



Dear Blackhawk Area Council leader/Volunteer,

I am one of thousands over the years who has enjoyed the beauty and serenity of our beloved Camp Lowden in Oregon. Each time there I appreciate it that much more and realize what an incredible asset it is to our Council.

Earlier this year I noticed the camp looking a little underserved. This is no fault of anyone as the camp has a dedicated grounds overseer and there is a committed facility and property committee to keep the camp in shape. Even with this, there is not enough hours in the week for this small group to keep up with the many projects and repairs demanding constant attention. And, as with any not-for-profit, there is not always immediate funds to hire out for all the work to be timely completed.

I think most would agree to keep Camp Lowden a preferred destination of choice and for us to be proud of and continue to enjoy it for weekend and summer camping, leadership courses, and retreats. The camp is over 200 acres with 50 buildings and structures and to keep everything maintained it will take the talents of a much larger group than is currently assembled.

Years ago, volunteers called the *Wilderness Engineers*, an overview is provided, functioned to *support* the variety of maintenance and upkeep needs of the camp. After communicating with Bob Gingras, Council Camp Property Chair, it was agreed to remobilize this dormant organization that was previously such a crucial and valuable resource. Beyond this, Camp Lowden is also forming the *Century Guardians* to further the interests of the camp and a brief overview of this group is provided as well.

For dedicated Scouters, giving back is embedded in our character. The hope with the Wilderness Engineers and the Century Guardians, is to create a robust membership in both to help keep Camp Lowden appropriately preserved and beautiful not just periodically, but year-round and in perpetuity. ***For starters, would you consider joining the Wilderness Engineers?*** The fall work dates are:

- November 4th: projects to be assigned (please complete the form in the attached link)
- November 11th: Paul Bunyan wood cut
- If these dates don't work is there another day you might be available?

If you are in the trades, an electrician, carpenter, brick/stone mason, welder, equipment operator, landscaper, painter, or have other specialized skills or talents we hope you'll consider this appeal. If you are none of these and just want to pitch in where needed we have projects for you too. The attached link ([skills/trades volunteer profile](#)) will take you to an online document to help us understand how you want the camp to best utilize your talents.

We will have much more to share in the weeks ahead and do hope you'll give Camp Lowden serious consideration.

Yours in Scouting,

Tyler Pratt
Troop 14
Rockford, IL



Wilderness Engineers

The *Wilderness Engineers* of Camp Lowden function as an important and vital volunteer organization with the primary responsibility to assist in sustaining and improving the camp grounds, buildings and campsites. The Wilderness Engineers serve at the pleasure of the Blackhawk Area Council and take direction from the Property and Facilities Committee with the committee Chair the focal point for communication and approval of projects and work details. The volunteer group coordinates with the Council Program Director overseeing Camp Lowden to provide maximum communication and efficiency. Projects assigned by the Council or requested by the Wilderness Engineers will be considered and approved based on funding and/or materials available in conjunction with the skill level and abilities of the volunteer(s) involved. This will include repairs, maintenance, painting, staining, cleaning, construction, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and tree removal needs of the camp to protect its functionality, beauty and grandeur. ([skills/trades volunteer profile](#))

Century Guardians

Camp Lowden's *Century Guardians* is a way to financially impact the future of Camp Lowden. Minimum annual membership is only \$100. The Guardians are a formal group and will meet annually to discuss the camp and select a project or initiative they believe will enhance the experience at Camp Lowden. This could be a small initiative that is deemed important and that can be funded immediately or may be a larger, bold project requiring several years to raise the necessary funds. Regardless, membership and financial contributions obtained goes directly to something that the Guardians support and view impactful for future generations using Camp Lowden.

Membership tiers:

<i>name</i>	<i>amt.</i>	<i>appreciation for membership</i>
Associate	\$100+	Camp logo coffee mug
Ambassador	\$250+	Camp logo hat
Champion	\$500+	BSA logo blanket
Circle of Honor	\$1000+	Complimentary Boeger Lodge access
Circle of Excellence	\$2,500+	Plaque, plus all the above

- Yes, I want to be part of the Century Gurardians
- Thank you, but no, let me condier for next year
- Thank you, but no, this is not something I am interested in