

PRESS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

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Camp Conowingo Receives Funds to Begin Needed Water Works Repairs

Baltimore--The Chesapeake Bay and the waste water system at Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's Camp Conowingo will benefit from State Bond Bill funding to address several infrastructure needs of the camp's water system. The project is essential as the existing water lines are nearly 50 years old and in need of upgrading and repairs. With the funds--\$250,000 -- work to dig up old water lines, remove and replace tanks, winterize the water system and construct new wells can begin.

The \$250,000 was awarded by the Maryland House of Delegates in an effort led by Delegate Mary Dulany James, House Delegate for District 34A which serves Cecil and Harford counties, who sponsored the bill. Her support, coupled with the efforts of Girl Scout members and friends throughout central Maryland, helped to make the council's request for funding successful. "We are extremely grateful for Del. Dulany James' leadership and support for our bond bill request," said Traci A. Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. "The costs associated with maintaining our camp properties for our girl members and the public at-large can be quite costly. This assistance is greatly appreciated and will be used to ensure that Girl Scouts and members of the central Maryland community will be able to enjoy camping and water activities at Camp Conowingo for many more years to come."

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Camp Conowingo is located on 600 acres of forests and fields that lay adjacent to the Susquehanna River in Cecil County Maryland. The property is comprised of nine parcels of land acquired by Girl Scouts of Central Maryland between 1955 and 1973. Camp Conowingo is the home of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's summer resident camp, annual Harvest Festival and Bell Manor mansion, a historic Victorian home that dates back to the 1860s. Last year alone, nearly 6,000 Girl Scouts participated in camping, outdoor activities and training seminars at the property; and, 874 community residents utilized the camp in a variety of ways.

Camp Conowingo is considered a primitive camp because of the many opportunities campers and visitors have to reconnect with the property's natural surroundings. Campers stay in yurts, glen shelters, platform tents, teepees, covered wagons – or lodges. Each unit provides sleeping facilities, kitchen/cooking shelters, latrines, cold-water hand washing stations, and a campfire area. Most units do not have electricity. The dining hall—which is air conditioned—the bathhouse and swimming pool areas offer more modern day conveniences. The camp also features: four year-round lodges; a nature center (with animals); a small pond for fishing and ecology study (Conowingo Creek); a tennis/all-purpose court; hiking and nature trails; horse stables; and, high and low ropes course activity areas.

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Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides leadership development programs for girls 5-17 years of age living in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties through a variety of activities that help them develop courage, confidence and character so that they are poised to make a difference in their communities and the world. For more information about Girl Scouts of Central Maryland programs visit www.gscm.org.