

Preserving the Future of Scouting

The Hoosier Trails Council has launched a Major Gifts Initiative with emphasis on securing our fiscal future. Our goal is to raise almost \$5 million via tax-deductible contributions to support these projects in order to improve our facilities. *It is important to note that the funds raised through this effort will only be used for capital projects and their endowment, not for operations of the council.*



Priority Area	Projected Cost	
Camp Louis Ernst - Phase 1		
Caretaker House	\$	20,000
Dining Hall	\$	20,000
Camp Louis Ernst – Phase 2		
Old Lodge Shelter	\$	5,000
Camp Gate Restoration	\$	3,000
Sustainability Endowment	\$	352,000
Camp Louis Ernst	\$	400,000
Maumee Scout Reservation	\$	4,319,030
Hoosier Trails Council Service Center	\$	250,000
TOTAL*	\$	4,969,030

Gifts to the Hoosier Trails Council are *philanthropic investments* in both our area youth and our local communities. Today, the Hoosier Trails Council serves more than 6,000 youth throughout south-central Indiana.



**18% maintenance endowment*



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Boy Scouts of America
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HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL...

“Developing the leaders of tomorrow, through adventures today!”

Proudly serving more than 6,000 youth and their families across 18 counties in south-central Indiana.

The Hoosier Trails Council

The Hoosier Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1973 to provide support to local Scouting programs in 18 counties in south-central Indiana. Since then, our Council has served more than 336,000 area youth and 2,805 of these Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Hoosier Trails Council provides programs for boys ages 6 to 20 and co-ed programs for youth ages 14 to 20. Currently, the Hoosier Trails Council supports over more than 205 Scouting units/programs. With the help of more than 2,350 adult volunteers and staff members, the Council serves more than 6,000 youth of Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Explorer Posts, Venture Crews and Learning for Life programs.

Our Vision

To be south-central Indiana’s foremost youth program of instilling positive character traits and developing values-based leaders.

Our Mission

The mission of the Hoosier Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation’s largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. We deliver programs to our area youth that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of citizenship, and develops personal fitness. For over a century, the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. Our experience demonstrates that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

In order to help secure our future, the Hoosier Trails Council is embarking upon a Major Gifts Initiative. Through this ongoing effort we will raise tax-deductible contributions to support projects to improve and endow our key training facilities.



Camp Louis Ernst

Camp Louis Ernst is located near Madison, Indiana, and is a rugged, primitive camping facility with 150 acres of rich woodland with campsites designed for Low-Impact camping, a dining hall and Winter Cabin for use during cold weather. Currently - activities at Camp Louis Ernst (affectionately called “Camp Louie”) include camping, skill development, orienteering, hiking and general use. Camp Louie offers great weekend or week long camping trips as well as year-round camping opportunities.

Camp Louis Ernst offers a *Leave No Trace* trail which focuses on environmental stewardship. The purpose of the *Leave No Trace* teaching trail is to help Scouts and others learn to enjoy an outdoor experience while hiking and appreciating nature. *Leave No Trace* is an international program designed to provide education concerning the impacts on the environment while hiking and camping. There are ten stations on the trail representing the seven principles of *Leave No Trace*. The objective is to travel the trail, taking short breaks at each station to review each principle for a teachable moment.

“Just about the most important piece of property connected with any local Boy Scout Council is the Scout Camp, for herein is contained the heart of Scouting.

A camp, properly, becomes a place of nostalgic memory to hundreds and thousands of people. It is, in a way, a community center. It has its own traditions and its own secret histories to different people. Who owns a Scout Camp? The council holds the deed in trust, but that is not true ownership. The camp is owned by the people of the area, by the boys who camped there, by those who will camp there, by the birds and the wildlife that use it.

A camp is more than a piece of property – it is an experience. It is more than that – it is a dream fulfilled.”

- Stanley P. Meenach, 1946



“Louie” is one of the oldest Boy Scout camps in the United States, and thousands of campers have found their adventures on site, good friendships forged, and life-lessons fostered. As a result, there is a great affinity for this camp and what it has offered youth for decades.

One only needs to tour the Dining Hall and see the camper totems to get a sense of the magic that has happened on these grounds, the Scouting spirit is electric.

Our history serves as the foundation for the future of Camp Louis Ernst. Investments in the camp today will solidify our position as a community center for generations to come. The youth of today are in need of what Scouting provides and Louie sets the stage for these adventures.



Current Facility Needs

Caretaker’s House – In order to better preserve this asset of Scouting and the greater Jefferson County community, a property Caretaker was hired by the Hoosier Trails Council, BSA. Significant work has already occurred to bring the Caretaker House up to standards; however it requires a new roof and windows.



Dining Hall – This facility has been repurposed over the years and serves presently as a bunk house, training facility, and fellowship hall. Investments have been made to improve the comfort of this building; however it requires a new roof, insulation, and foundation structural re-enforcements.

“Old Lodge” Shelter – This new structure would broaden our programming capabilities and utilize some remains of the former lodge on this site. An open air shelter with a fireplace on one end would provide cover for camporees, badge instruction, picnics, and making other Scouting memories.

Restroom Facilities – Presently there are not sufficient restrooms to accommodate large groups. Expanding this capability will better serve our youth and make usage of this property more attractive to outside groups.

Gate Restoration – Appreciating the history of Louie, we would like to restore the camp gates to the glory of when actress Irene Dunne purchased them for the Scouts originally in the 1930s.



Future of Camp Louis Ernst

Limited resources have long made it a challenge to maintain Louie in the fashion it deserves and a major aspect of the Hoosier Trails Council, BSA Major Gifts Initiative is to not only give to life to historic aspects of camp, but insure the asset lives on for future generations by establishing a sustainability endowment fund. The corpus of this fund will be held in trust and earned income from the investments will off-set annual operating expenditures for maintenance and overhead costs.

“Around the campfire are the shadows of hundreds of boys, whose lives have been influenced by the fellowship, and the romantic adventure, the spiritual values of a week in camp. No one knows what a camp brings to a boy – no one knows the impact upon his soul and his character. One man gave dollars, another time, another dreams, but all of them have helped to make men out of boys.” - Stanley P. Meenach

