

## Talking Points

### RE: Timber Project at Camp Kateri

1. Safety
  - a. Our priority is the safety of our girls, our guests, and our staff at all times, especially when they are at our camp properties.
  - b. This timber project puts everyone's safety first when attending events located at Camp Kateri. Adequate cleared space between Camp Kateri's facility structures, roadways, and property infrastructure makes forest fire containment and evacuation of persons during a wildfire event safe and effective. The removal of wood lines and understory demonstrates our commitment to the safety and well-being of our membership, our guests, and our staff.
  - c. This clearing also creates a larger roadway for emergency vehicles to enter and exit, if necessary.
2. Removal of Damaged Timber from Past Hurricanes
  - a. Several hurricanes that passed through central Florida caused severe timber damage within Camp Kateri's timber boundary. Those events required extensive timber management practices to mitigate damaged timber left standing.
  - b. Damaged timber left standing after the hurricanes created extensive property damage to structures and power lines from falling trees. This restricted areas for membership activities to only a few open areas away from the damaged timber.
3. Growing Camp Kateri's Footprint
  - a. The removal of damaged timber and understory trees and brush around Camp Kateri will provide new open and safe areas to expand Camp Kateri's footprint. This additional space will allow the construction of new campsite locations to house more Girl Scouts in the years to come.
4. New Open Spaces for New Camp Activities
  - a. These newly cleared areas will allow the construction and expansion of additional program activity spaces could include volleyball courts, pickle ball courts, hiking trails, low ropes course, and more! We are dedicated to building girls of courage, confidence, and character and believe that these camp improvements will contribute to our mission's success.
5. Future Timber Harvest
  - a. In order to plant new timber, the damaged timber had to be removed. This is a best practice for land management to replace years of damaged timber and create a safe environment. Camp Kateri's future plans call for the planting of new harvest trees, specifically the slash pine tree, that can be properly managed through the State of Florida Timber Management Guidelines moving forward.

6. Wildlife Safety

- a. By removing damaged trees and understory brush within close proximity of campsites and activity areas, dangerous animals are deterred from surprising visitors while on-site. With the safety of our membership being our highest priority, having this cleared space around campsites can prevent unwarranted traffic of wild hogs, bears, and some snake species around our visitors while visiting Camp Kateri.

7. Flood/Water Sources

- a. Another vital role of correct Land Management is the safe keeping of all lakes and ponds within Camp Kateri. The cleared areas allow the installation of water breaks and water control “swells” to best direct water shed into our natural water sources moving forward. This natural filtration of water shed before entering our lakes and ponds is vital to sustaining a healthy and manageable water ecosystem for our campers and animals.

8. Past Timber Projects

- a. It’s been approximately 25 years since the last timber harvest within Camp Kateri so we needed to remove old, unmanaged growth to effectively manage Camp Kateri’s natural resources for the future. With our new timber management plan in motion, our property team can coordinate controlled burns every 2-3 years, plant new marketable timber resources, effectively manage weed growth, and treat invasive vegetation within Camp Kateri’s boundary. This provides our membership and forest animals with a usable and healthy forest ecosystem for many years to come.