

In the following pages, you will find several resources to help you in your advocacy against the proposed rock quarry in Crawford County:

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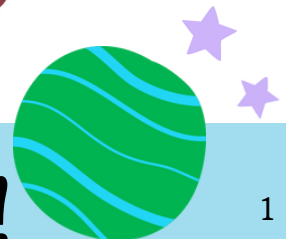
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Be An Eco-Advocate and Live By The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be...

Honest and fair,

How do you think you are being honest and fair by being an advocate for the environment?



Considerate and caring,

It's important to think about who will be impacted by decisions - residents, animals, surrounding land...

Courageous and strong,

It's not always easy to have hard conversations with officials; doing what is "right" takes so much bravery!

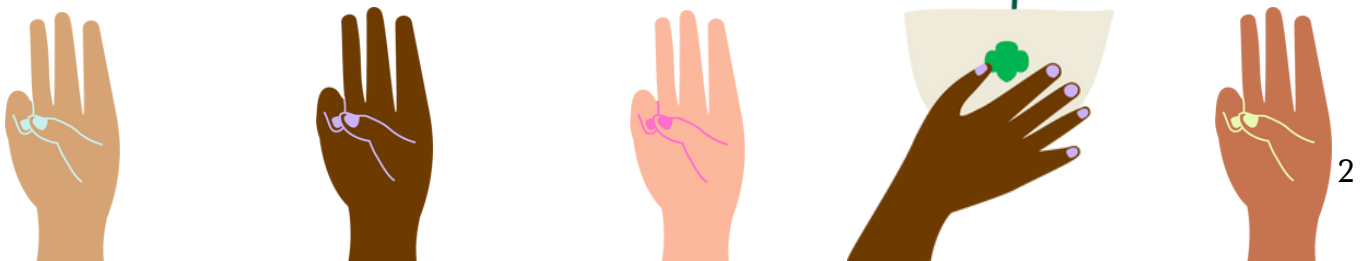
Responsible for what I say and do,

It's important to stand up for your beliefs! Remember to always be kind, even to those who you disagree with!

Make the world a better place,

Making the world a better place is a big deal; change will always have a lasting impact.

And be a sister to every Girl Scout.



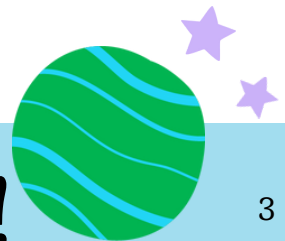


Ways You Can Help

Developers are proposing the construction of a rock quarry in Crawford County, just two miles from Camp Martha Johnston. Research shows that rock quarries have a negative impact on the environment and neighboring communities, so we want to use our collective efforts to share our concerns about the proposed quarry. Since Girl Scouts from all over the state visit Camp Martha Johnston, this is more than a simple community issue. We need the help of ALL Girl Scouts, parents, volunteers, and council staff, regardless of where you live. There are several ways you can help:

1. Conduct research about the dangers of rock quarries to better understand this issue. This packet contains information that will help you better understand our opposition to the quarry.
2. Attend the Crawford County commissioners meeting on July 18. The meeting will take place at 6 pm at the Crawford County Courthouse in the Paul Coverdell room. The courthouse address is 100 GA Hwy. 42 South, Knoxville, Georgia 31050. We encourage all Girl Scouts to show up in uniform, and appreciate all support for those who plan to attend. If you would like to speak at the meeting, there will be sign-up information posted at the Crawford County courthouse on the day of the meeting. If you plan to attend, RSVP at bit.ly/3PPuIwb.
3. Write letters and emails and make phone calls to elected officials who may be involved in making decisions about the rock quarry. You may wish to contact the Crawford County commissioners who will directly vote on the issue, but you could also send letters to state representatives or other individuals who may have interest in this issue. Remember to use your voice and your own words when you write your letter.
4. Help us share the information by posting to your social media so we can get the word out!

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Legislators to Contact

Crawford County Board of Commissioners

Below you will find a list of the Crawford County Commissioners. These are the people who will be making the local decision regarding the quarry. This information can also be found on the Crawford County website at: <https://www.crawfordcountyga.org/county-commissioners>.

