



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## OHIO RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL

January 26, 2023

Dear Scouters or Volunteers,

It is with great regret and sadness that we inform you that the ORVC 2023 Scouts BSA summer camp residence programs at Fort Steuben Scout Reservation have been cancelled. Coming to this decision has been incredibly challenging and disappointing and we know that it is a sad day for you and your scouts as well.

What led to this decision? In late December the Ohio River Valley Council received notification that our Intent to Operate a Scouts BSA summer camp at Fort Steuben Scout Reservation in 2023 was not approved by National, based on a large negative impact on Council's budget, due to the **significant** overage in expenses from the 2022 summer camp. Your council immediately formed a committee to explore the data and crafted the appeal. As we collectively assessed the current and projected impact this decision would have on the youth of the council, the appeal was initiated by submitting a budget and a lengthy narrative of facts. This appeal was then submitted to National on January 16, 2023. On January 23, 2023, unfortunately and disappointingly our appeal with National was denied sighting that "looking at our figures they feel that we would lose money again in 2023 so it is advised that you concentrate on 2024 summer."

The intent and purpose of the scouting program is the camping experience and being in the outdoors, therefore, we are encouraging all units in the council to attend another council's summer camp program of your choice. If you need any assistance in choosing a camp to take your unit to, please call the scout office for assistance. We have received notification that Camp Mountaineer will honor their early bird fee for any unit that was going to attend the Scouts BSA 2023 summer camp of the Ohio River Valley Council who choose their camp for the 2023 season. Deposits that were initiated earlier for the 2023 summer camp will be refunded.

Moving forward the Ohio River Valley Council is currently working to create an in-person, multi-weekend experience for our youth at our camps throughout the summer and fall of 2023, with the potential of hiring a camp director and program director to assist in organizing the multi weekend camps and to also focus on the 2024 camp and camps beyond. We know these are our core commitments and will resonate well with the legacy of Fort Steuben Scout Reservation. But how will we accomplish such big and lofty goals? The answer is "one bite at a time". One board meeting at a time, one day at a time, one scout at a time, one camper at a time and one decision at a time will help to guide our future.

Thank you,

Ian Iilien, Interim Scout Executive

Tom Cook, Council President

Dan Dingess, Council Commissioner

Ohio River Valley Executive Board