



The TEAM READY Foundation

'Going The Extra Mile...'

2115 Meadowbrook Way Wausau, WI 54403 (715)297-3683

Dear fellow camp staff alumni:

As you can see by the brochure that was sent with this letter, the 90's alumni that started the Team Ready Foundation are asking for your support of what we believe to be a very worthy and important venture. When you think back on summers spent working at Tesomas, we bet you are reminded of many great memories. Working with the scouts on getting that one last requirement complete before they go home, the staff coming together to make a week at camp extra spectacular for a special needs troop, or the time spent with fellow staff that became like family by the summer's end are just a few that come to mind.

In addition to having the time of your life, you learned something along the way. Very influential and positive senior staff members guided you as a young staff member to commit yourself to excellence. Each of you can think of an experienced staff member that took the time to show you the way, to be a true leader, to set the example, to guide you and befriended you, making you the staff member you became. The Team Ready fellowship program hopes to honor those countless influential members that impacted your life and others by ensuring there will always be experienced, excellent staff members to pass their vital knowledge down to the younger staff generation.

For as many excellent staff members you knew that had an incredible impact on your life, you know just as many staff that had to leave in order to make more money to afford college expenses. For most staff members, this dilemma was such: You could either return to the camp you loved so much where your impact was felt, or for a little extra money, work at a summer job you rather not. Fees and expenses associated with a higher education continue to increase and our hope is to provide an option for senior staff when faced with the troubling choice to leave camp staff for more money or stay, knowing they will struggle to afford their higher education. Think of the impact on the scouts if a program such as this was available to those staff members that were forced to make the difficult decision when you were working at camp.

As young campers and staff members, many of us couldn't imagine camp without highly experienced directors – especially those that were fortunate to be able to spend at least a decade on camp staff like Bill Julian, Todd Sackmann, Chris Martin, Josh Stevens, Justin Anderson, Rick Amelse, Drew Nelson, Dave and Scott Polebitski – plus the many others that were able to contribute for at least five summers, and now proudly wear the 5-year leadership jackets that were introduced in the 90's. These past leaders have moved on, but their modern day successors are equally as influential as our role models were, and today's campers and staff are not ready to see camp without them. While updated facilities and program equipment is important to the success of ANY camping program, we feel that as camp staff alumni, you understand firsthand that it is the dedicated staff that truly makes the "Tesomas Experience" so unique and special.

Each year multiple deserving senior staff members are presented with a Team Ready Fellowship, with all alumni donations being tax deductible and 100% of the collected funds will either go to awards this year or into an interest bearing account that will assist in increasing our fundraising awards in future years. Our camp's reservation-wide staff remains the most vital resource and it is the belief of this Fellowship Committee that our well thought-out contribution will pay dividends in terms of retaining the camp staff members necessary to further enhance the camping programs' commitments to excellence.

We hope that this letter finds you well, and even if you are unable to assist us in meeting our goals this year, our contacting you has given you the opportunity to think back with fondness on your own experience at camp! We also encourage you to look to www.teamready.org for ways to maintain contacts with fellow camp staff alumni and assist the CLSR by volunteering for service projects and cooking for the staff training weekends. Please remember: it's the "people" who make the difference, so please, help us do what you can to assist the Crystal Lake Scout Reservation in retaining some of its most prized possessions.

On behalf of countless scouts and staff your donation will impact, thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sackmann". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Brian Sackmann (Alumni '91 - '98)
Team Ready Foundation President