District 1: Omar Dickey
(478) 262-2450
o.dickey@crawfordcountyga.org

District 2: Jackie McCowen
(478) 751-8159
j.mccowen@crawfordcountyga.org

District 3: Justin Spillers
(478) 836-2665
j.spillers@crawfordcountyga.org

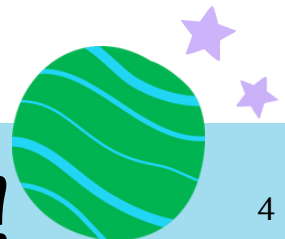
District 4: John Thomas
(478) 935-3812
j.thomas@crawfordcountyga.org

District 5: Dale Jump
(478) 808-2766
d.jump@crawfordcountyga.org

State Legislators

While state legislators may not be directly responsible for the decision regarding the quarry on July 18, you can still consider reaching out to them to let them know if this is something you think they should be concerned about. Rock quarries are not just a local issue, so your advocacy efforts could make a difference in future state or national decisions too! Visit https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator and type in your address to find your legislators. You can also type in the address for Camp Martha Johnston: 1500 Girl Scout Road Lizella, GA 31052.

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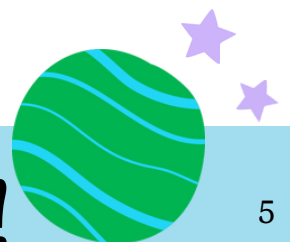


Tips for Communicating with Elected Officials

Here are some things to consider when you are writing letters or emailing elected officials.

1. Establish your credibility.
2. Humanize your message.
3. Be brief.
4. Be clear about your position.
5. Make your message timely.
6. Don't "flame" or insult your reader.
7. Pick 1-3 talking points that are important to you. Don't try to cover everything.
8. Use facts to support your opinions.
9. Use your own words. Be YOU!
10. Sign your name at the bottom of the message.

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Rock Quarry Talking Points

Below you will find several talking points regarding our opposition to the rock quarry. These are just a few concerns about rock quarries; there may be other areas of concern that are not listed. This information is simply provided to help you understand some of our reasons for opposition as well as give you a starting point for your own research. You are encouraged to do your own research and gather more information about the dangers of rock quarries and use the information you find in your advocacy efforts.

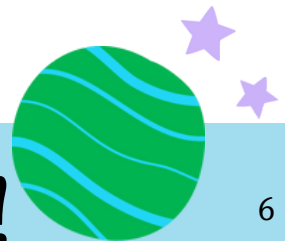
Rock quarries can cause harmful air pollution.

- Quarrying activities generate significant dust and release harmful particles into the air. According to the World Health Organization, each year, millions of people get sick or even die from breathing in harmful pollution (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228>).
- Quarries most often produce silica dust, which is about 100 times smaller than a grain of sand and can cause life-long respiratory (breathing) issues. According to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), breathing in silica dust can cause an incurable lung disease called silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, kidney issues, and other illnesses (<https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline>).
- Research shows that silica dust can negatively impact air quality as far as 750 meters (about one-half mile) away from a quarry site. Research shows that dust clouds can travel several miles, but there is very little research that examines the overall air quality beyond a half-mile radius of a quarry. We really do not know how safe the air is beyond that half-mile mark (<https://www.ewg.org/research/danger-air>).
- *Our view: Even though Camp Martha Johnston is located two miles from the site of the proposed quarry, we are still worried about how the rock quarry will affect the air-quality at camp. On dry, windy days, wind could carry dust several miles away, and we are afraid of putting Girl Scouts, volunteers, and camp staff at risk. We also have concerns for our neighbors and the people who might work at the quarry. We think that everyone deserves to breathe in fresh, clean air.*

Rock quarries can contaminate local water supply.

- The excavation and blasting associated with quarries can cause sedimentation and runoff, which can carry pollutants and sediment into nearby water sources, including wells and streams. A 2001 study on the impacts of quarrying on groundwater quality found that quarries can contaminate local wells with various pollutants, like nitrates and sulfates (<https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2001/ofr-01-0484/ofr-01-0484so.pdf>).

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Rock Quarry Talking Points (cont.)

- A 2013 study that was also published in the Journal of Environmental Geology had similar findings. This research indicated higher levels of heavy metals, like arsenic, lead, and mercury, in wells close to the site of a quarry. The same study also concluded that there was increased risk of bacterial contamination in wellheads near the site of a quarry (https://globaljournals.org/GJSFR_Volume14/2-Environmental-Effects-of-Sand.pdf).
- *Our view: Camp Martha Johnston, like other homes in the surrounding community, relies on well water. We are concerned that the quarry could contaminate our water supply, putting the Girl Scouts and their neighbors at risk for wellness. It is important that we have access to safe drinking water. If we cannot provide that, we cannot allow Girl Scouts and other groups to use our facilities and would likely have to close our doors if no solution was found. In addition to the wells, we are also concerned about contaminants that runoff into our local river and creeks. This could negatively impact local wildlife too.*

Rock quarries can dry up local water supply.

