

# Camps of Excellence FAQ

## What is the status of the STEAM Center at Burnham Woods?

**Target Completion: December 2026**

**\$1.5 Million Capital Project**

- ◆ Groundbreaking Ceremony | May 2025
- ◆ Grand Opening target | late February 2026
- ◆ Activation | Spring 2026

**Project Description:**

- ◆ Strengthen immersive engineering environment
- ◆ Renovate Burnham Woods facilities and Kelley Cabin
- ◆ Provide a new woodshop
- ◆ Transform arts education center for project-based learning

## What are the plans for Camp NOARK?

**\$1 Million Capital Project**

**Phase I:**

- ◆ Troop House bathroom renovation
- ◆ Bathhouses – Daisy Patch, Pooh Corner, Enchanted Hollow renovation
- ◆ Dining Hall renovation
- ◆ Barn upgrades
- ◆ New hydration stations

**Phase II:**

- ◆ Cabin renovations – E. Fay, Jones Chalet, Enchanted Hollow
- ◆ New cabins – admin and staff

**Phase III:**

- ◆ Aquatic center
- ◆ Pathways
- ◆ Activities

## What are the plans for Crossed Arrows?

**Possibility**

**\$825,000 Capital Project**

- ◆ Evaluate feasibility from the funding community for minor repairs and updates to cabins, bathhouses, roads and swimming pool
- ◆ Equipment for property management
- ◆ 3-Year investment in start-up operations
- ◆ Conversations and proposal activity is underway with major private and corporate foundations
- ◆ Following capital campaign best practice, decision to move forward is based on reaching 70% of goal in gifts and pledges
- ◆ October 2025 – share funding updates with Board of Directors
- ◆ February 2026 – pending funding status, recommend phased approach to renovation and activation with Board of Directors

## What is the path to close and sell Camp Cahinnio?

### Celebrate Cahinnio History

Council will host closing ceremony on Saturday, November 15 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Event planning is underway and likely to include:

- ◆ Flag ceremony
- ◆ Remarks from current and former leadership
- ◆ Campfire and S'mores
- ◆ Photos

Watch your email for the event invitation and the opportunity to share your favorite Cahinnio memories.

Girl Scouts – Diamonds is working with GSUSA Property Strategies in tandem with local real estate partners for brokerage services.

## What is the path to close and sell Radford House?

### Celebrate Radford House History

Council will host closing ceremony on Saturday, November 8 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Event planning is underway and likely to include:

- ◆ Flag ceremony
- ◆ Remarks from current and former leadership
- ◆ Campfire and S'mores
- ◆ Photos

Watch your email for the event invitation and the opportunity to share your favorite Radford House memories.

The Diamonds program team is assisting the Garland County Service Unit in sourcing meeting and storage resources as well as hosting SU equipment and materials exit on October 30-November 1.

Girl Scouts – Diamonds is working with GSUSA Property Strategies in tandem with local real estate partners for brokerage services.

## Will the Council deploy Reserve Rangers in these plans?

### Volunteer Rangers

Girl Scouts – Diamonds is excited to announce and expand volunteer opportunities at all camp properties in the near term – Burnham Woods, Camp NOARK, and, pending feasibility, Camp Crossed Arrows.

Following shared practices from peer councils throughout the U.S., council will expand volunteer opportunities aligned with Day(s) of Caring and Alumni Weekends. *More to come in January...*

## Are there plans to implement Small Craft Safety training?

**No.** Instead, Diamonds partners with vetted organizations statewide to provide safe opportunities in boating and fishing. Troops can email [program@](mailto:program@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) or [camp@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:camp@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) to be connected with these partners.

## **With the closure of the only camp that has both a pool and a lake, what aquatics programming will be available?**

The Camps of Excellence Plan includes building an aquatics center at Camp NOARK. We'll also continue partnerships with Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Game and Fish, and other vetted organizations to provide safe opportunities like swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, and fishing.

## **Will Diamonds consider offering lifeguard training for girls and leaders in the future?**

**Yes.** This is on our radar; we're working with a trusted partner and exploring opportunities to offer lifeguard training in MY27.

## **With the closure of Radford House and Camp Cahinnio, how will Girl Scouts – Diamonds continue to provide programs and opportunities for girls in the Southern counties?**

We recognize the importance of ensuring girls in our Southern counties have access to the full Girl Scout experience. To do this, we're actively partnering with local community organizations and businesses to bring programming closer to where girls live. These partnerships allow us to complement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience with opportunities that are both engaging and accessible.

Additionally, accelerating our development approach to cultivating support for camperships and roundtrip camp transportation will reduce the barrier to access for the full summer camp experience.

We're also leaning into strong statewide partners, such as Arkansas Game and Fish and Arkansas State Parks, who help us provide low- to no-cost outdoor and educational programs across our service areas. Looking ahead, we plan to expand these partnerships and work closely with our local service units to make sure programming reflects the interests of girls while staying aligned with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

## **What is the process for volunteers to pick up troop or service unit supplies at Radford House, and what will happen to sentimental items at Radford House and Camp Cahinnio?**

The property team will be on site at both Radford House and Camp Cahinnio in the coming weeks to identify council-owned property assets and explore relocation or repurposing options. In tandem, the property and program teams will work together to identify sentimental items that may hold special value for our members.

Once these assessments are complete, we will welcome our membership to each property to collect troop/service unit supplies and identified sentimental items. We kindly ask that before items are removed, please allow our property team to conduct their asset assessment. Please note that we cannot remove any items that are permanently fixed and may cause damage if removed.

- ◆ Radford House pick-up dates: October 30–November 1, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Camp Cahinnio pick-up dates: November 13–14, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.