

## **A report to the Members of the Tahosa Alumni Association – Summer 2023**

I don't know if you are like me, but my screen saver image on my laptop is a picture of Camp Tahosa looking across the lake to Mt. Audubon. It is a beautiful reminder of the place that has meant so much to me since I was a young boy. And despite all the efforts of the Tahosa Alumni Association over the years the Greater Colorado Council has actually begun the process of selling the main camp area and the lake to the highest bidder. We can be sure the process is underway because a group of potential buyers that I know were at Tahosa last week with the Council's broker to take a look around. I am heartsick!

None of this should come as a surprise to any of us. At our banquet last April Council Scout Executive Chuck Brasfeild explained the future of Camp Tahosa to those present in some detail. The Council's Board of Directors had directed the staff leadership to "monetize" Camp Tahosa. That is a new way of saying sell the place! The first step was to hire a real estate broker to handle the transaction and to clean up the camp for sale. Both have happened and the final cleanup activities are underway.

The Council also found an ingenious way to acquire around \$3 million to help meet their \$6 million portion of the BSA's sexual abuse claims fund. The Council sold a Conservation Easement to Boulder County which prohibits further development of either side of Camp Tahosa in the future. The current footprint of buildings cannot be increased.

One victory for Scouting is the decision by the council to retain the part of the camp on the north side of the county road. This is where the Alumni Association constructed the amazing high and low ropes courses at Tahosa. It is where the old rifle and archery ranges and outpost camping were in the camp's heyday as well as a number of troop campsites with latrines. It is also where the opening and closing campfires were held and the location of a picnic pavilion in more recent years. There is also an old barn still standing providing some storage for the camp. And there is a working well on this side of the camp providing access to water.

In the near term, the TAA will work with the Council to develop programming for Scouting on this new and greatly reduced Camp Tahosa. Our Campmaster program under the leadership of Mike Gill, is already working to determine how to "staff" the north camp so troops can arrive, check in, and hold successful camping activities in the Colorado Rockies.

There is no lake or splendid rock buildings on the north side of camp, but you could run a camporee or Klondike there. Troops can camp there, and it still provides a gateway to the Indian Peaks wilderness. A yurt for the Campmaster and some teepees in the meadow and you could actually have a workable mountain camping property to serve Scouting for another 82 years. And maybe someday Scouting will be in a position to buy back the heart of Camp Tahosa that should never have been sold in the first place.