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Lafayette Scout Summer Camp

Once the plan was approved, the Twin Canyon Site Committee was formed to implement that plan. Under the direction of site committee co-chairs Sandra Patterson and Denise Greenspan, along with a number of other volunteers, they got busy generating more revenue by expanding use at the camp during non-summer months and campaigning to increase grants, fundraising, donations and leveraging local generosity.

Their goal is to be sustainable and work toward breaking even in 2017; their plan was to raise a relatively modest \$5,000 per year for three years and \$10,000 per year in 2017. It's fair to say they've been successful. In fiscal year 2013, they raised over \$43,000 from a number of sources, including donations from the Tent and Trails fund, a Hike-a-thon, cookie sales, the Spectacular Raffle, a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation, Lafayette Juniors and a \$10,000 grant for tree work from Grosvenor.

Savvy organizers recently garnered help from the Kiwanis Club of Moraga to purchase a new stove and refrigerator. Clayton Valley Sunrise Rotary and the Kiwanis Club of Martinez purchased nine low-flow toilets with donated labor from Nuance Construction that will save roughly 50,000 gallons of water per year. In addition, Job Corps students were able to practice their newfound skills by removing old inefficient lighting fixtures and installing energy efficient long-lasting LED lights as well as painting at the camp, trial maintenance, installing retaining walls and rebuilding a barbecue pit. They also had a tree replacement GoFundMe effort that raised over \$16,000 created by Stephanie Chew to help plant shade trees and support reforestation.

The facility was "in dire need of refreshing" said Patterson. "Now it looks spectacular."

Diablo Day Camp, part of the Girls Scouts of Northern California community for over 50 years, leases the facility during the summer months. They have supported the camp improvements financially, and free Job Corps labor was critical to getting the job done. These developments are part of the Site Committee's emphasis on going green, and updating the aging facilities in order to be more attractive to outside group rentals.

Greenspan explained what it's like to "walk the line" with other camp volunteer staff during the Spectacular Raffle, providing information on the camp, where the funds raised will be spent and selling \$20 raffle tickets to the parents waiting in line to pick up their kids.

"Twin Canyon is in great shape right now," said GSNorCal CEO Park. "Hats off to the community, they've done a really good job understanding the needs of Twin Canyon and the reality of what it takes to keep the gates open - they've been incredibly supportive." She also praised all the hard work of the Site Committee for bringing the camp closer to break even and successfully in obtaining grants and donations.

Hard choices are slated to be made at the November 2017 Girl Scout Annual Meeting as the board looks at the overall portfolio of properties; focusing on camps with the least amount of use which are the most expensive to operate. The sale of one or more of these properties would be used to continue to support other more robust camps.

Attendance at the camp has increased to 22,900 camper days per year and the facility is nearing break even, but is still grappling with aging infrastructure. For more information on Camp Twin Canyon and to view a YouTube video go to www.twincanyon.org.

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