FAQ - GSNENY Camp Woodhaven Conservation Easement

1. What is a conservation easement?
A conservation easement is a voluntary, legally binding, and permanent agreement between a landowner and a qualified land trust, in this case Saratoga PLAN (Preserving Land and Nature).

The easement protects important natural resources, such as forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and waterways, by limiting certain types of development. GSNENY continues to own Camp Woodhaven, and the property can continue to be used for Girl Scout programs and activities. The easement becomes part of the property's deed and ensures these conservation protections remain in place for future generations.

2. Who is Saratoga PLAN?
Saratoga PLAN (Preserving Land and Nature) is an accredited nonprofit land trust that has worked with landowners and municipalities throughout Saratoga County since 2003 to conserve farmland, forests, waterways, and trails.

The organization meets the highest national standards for land trust practices and partners with communities to protect important natural resources throughout the region.

3. Why did GSNENY choose to pursue a conservation easement at Camp Woodhaven?
This decision reflects Girl Scouts' core values and long-term stewardship goals. Specifically, it allows GSNENY to:

- Use our resources wisely
- Be responsible stewards of our forests and waterways
- Protect biodiversity
- Help mitigate climate change
- Preserve important wetlands and wildlife corridors
- Ensure Camp Woodhaven remains protected for future generations

This action aligns with our Forest Management Plan and our mission to make the world a better place.

4. Does this mean Girl Scouts is selling Camp Woodhaven?
No. GSNENY retains full ownership of Camp Woodhaven. The camp remains a Girl Scout property and is available for rental to members and non-members. For information on programs and rental details, please visit girlscoutsneny.org.

5. Will this effect campers, troops, families, or community renters?
No.

The Girl Scout experience at Camp Woodhaven will not change. The property will continue to be used for:

- Girl Scout programs
- Camp activities
- Hiking and outdoor exploration
- Boating and waterfront activities

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- Rentals and community use

GSNENY has made a commitment to always manage the property according to a forest management plan that maintains the health of our forests, wetlands, and waterways. The intent is to preserve the camp's natural resources while allowing it to continue functioning fully as a camp property.

6. Why is Camp Woodhaven particularly important to conserve?
Camp Woodhaven has significant conservation value because it includes forests, wetlands, streams, and wildlife habitat that are important to the health of the surrounding environment.

The property is also located between two existing conservation easements held by Saratoga PLAN. Together, these protected lands create approximately 421 acres of continuously conserved land, helping support biodiversity, improve water quality, strengthen flood resilience, and protect wildlife habitat for generations to come.

7. How does this reflect the Girl Scout mission?
This action reflects Girl Scouts' commitment to:

- Environmental stewardship
- Outdoor leadership
- Sustainability
- Courageous decision-making
- Leaving the world better than we found it

By protecting Camp Woodhaven's forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat, we are ensuring future Girl Scouts will continue to learn, explore, and lead in the outdoors.

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