- Rock quarries can strain the local water supply due to the high water demand for various operations. Mining often uses a significant amount of water for dust suppression, equipment cooling, and other processing activities. In a 2008 study conducted by the University of Tennessee Center for Clean Products, it was reported that quarries consume 21 gallons of water for every cubic foot of stone that is extracted and that processors use about 100 gallons of water per day for every cubic foot of stone that is produced (https://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/default/assets/file/consumers/bp_water-consumption.pdf). That may not even account for other water uses. When taking into account the hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of stone that are extracted from rock quarries each year, it becomes clear that a local water supply may not be able to keep up with that sort of demand. Quarries often collect rainwater in an effort to conserve water, but it can take months or even years to collect enough water to operate a quarry without using the local water supply. This is especially true in seasons of drought.
- *Our view: Camp Martha Johnston and neighboring residents rely on well water. We are concerned that the high demand of water needed to successfully run a quarry will put a strain on the local water supply. Over time, this strain could cause local wells to dry up or lose water pressure, forcing residents to find new sources for clean water or move. Without a reliable water supply, Camp Martha Johnston, which has been in operation for more than 100 years, would no longer be able to serve the thousands of Girl Scouts who visit the camp.*





Rock Quarry Talking Points (cont.)

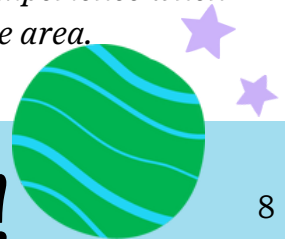
The vibrations from quarrying blasts can cause damage to nearby structures.

- Quarry blasting and heavy machine operations can generate vibrations and ground movements in the areas surrounding the quarry. It is reported that vibrations from quarry blasts can travel as quickly as 20,000 feet per second and can be felt within a four-mile radius of the quarry. All across the nation, there are reports of damage to homes and other structures due to vibrations and flyrock produced by quarry blasts. Cracks in foundations, walls, and ceilings of homes, destructions of wells, damage to vehicles, falling objects, and even personal injury are all reported as damages from quarry operations (<https://intval.com/articles/Flyrock-and-Other-Impacts-from-Quarry-Blasting-Operations.pdf>)
- *Our view: Camp Martha Johnston is a historic institution; many of the buildings are old and more vulnerable to damage from ground vibrations. Structural damages at a camp are not just a financial burden but they are also a safety hazard. Cracks in ceilings and foundations could let in excess moisture, which lets in harmful mold, cracks in floors are tripping hazards, and falling objects could lead to injury. While personal injury and property damage are sometimes beyond human control, personal injury and property damage from quarry blasts are totally preventable. By not allowing a rock quarry to operate so close to a camp, we can eliminate additional risks.*

Rock quarries cause noise pollution.

- Noise pollution might seem to be just an annoyance, but it is actually a health issue. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, noise pollution not only causes hearing issues and deafness, but it also causes high blood pressure and cholesterol, irritability, headaches, insomnia, stress, increased risk of heart disease, and immune-system impairments (<https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-title-iv-noise-pollution#:~:text=Health%20Effects,sleep%20disruption%2C%20and%20lost%20productivity>).
- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) also reports that noise pollution has a detrimental effect on reproductive health (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/noise.html#:~:text=Some%20experts%20think%20that%20pregnant,you%20are%20wearing%20hearing%20protection>).
- *Our view: The noise pollution caused by the proposed rock quarry can cause lasting impacts on the health of those who live in proximity to the quarry. Not only that, the sounds from blasts and from the trucks coming in and out of the quarry site make for an unpleasant experience. Girls visit camp to get away from the hustle and bustle of more suburban areas; they go to find peace and solitude in nature. It's hard to have a peaceful experience when you are listening to quarry blasts or large trucks coming in and out of the area.*

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Rock Quarry Talking Points (cont.)

The proposed rock quarry would create excess traffic on Highway 80 at Girl Scout Road.

- The entrance to the proposed rock quarry is located at the intersection of Highway 80 and Girl Scout Rd. This means that there will be more trucks and heavy machinery on the road. Increased traffic increases the chance of car accidents, but it also increases the likelihood of damage to roads. According to a 1979 study published by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, a single tractor trailer can cause 5,000 times more wear-and-tear on a road than a car (<https://www.gao.gov/products/109954>).
- Increased traffic, especially of heavier machinery, means more damage to the local roads. A 2001 study estimates that each heavy vehicle causes about \$0.09 worth of damage per mile to a highway and \$5.90 worth of damage per mile to a rural road (https://ctr.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/pubs/2122_1.pdf). Not only are damaged roads a safety issue, but they are also a financial issue. More wear-and-tear on the roads means more local tax dollars being used to repair the damage instead of going to other causes.
- *Our view: The increase in trucks and heavy machinery in that area is a safety concern for all drivers, but especially for the young drivers who come to Camp Martha Johnston. As a community, we cannot put the lives of our neighbors, children, and visitors at risk.*

Rock quarries are harmful to the local wildlife.

