To whom it may concern,

I would like to express sincere appreciation for all staff who worked for girls from Fukushima at the “Zest for Living” camp 2014. Also, I am grateful that Ranger Girl Scouts from all over Japan supported us and took care of girls during the camp.

Best of all, the fact that we had a camp at Togakushi Girl Scout Center would bring us a huge effect on our Girl Scouting in Fukushima.

Adult Leaders worried about their physical strength and lack of camp skill before the camp. But, at a meeting after the camp, they said “It is sure that Togakushi is the sacred camp site of Japanese Girl Scouts. The camp was fantastic! I am really glad to be there.”

We worried about a long trip by bus to and from Fukushima, but five adult leaders for each bus took care of girls very well. Girls run around the camp site from the first day without a hint of tiredness. They seemed like released their daily stress and enjoyed the camp. There are not many girls visited nurse proves that the camp was enjoyable and affordable for them.

Girls were very cheerful even in the bus returning home. They kept talking about the camp when they get home. On the first day of the camp, they left Fukushima with anxiety. But they returned with full of smile and said to our council board member, “Why didn’t you come to the camp. It was full of fun!”

Every year, I realize that all participants including kids change over time in every aspect during a camp. I am sure that is because this is the camp to improve participants’ zest for living.

There are many people who affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Among them, Fukushima prefecture has to challenge a fairly long way of recovery and reconstruction. We sincerely appreciate everybody who keep supporting us since the earthquake.

As a preparation of the camp, we had a training of how to build a tent and knot at council level. That was the first training on camp skill since the earthquake. We also
learnt about Togakushi Girl Scout Center and had a training on flag ceremony. These are also our result of the camp.

This summer, the camp was held only for Fukushima Council, and each troop involved the camp positively. After the camp, we have a council board meeting on 24th August, and an event for Girl Scouts and Leaders’ Training on 7th September. We will have reflection of the camp on those days and the camp will be ended completely. These series of events on the Great East Japan Earthquake Support Project are leading our Girl Scouting in Fukushima, and I realize that is providing a “Zest for Living” to our council.

Fortunately, one of the troop that stopped Girl Scouting after the earthquake in Soma, one of a city on the Pacific coast, came back. They had a promise ceremony during the camp and restarted the activity.

We do not have a single day passes without hearing about the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster on Newspapers, TV, and conversations. New issues are always rising such as decontamination work, setting temporary places to keep the decontamination waste, people’s physical and psychological health, and social security. However, Peaches produced in Fukushima passed the check for radioactivity and shipped to market all over Japan. Fukushima is famous with fruits products. So, the security and safety of food products are recovering means Fukushima is reconstructing step by step.

Thank you again.

Atsuko Yamagishi
Chair
Fukushima Council