

TrailBound Project LLC
56 Carletondale Rd.
Ringwood, NJ 07456

Friday, February 25, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

TrailBound Project is an outdoor skills school, run by New Jersey search and rescue officers and instructors, providing courses and adventure events for novices to experts on hiking, survival, navigating, wilderness first aid, backpacking, night and winter travel, repelling, and search & rescue.

We are writing to convey our support for the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation's expression of interest to continue to manage the NJSOC.

What strikes us most, after spending time with many of the Friends of NJSOC members, is how much they care about the facility. Many of the members regaled us with stories from decades and decades ago when they were campers, volunteers, or employees. They know the facility like the backs of their hands, had a memory and a story at every turn, and have a vested interest in revitalizing it and keeping it that way for generations to come.

We were also impressed at how quickly they were able to jump in when Montclair State University decided to drop the keys off and call it quits. Securing funding and organizing programming is hard enough as it is, but they were able to accomplish this under the time pressure of saving the school. For us, this is precedent that in their hands, funding and capital improvements which would be crucial to success, would be secured and constantly monitored in the future to assure nothing like what happened to Montclair State University would happen again.

Their vision of managing a facility with cooperating core and independent educators in varied verticals like outdoor skills, photography, cooking, and blacksmithing is perfect for the venue. Discussions during one of the walkthroughs circled through programs of inclusion, outdoor education, adventure, fun, and creating memories. It was easy to see how their vision would lead to success and improve the lives of all who visit.

There is no question that the Friends of the NJSOC would far and away be the best choice to manage and act as advocates and stewards for NJSOC. We have complete confidence that their vision, dedication, vested interest, and fiscal precedent will set a model that others will hear about and copy in the future. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with them and be part of the vision once management is in place by providing community-based outdoor skills education to those who visit.

Sincerely,



Scott Fitterman
Co-Owner
TrailBound Project LLC
(201) 575-6525
sfitterman@trailboundproject.com