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Dear Bad Axe Neighbor,


I hope the winter has been good to you. It has been an unusually warm winter here at Camp, and the kids have really taken advantage of the warmth. We've been fully booked almost every weekend for our winter camp program. If you've been up this way you've probably heard us! We can't wait until next winter when we can officially open up our newly completed 6 miles of cross country skiing trails. Although the trails aren't open to the general public, if you would like to swing over for a little skiing just give me a call. I am sure we can work something out. I groom the trails once a week when the snow is good, and they offer some nice quiet skiing in some really pretty parts of the camp.

The main reason for this letter is to offer a one-time deal for our neighbors on the lake. We have access to Arbor Day seedlings again this year, and I would like to offer some to you for planting on your property by our Scouts. These are bare-root seedlings, and if planted in the woods and left on their own will probably have about a 30% survival rate. However, with a little care and watering on your part, they would likely do much better. Species available this year are *white pine* and *northern red oak*.

What we would like to do is have the Scouts come over and meet you at your place during our work weekend event at Camp on Saturday, May 6th. (For safety reasons and to make sure we don't plant a tree in a bad spot, like through your phone line, I would need you to be there that day). The Scouts will have the seedlings and the tree bars, and would plant trees in general areas determined by you. We can offer up to 25 trees per neighbor. I'd likely have 2 crews of kids start with Art Smith and John Martin, and work their way around the lake until they meet.

If this is something you would like to do, please call me and let me know so I can get you on the list for that day. Also at that time, please let me know how many pine and how many oak you want up to 25 total, so I can order them. Please feel free to mix and match as you desire. I need to order trees by March 15th.

Finally, you will find attached a brief explanation why we harvest trees on the Camp. I have this on hand for volunteers who come to Wilderness and ask about why we do what we do. I've also had a few of you asking me about that, and so I thought this might be something you'd like to read. Please don't hesitate to call me or stop in and visit if you have questions about any of these items!



Andy