

Wulapeju Lodge #140  
2820 McFarland Road  
Rockford, IL 61107

16 October 2016

Boy Scouts of America  
Order of the Arrow  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079

2017 Service Grant Application Committee:

Wulapeju Lodge 140 and Blackhawk Area Council are asking you to review our grant proposal for our project to rebuild our council fire ring at Canyon Camp. The council fire ring was not used in 2016 due to safety concerns, the lack of accessibility, and overall capacity issues that can be resolved. Our council has identified this project to help provide the best program possible for the scouts we serve.

In order to reopen our council fire ring, we will need to clear a high number of trees to open a new primary trail that has a more gradual grade to the council ring, rebuild our two fire rings, replace and add more seating to increase the current capacity of 150-175 to 250, add mulch to the inside of the ring to help reduce erosion, add electrical lighting, and reinforce the retaining wall on the backside of the ring. Our lodge and council requires financial assistance on this project to achieve our collective goal to reopen the ring by the 2017 summer camp season.

This project enhances our Boy Scouting program for our council camp due to the ring's location and the ability to bring all scouts together during the opening and closing campfires each week of summer camp. The location of the council ring is in a prominent location for the campers of Canyon Camp because the majority of the campsites reside near the council fire ring rather than the temporary ring that was used in 2016. This project will make it more convenient for all campers to access the ring. Additionally, the new trail will provide access for campers who currently do not have the ability to access the ring easily. Canyon Camp currently has two handicap accessible campsites, and it is important for us to serve all scouts who come to camp. In addition to the safety and accessibility needs, the council ring was unable to be used for larger weeks in the past due to its deteriorated and limited seating. With this project, there will be enough room for all troops to sit and enjoy skits and cheers by the camp staff and fellow campers.

The need for the rebuilding of our council ring is not only due to safety and accessibility concerns, but it is also in line with the Council Camping Committee's request to improve our current NCAP rating. On the camp's evaluation, Canyon Camp's council ring received a "D" rating. This score shows that the camp needs to fix the ring within the next five years to comply with the National Camping Standards. Providing safety and a positive experience to campers is the camp's and council's top priority.

Rebuilding the council ring at Canyon Camp has been part of the council's goals over the past two years. However, at this point, the project has been lowered on the council's priority list of needs due to financial concerns. Therefore, this was seen as an opportunity by Wulapeju Lodge. The lodge has taken interest in the possibility of completing this project to help alleviate its budget concerns. The lodge understands the importance of this project to the campers at Canyon Camp, but we are in need of additional assistance to make this dream into a reality. The total project will cost \$11,000, in which the lodge will support \$5,000. These funds will be provided through fundraising endeavors, donations set aside from members of our community, and \$5,000 of funds from the 2017 National Service Grant. Canyon Camp's staff has even contributed a donation over \$500 for the retaining wall. The lodge's objective is to pursue the project and give our full support to the camp.

The lodge and I believe that this project will not only be completed by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, but within our larger goal of the start of the summer camp season. We are planning to implement work days to accompany our Lodge Executive Committee meetings and use our Spring Fellowship, which is held at Canyon Camp every June, to bring over 200 arrowmen to help on the project. Arrowmen will have numerous opportunities to help with building the new seating, spreading mulch, and the moving of logs and brush from after the tree removal. Through hard work and dedication, the youth of our lodge are excited to work under adult mentorship to make this project possible. We will need to be innovative and diligent in the trail building process to add the handicap trail to the council ring in addition to adding electrical lighting to meet NCAP standards. It is our goal to accomplish these tasks and complete the project by the start of the camping season. However, the completion of this project will only be possible with assistance from the National Service Grant.

Wulapeju Lodge and Blackhawk Area Council appreciates your consideration in our pursuit to rebuild the council ring at Canyon Camp, B.S.A and restore our historic ring that thousands of arrowmen and scouts hold memories from.

Sincerely,

Dalton Miles  
Lodge Chief  
Wulapeju Lodge #140