FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCOUTS PROTECT 113 ACRES WITH THE LAND TRUST FOR TENNESSEE
Leading conservation group ensures Scouting Reservation will remain open space for future

WHITE COUNTY, TENN. – November 17th, 2026 – 113 acres of Tennessee are now permanently protected thanks to the vision of Middle Tennessee Council Scouting America and the work of The Land Trust for Tennessee, a conservation organization working statewide to conserve Tennessee's irreplaceable landscapes and sites.

The property—the Charles E. Parish Scout Reservation, located near Rock Island State Park—is used by the Scouts for camping and hiking, and is also open to the public. The land's conservation values are significant, with 1.6 miles of frontage on the Caney Fork River, ample wildlife, and dense, sloping forests.

"One of my fundamental beliefs is that we don't own this land. We are stewards of this land during our lifetime," said Hill McAlister, a member of the Scouts Property Trust Committee who facilitated working with The Land Trust for Tennessee. "And in a real Boy Scout kind of way, we need to make the campsite better than we found it."

"Given how quickly Tennessee is changing, we simply can't take our state's beautiful natural and recreational spaces for granted—we have to act before they're gone," said Emily Parish, Vice President of The Land Trust. "And that's exactly what the Scouts did."

In November 2026, Middle Tennessee Council Scouting America and The Land Trust signed a voluntary legal agreement, called a conservation easement, which was funded in part by The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund. The conservation easement will protect the conservation values of the land for current and future generations. While the Scouts continue to own and use the land, The Land Trust for Tennessee is now responsible for upholding the agreement over time—no matter who owns the land in the future.

"We're going to continue to use it for scouting purposes and community purposes, and we can always sell it later," said McAlister. "But for now, if we put a conservation easement on it, we can make that piece of land look just like it does *forever*. And there's not much forever out there, you know."

Since 1999, The Land Trust for Tennessee has worked with over 400 landowners and organizations across the state to find permanent conservation solutions for their land. The organization now protects over 5,700 acres in White County and more than 137,000 acres across the state.

"In my work, I meet a lot of people who care about Tennessee, and are worried about its forests, farms, and open spaces disappearing, but they don't know what to do about it," said Jackson Lundy, Senior Conservation Project Manager with The Land Trust. "We help people understand that there are options for protecting their land. We encourage interested landowners to reach out and begin a conversation."

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About The Land Trust for Tennessee:
The Land Trust for Tennessee is a conservation organization working statewide to protect land important to the people of Tennessee. From family farms and historic landscapes to public parks and forests, the work of The Land Trust has a lasting impact on people and places from Memphis to Mountain City. The organization has conserved more than 137,000 acres of land since its founding in 1999, and is recognized for meeting the highest standards for excellence and conservation permanence. Learn more at https://www.landtrusttn.org.

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