



Dear Girl Scout Members and Alums,

Our love and support go out to our coastal communities mourning the loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods during this year's devastating rain and floods. Our council is here with each of you as we recover together.

I am writing this update for those who want to stay informed about the impact the past weather events have had on Camp Arnaz. Our program center has been a tool greatly used and appreciated by our Girl Scouts who attend the many activities that are hosted there.

Last Monday, Camp Arnaz experienced historical flooding as San Antonio Creek overran its banks. The runoff coming down from Sulphur Mountain also brought trees, logs, rocks, and large amounts of silt. This overwhelmed our drainage system, flooded the camp, and affected our campgrounds and equine area. The front of the camp is safe and experienced minimal impact, which is fantastic!

Once San Antonio Creek retreated, the camp started to dry out. However, this weekend's rain put additional pressure on the camp, causing more damage and flooding.



I have visited the camp several times this week, experiencing appreciation, relief, sadness, hope, and gratitude for our dedicated volunteers and staff including the equine and maintenance teams. My hope was restored upon seeing the camp attempting to survive — the lodge and all our buildings are still standing, and our horses are wet but safe. The initial sorrow I felt seeing other areas of camp that suffered damage has now turned into hope because I see mother nature attempting to heal herself as the water recedes.

### **Not all heroes wear capes.**

We have an excellent group of volunteers, staff, and friends of Girl Scouts ready to help. I was in awe as I witnessed our team evacuating horses from our neighbor, Rancho Arnaz, as their entire property and home were flooded with water continuing to rise. We quickly built new stalls and evacuated the horses to our camp. I want to thank the Fence Factory for the immediate support in delivering materials to build these stalls.



I also want to thank  
Cody McMillan, owner of  
McMillan Tractor Service, as he  
was a true hero when he showed  
up Saturday at 6 AM with his  
backhoe to clear out the debris  
from our small creek, saving our  
roads and culverts, reducing  
further damage to the Camp.  
Cody, you are a true hero, and  
we owe you a debt of gratitude.



This Sunday, I visited the camp with land experts. It was helpful to hear their assurances that the camp would recover and explain what we can do now to care for it. For those who cherish our camp, these photos are devastating to see. However, our experts assured us that the camp will recover. Our Monarch and pollinator gardens will recuperate thanks to Mother Nature doing what she does best – healing and promoting growth.



Our experts advised us to focus first on assessing the damage and protecting our roads and culverts from erosion. They encouraged us to give the camp as much time as possible to recover. We are working closely with land experts, conservation partners, public works, and civil engineers to ensure that we develop a plan for short and long-term erosion control.

We have a long journey ahead, and we must be patient as we figure out the next steps. Lastly, we are fortunate to have passionate and talented staff, volunteers, and supporters who care deeply about this camp. Their spirits are high as they work through and weather the storms.



I suspect that this update was hard to read for many of you, and the pictures were hard to see. My hope is that it also helps to know that our beautiful camp will recover and that we are working with knowledgeable partners.



*Pictured left to right: Tammie Helmuth, Carmen Ramirez, Lexi Otalora, Summer Helmuth, Jesse Dees, and JL Velasco.*

Others working to support our camp not pictured here are Matt Meadows, Taylor Orr, Jim Scofield, Ryan Bartunek, Mitchell Prizzi, Shane Ballard, Braydee Sampson, and James Nelson.

Again, I am grateful for the experts, our conservation partners, our fantastic equine, and maintenance team, and each of you. I cannot wait to see all the flowers this much-needed water will bring. I just ask that it comes a little slower. Please stay safe during these challenging times as we brace for more rain.



Tammie Helmuth  
Chief Executive Officer



### Support Our Camp

Donations to our [Camp Arnaz Disaster Recovery Fund \(click here\)](#) will be restricted to support recovery efforts at Camp Arnaz, including debris removal, equine infrastructure improvements and repairs, and work to reduce erosion in the camp and creek. Recovery will take time, and your donation will help GSCCC support the repairs to get girls back onto the Camp.