



Rotary Scout Reservation  
Thunderbird Club  
February 2023

Dear Friends:

RSR's 2022 Centennial Celebration was a huge success. From the Thunderbird Club's point-of-view, we raised over \$13,000. That came from regular annual donations from our membership as well as RSR History Book sales and the Centennial Dinner Auction. As of December 31, 2022, the Thunderbird Club had over \$113,000 in its account.

2022 saw a significant number of troops attend summer camp, but post Covid troop sizes were still way down. On the positive side, the camp nearly quadrupled the number of Cubs that attended Cub Scout Resident Camp, and based on that success we are expanding to two sessions of that program in 2023. The council was also faced with paying its portion of the national lawsuit settlement. The number was significant. While the council had a comprehensive plan for making the payment, all the pieces didn't immediately come together, so there was a cash flow issue. Our projects for 2022 were put on hold. Through additional designated donations, however, the camp was able to put the new shed in the Nature Area, install much needed new roofs on the Trading Post and Seneca Lodge, and construct a beautiful new, lit entrance sign.

The payment to national has been made, and we are in a much better situation today. The council has made construction of the John E. Tutein STEM Training Center its #1 priority. \$100,000 from the Thunderbird Club will be used. The Twin Rivers Council Board is matching that with an additional \$100,000 that will come from the mortgage of the camp property. A third \$100,000 is to be raised from private and corporate donors. The money to pay back the mortgage on the camp will come from a carbon credit deal that the council has brokered. The goal is to have the building itself built and ready to use for the summer of 2024.

So where do we go from here? Our plan for 2023 is to use the money raised in 2022 to complete the projects that were planned for last spring: program area pavilions. We also want to get back to spending each year's donations by the end of the year so we're not carrying large sums of money over. This is how we operated prior to the STEM Center fundraising drive. As such, you will have three ways to have your 2023 donation applied. You may apply your donation to the 2023 projects listed below, to the John E. Tutein STEM Training Center, or split your donation. The Twin Rivers Council will match 50% of your donations to the STEM Center,

and that total will count toward your recognition. You will see these options on the donation form that accompanies this letter.

The 2023 project list includes:

- installing electricity in 5 campsites for CPAP machines
- purchase and installation of a larger Archery Shack that will fit all the equipment
- rehabilitation and repurposing of the Stratton Archery shack for the Cub Range
- purchase of new bows for Archery that utilize a more versatile site
- repairs to the Mahikan latrine to support the site's use as the new outpost camp
- rehabilitation and relocation of the 1940s Cayuga lean-to to the new outpost site
- purchase of an updated camp map for the Office Kiosk
- purchase and installation of street signs to label the roads in camp

It's been a difficult couple of years, but I am cautiously optimistic that we're back on track. The council has done an amazing job dealing with the financial challenges that have occurred since 2020. I want to thank you all for your patience and continued support over the years. You too have been amazing.

I hope you will again support our efforts to provide the Scouts of this area a quality program. This year, for a donation of \$25.00 made prior to June 1, you will receive a 2023 Thunderbird Club water bottle sticker bearing the camp patch design. For a donation of \$100.00 or more made prior to June 1, you will receive this year's T-bird Club special edition camp patch and sticker. For donations of \$250.00 or more you will receive the 2023 RSR commemorative council strip as well as the T-bird Club patch and sticker. This will be the ninth in the series of program area council strips.

We will also continue our perpetual plaque recognition in the Dining Hall. There are recognition plaques for accrued donations of \$500, \$1000, \$5000, and \$10,000. **Remember: 50% of donations made to the STEM Center will count toward your recognition level.**

Our annual Thunderbird Club dinner will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023. This will be during week one to allow members to see the camp in operation. Please be our guest that evening at 6:00 P.M.

Finally, please note the changes to the donation form. You will now be signing to state that you specifically want your donation to go toward this year's projects. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Scouting,

Ed Keilen



**THUNDERBIRD CLUB  
DONATION FORM**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Donation Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

I wish my donation to be applied as follows:

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward:

- installing electricity in 5 campsites for CPAP machines
- purchase and installation of a larger Archery Shack that will fit all the equipment
- rehabilitation and repurposing of the Stratton Archery shack for the Cub Range
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Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward:

- John E. Tutein STEM Training Center with a 50% match from the Twin Rivers Council

*I understand that after these projects have been fully funded, any additional money raised will be spent on other Rotary Scout Reservation projects or carried over to the 2024 calendar year to be spent on future Rotary Scout Reservation projects.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL DONATIONS TO:**

**Twin Rivers Council**  
253 Washington Ave. Ext.  
Albany, NY 12205