

Ruth & John Goralski

USA Archery Level III NTS Coaches

Milford, PA 18337

Dear New Jersey DEP,

We are writing this letter to show our support of the Friends of The NJ School of Conservation in their bid to assume the management of the school. The facility has a rich history evolving from a CCC camp into one of the oldest and largest environmental education centers in the nation. Continuing under the stewardship of the Friends group would ensure that rich history is respected, keeping that spirit alive as new programs are identified and implemented.

All team members that we have met, most notably Kerry Kirk Pflugh and Shayne Russell, have shown an unprecedented energy and enthusiasm for the NJSOC. This group consistently demonstrates their dedication to providing a facility that can serve the local and expanded community.

We have a background in education, John as a teacher and outdoor guide, Ruth as a naturalist and environmental educator. We understand and value the importance of teaching about the natural world and outdoor experiences. It is imperative that children are afforded the opportunity to experience the outdoors, experience environmental education in this facility and have hands on encounters. We are confident that the Friends group assuming management of the NJSOC will be the best possible outcome for the facility.

We have participated in some programs offered at the school by the Friends. We have also been privileged to deliver Archery programs at the school. The school has an existing outdoor archery range that was set up some years ago. The existing range was set up in accordance with the expected standards of an outdoor archery range and is still a viable resource. While there are some range components that would benefit from updating, the existing footprint provides a solid foundation to work from. We look forward to continuing to build our program and our relationship with the Friends of NJSOC as they expand and assume management of the facility.

The possibilities are numerous to move the facility forward while maintaining the historical footprint. We hereby endorse and support The Friends of the NJSOC to assume management of the school.

With kind regards,

Ruth Goralski

John Goralski