete for their attention, camp is a place where we can really connect together and offer girls the chance to talk openly in a supportive atmosphere. Our favorite activity at Singing Hills is a "kick off" weekend in the fall to plan for the upcoming scout year and bond over campfires, hiking through the woods and around the lake and giggling while making s'mores.



Singing Hills Camp is a place for memories to be made and shared! With the Alaska weather, it was so wonderful to have a camping location that had a building to use in the winter. The old cabin was small and limited how many girls we could accommodate at a time. Also it was hard to heat and stay warm in during the coldest winter nights. A larger facility with a better heating system (a better wood stove), water on site and latrines would make a huge difference to the quality of the service we can provide girls and young women.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caty Justis  
Girl Scout Leader, Troop 192

Hello to all of the attending Legislators,

I am a Restorative Justice Trainer for the Division of Juvenile Justice and a Juvenile Justice Officer at the Mat-Su Youth Facility. I live in Chugiak. I am writing to you as an advocate for victim's rights and I believe you can do something for a crime victim that will benefit the whole community of Chugiak.

Restorative Justice is a philosophy that realizes the social impact of crime. If one person is a victim the ripple effect can affect all of us. When a community building is the subject of arson the whole community suffers. The case I am referring to is the lodge at Singing Hills Girl Scout Camp. This lodge burned to the ground and the arsonist has not been caught. The person or persons who perpetrated this crime didn't know the value of this building. Not the cost of the building, but the true value of a community meeting place. A community comes together to eat, to celebrate, to learn and to bond. They also come together to grieve and to work. We were shocked to realize that this resource had been taken from us. We are saddened that this happened in our area. Now we are ready to work to repair the harm that has been done to the community in general, and specifically, to the generations of Girl Scouts that will miss out on the benefits of Singing Hills Girl Scout Camp if it is not rebuilt.

Maybe you were a Scout in your youth. I'm sure you know someone who has been a Scout. In my profession I am constantly running into people who have fond memories of the scouting experience. Where else can you, as a child, take a hike into the woods, practice first aid and end up carrying your fellow camper out on a stretcher you made from two branches and three wind breakers?

I'm sure you know some Girl Scouts who are near and dear to you. I am a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts. My daughters Gillian and Morgan achieved the highest level in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award, and are both assistant Girl Scout Leaders. Now, the next generation of little girls is growing up and they will need a place in Chugiak. Not fifty miles away in someone else's community. A place that is close enough so access is not a burden on parents who are struggling to provide affordable activities for their girls. A place in our backyard that is still remote enough to provide a wilderness experience. We need place large enough to accommodate the whole service unit. Last year over 300 parents and their Girl Scouts attended a ceremony at the Townsquare Park. Luckily, the weather was nice enough to hold this event outdoors. It is our dream to have a place for large gatherings that would not be contingent on the weather. A place similar to some of the buildings the Boy Scouts have at Camp Gorsuch. Meeting rooms with kitchen facilities are not too much to ask for a growing community like ours.



The Girl Scout Council would like to have a resource not just for the girls but for all of Eagle River and the Chugiak area. A sizable lodge at Singing Hills could be used for team building events for our local businesses as well as a Girl Scout meeting hall. I am sure you can be an effective advocate for this cause. I look forward to hearing from you about this proposal. And, as you know, the Girl Scouts are such an asset to our State we can't afford to ignore their occasional need.

Thank you for your support,

Lori Fuller

**Girl Scouts of Alaska, Troop 929**  
11068 Kaskanak Dr., Eagle River, AK 99577  
907-694-9424 [debra@gilley.org](mailto:debra@gilley.org)

February 11, 2010

Representative Anna Fairclough  
State Capitol Room 515  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough:

I am writing to you in support of the request by Girl Scouts of Alaska for a designated legislative grant to rebuild our cabin at Singing Hills. I have been a Girl Scout leader in Eagle River for four years since moving to Alaska. In total I have been a Girl Scout for 20 years: 8 years as a girl and 12 years as a leader. Being a part of this fine organization has given me skills and memories to last a lifetime, and many of those memories were made at camp. To have a facility in Eagle River with running water, a full kitchen, and the capacity for a group of 20-30 girls and adults to spend the night would be a well-used facility. My current troop has 17 fourth grade girls, one high school senior who acts as an aid, myself, and my co-leaders. We are a very active and thriving troop. I am excited that Girl Scouts of Alaska is making plans for the long-term needs and growth of our area.

In spite of the fact that we live in such an amazing place, many of the girls and volunteers who live in this area do not have a background in outdoor skills and most have never been camping in the winter. Outdoor activities and appreciation for our wilderness are both long-held Girl Scouting traditions as well as part of our way of life in Alaska. A camp where girls can be introduced to these skills in a supportive environment is ideal. In addition, a well planned building and site plan will allow for girls who might otherwise not experience a wilderness setting: those who are new to Alaska and those who experience medical or physical restrictions that can limit their opportunities.

Currently our troop travels almost an hour to Camp Togowoods on the outskirts of Wasilla. Because of the distance, the size of our troop, and our need to rely on parents to drive, we are only able to make this trip once a year. The weekend we spend away is the highlight of the year for the girls. We make the most of the outdoors—hiking, learning to build fires, snoeshoeing, sledding, and more depending on the time of year we go. But we also love the large lodge which accommodates our size troop well and provides a safe haven from the cold (and animals) outside. In truth, we also love the electricity and kitchen provided. These make the experience easier for all of us while escape from the trappings of today's busy world.

Our girls use their time at camp to learn about themselves, each other, the true meaning of friendship, how to deal with differences, and how to celebrate life. "Electronics" such as Game Boys and Ipods are not allowed, but books are encouraged. Having a place right in our own back yard would make logistics of these troop trips so much easier and, ideally, more frequent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra L. M. Gilley  
Troop 929, Eagle River

**Singing Hills Retreat - GSA**

**Cost Summary**

14-Dec-11

	Preferred Train'g/Retreat Bldg (7 cabins) 2013 pricing
<b>Estimated Building Costs</b>	\$1,318,894
Cost per SF	\$264
<b>Site Costs</b>	\$272,443
Additional Clearing & Parking	
Septic System and Well	
Electrical and Gas Connection	
Ste Lighting	
<b>Owner "Soft Costs"</b>	\$329,473
Site Master Planning	
Design Fees, including CA	
Geotechnical Investigation	
Boundary and Topo Survey	
Construction Permit Fees	
Furniture Fixture and Equip.	
Computer Network and Phone	
<b>Owner Project Costs</b>	\$291,848
Owner Project Administration (3%)	
Owner Project Contingency (10%)	
<b>Subtotal Main Bldg Project Cost</b>	\$2,212,658
<b>Sleeping Cabins</b>	
Design/const./contingency, \$68,000 ea.	\$509,903
<b>Subtotal Main Bldg &amp; Cabins</b>	\$2,722,561
<b>Site Amenities (from Master Plan)</b>	
Trails/paths (5' wide)	\$202,138
Amphitheater	\$28,002
Gathering Area	\$29,932
(8) Program Nodes, \$1724 ea.	\$14,772
Boat Storage & Pier	\$72,848
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$3,070,252
Less Pro Bono Donations to Date	\$81,824
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$2,988,428</b>
Possible Add'l Pro Bono Donations	\$569,180
<b>Possible Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$2,419,248</b>