



Dear Scouting Leaders and Families,

We are grateful for the trust you place in our Council and for the commitment you show every day to delivering a strong Scouting program to our youth. Over the last year, the Samoset Council was approached with an offer to purchase the Council Office and Camp Phillips.

Scouting is built on values: trustworthiness, responsibility, and preparedness, among them. Those same values guide how we manage the council's assets. Fiscal stewardship means making thoughtful, sometimes difficult decisions to ensure that today's Scouts, and those who will join years from now, have access to quality programs, trained leaders, and meaningful outdoor experiences.

Over time, the cost of owning, maintaining, and operating the Council Office and Camp Phillips has grown significantly while usage of these facilities has decreased. At the same time, how and where Scouting programs are delivered has evolved. After careful analysis and extensive discussion (with donors and other stakeholders), our Board of Directors determined that continuing to operate these properties was no longer the most responsible use of council resources.

This decision reflects a thoughtful, long-term vision for the future and was made after careful consideration over time. This allows us to align with our long-range plan for financial sustainability, which focuses on:

- Maintaining a balanced and resilient operating budget.
- Reducing long-term financial risk and deferred maintenance liabilities.
- Ensuring resources are directed to local unit support and youth programming
- Preserving Scouting in our communities for generations to come

The proceeds from this sale will strengthen the financial foundation of the council, allowing us to:

- Continue supporting unit-level programs and leader training.
- Reinvest camp maintenance resources to other properties.
- Maintain professional and volunteer support for units across our communities.
- Protect Samoset Scouting from future financial uncertainty.

What Is Not Changing

We want it to be clear that this will strengthen Samoset Scouting and its commitment to youth.

- Units will continue to operate Scouting programs with support from the council staff and volunteers.
- Camping and outdoor opportunities will continue at our other properties, including the Crystal Lake Scout Reservation in Rhinelander, WI.
- Advancement, activities, and council support will remain in place.
- An office presence with a Scout shop will remain available.

Looking Ahead

This decision positions our council to be financially healthy, adaptable, and mission-focused. By acting now, we avoid placing greater burdens on future families, leaders, and donors. We believe this is the most responsible path forward and one that reflects our duty to be trustworthy stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

We will continue to communicate openly as this process moves forward and welcome your questions and feedback. Thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and your dedication to serving youth through Samoset Scouting.

Yours In Scouting,
Council Executive Board

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why are the Council Office and Camp Phillips being sold?

The Council Office and Camp Phillips have played a meaningful role in our Scouting history, creating lasting memories and helping shape generations of leaders. However, the way we deliver Scouting has evolved. Camp Phillips is now used infrequently and primarily serves as overflow space. Additionally, our council office is significantly larger than our current needs, particularly following Samoset's full acquisition of the building in 2024, resulting in higher-than-necessary operating costs compared to a more appropriately sized facility.

Maintaining these properties requires substantial resources that are no longer aligned with how we serve Scouts today. After thoughtful consideration, we decided to sell to be responsible stewards of our resources and to better Scouting for the future.

The transaction reflects both the fair market value of the property and a meaningful contribution to support Samoset Scouting. Proceeds will be protected and dedicated to Scouting, ensuring these resources continue to make a lasting impact. These funds will strengthen programs, enhance facilities that are actively used, and expand opportunities for youth—extending the legacy of these properties for generations to come.

Where is the office moving, and what facilities will be available for volunteers?

The council is planning to relocate to a facility within the greater Wausau area that better aligns with our current needs. A group of dedicated volunteers is actively evaluating available spaces to identify the best fit for the future.

The goal is to secure a location that supports the council's retail, office, and meeting needs while providing a more efficient footprint. The new space will include appropriate meeting rooms and flexible areas designed to accommodate volunteer gatherings, trainings, and collaboration.

Throughout this process, we are focused on ensuring the new location remains a welcoming and functional environment that continues to support our volunteers and Scouting programs effectively.

How will this affect the current year's program and camp reservations? What happens to existing reservations/deposits?

Reservations at Camp Phillips will continue as scheduled through August 2026, ensuring that planned programs and experiences can proceed without interruption. Any reservations beyond that timeframe will be thoughtfully relocated to other council facilities, with care taken to provide a smooth transition and maintain a high-quality experience for all participants.

Operations at the current council office will continue for a period of up to 18 months. This timeline allows the council to thoughtfully plan and implement next steps while continuing to support volunteers, staff, and Scouting activities without disruption.

What are the alternative camping/program locations?

Samoset Council is fortunate to have a variety of camping properties that provide diverse outdoor experiences for units, families, and Scouts of all ages. Our premier destination is the Crystal Lake Scout Reservation near Rhinelander, which serves as the primary hub for summer camp and year-round programming.

In addition to Crystal Lake, the council maintains several other properties that support weekend camping, unit activities, and training events:

- **Eau Pleine Slopes** – A primitive riverside campsite near Stratford.
- **Four Mile Camp** – located near Wausau, featuring a shelter, river access, and campsites.
- **Flambeau Canoe Base** – providing opportunities for canoeing and camping in near Phillips.

How will the proceeds be used?

The principal of the endowment gift will be permanently invested to ensure its long-term growth and sustainability. Only the earnings generated from this endowment will be utilized each year to support operating needs and strengthen the Scouting program. This approach provides a reliable and enduring source of funding that enhances program quality, expands opportunities for youth, and ensures the continued vitality of Scouting in our community.

What is the timeline for the sale and transition?

The property sale has been finalized, and we are now entering a planned transition period that allows us to continue serving our Scouts and volunteers without interruption. The council has secured permission to use Camp Phillips through August 31, 2026, ensuring that all scheduled summer programming can proceed as planned.

In addition, we will continue operating out of the Scout Service Center for a period of up to 18 months. This extended timeline provides important stability and allows us to thoughtfully plan next steps, support our volunteers, and ensure a smooth and well-coordinated transition.

Throughout this process, our priority remains clear: to maintain strong program delivery, minimize disruption, and continue providing high-quality Scouting for the youth and families we serve.

Will staff or volunteer roles change?

Our council's staff and volunteer structures are designed to evolve so we can best meet the needs of Scouting in our community. As part of normal operations, committees and roles are reviewed and adjusted periodically to ensure we are effective, responsive, and aligned with our mission.

Currently, we do not anticipate any significant changes to our current staff or volunteer structure because of this transition. Our focus remains on maintaining continuity, supporting our volunteers, and ensuring that our programs continue to operate smoothly and successfully.

As always, we will communicate openly and proactively if any adjustments become necessary, and we are committed to engaging our volunteers throughout the process to ensure we continue delivering a strong Scouting experience.

How are you preserving the history and legacy of Camp Phillips?

For generations, Camp Phillips has been far more than just a property. It has been a place where Scouts learned lifelong skills, built lasting friendships, and grew into confident leaders. The traditions, experiences, and memories created at camp have shaped countless lives, and that legacy is something we deeply respect and are committed to honoring.

Preserving that legacy goes beyond the land itself; it lives on in the people, values, and experiences that Scouting continues to provide. As we move forward, we are taking intentional steps to capture and celebrate the history of Camp Phillips, ensuring that its stories, traditions, and impact are not lost but carried on and shared with future generations.