- The establishment of a rock quarry can lead to deforestation, habitat destruction, and disruption of the local ecosystems.
- A geologist who examined the site of the proposed quarry shared the following notes:
 - The Echeconnee Wildlife Management Area takes up 100 acres of this proposed site plan. This wildlife management area is home to thousands of deer, bears, birds, and natural habitats. The state commissioned this area as a wilderness zone of 650 acres to protect the heavy wildlife population.
 - This area is part of the Ocmulgee River Basin. This Basin is home to one endangered species (Altamaha shiner, *Cyprinella xaenura*) and two rare species (goldstripe darter, *Etheostoma parvipinne*, and redeye chub, *Notropis harperi*).
- *Our view: People are important, but so are plants and animals! As Girl Scouts, we take pride in being good stewards of the land around us. The site of the proposed quarry is home to hundreds of plants and animals. Building a quarry and blasting the rock would not only damage the land, but it would also eliminate the trees in the area and make larger areas of the land inhabitable by animals. While we understand the importance of progress and growth, we fight to ensure that progress efforts are sustainable and do as little damage to the earth as possible.*

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Additional Resources for Research

Here are some additional resources you can refer to as you research the impacts of rock quarries.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission Regional Plan:

https://www.middlegeorgiarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Regional_Assessment_Update_1113151.pdf

- This is a regional assessment and 20-year plan for 11 counties in middle Georgia, including Crawford County. The document is more than 80 pages long and includes information for all 11 counties, so we have listed the pages that may be most relevant to your research:
 - Pg. 14: Overview of Crawford County and areas of potential development (including water supply needs)
 - Pgs. 36-37: Analysis of natural and cultural resources data, including information about agricultural/agritourism assets in Crawford County and concerns about pollution of water sources in region
 - Pgs. 37-39: Analysis of transportation data in region, including road network information and concerns about large trucks on roads in small towns and in rural communities
 - Pg. 73: National Register of Historic Places in Crawford County
 - Pgs. 77-79: Threatened and endangered animals and plants in region, including Crawford County

Change.org Petition to Stop Highway 80 Quarry:

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-us-80-lizella-rock-quarry>

- This petition was started by the residents of Crawford County in opposition of the proposed quarry near Camp Martha Johnston. Several members of the community have posted comments about why they oppose the quarry.

Stop the Vulcan Quarry Website:

<https://www.stop3009vulcanquarry.com>

- This site gives information regarding concerns of a proposed rock quarry in Texas. While Vulcan Materials is not responsible for the proposed quarry near Camp Martha Johnston, the information is still relevant. It should also be noted that the owners of Cottondale Partners, the company that wants to build the quarry near CMJ, both previously worked for Vulcan Materials.

Cottondale Partners Website:

<https://cottondalepartners.com>

- This site gives information about the company that wants to develop a quarry near Camp Martha Johnston.

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Sample Letter Template

Unsure of how to format your letter to an elected official? Use the template below to help put your thoughts together in a strong, well-written, letter. If you are sending an email, you do not need to include the commissioner's address or the date.

[Date]

[Elected Official / Group Name]

[Elected Official Title, if applicable]

[Elected Official / Group Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rock Quarry in Crawford County

Dear [Elected Official / Group],

As [your role: resident, Girl Scout, concerned neighbor, environmental activist, etc.], I am writing to express deep concern and opposition regarding the proposed rock quarry in Crawford County near Camp Martha Johnston.

[Choose what you think to be the most important talking point and use facts to support your concern].

[If you have multiple concerns, choose another talking point and use facts to support your concern. It is okay to focus the entirety of your letter on just one concern, though two talking points is ideal.]

[Two talking points is appropriate, but you may consider inserting a third]

[Call to action—This is where you ask your reader to do something, like vote against the rock quarry. If you are writing to someone who doesn't have a direct vote, you can ask them to be an advocate or take a stand.]

[Thank your reader for their time and consideration. If you have one or two other brief statements to drive your point home, insert them here.]

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

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Sample Letter to Commissioner

Dear Mr. First Last,

As a Girl Scout alumna with fond memories of summers spent at Camp Martha Johnston, I am writing to express deep concern and opposition regarding the proposed rock quarry in Crawford County. The site of the proposed quarry entrance is just two miles from Camp Martha Johnston, and I worry that the proximity of the quarry will have detrimental effects on the health and safety of those who visit camp each year.

First and foremost, rock quarries cause harmful air pollution. The mining process produces a lot of dust, and inhaling this dust can cause several life-altering health problems. According to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, the silica dust that is produced in quarrying activities can cause lung cancer, COPD, kidney issues, and an incurable lung disease called silicosis. On dry, windy days, this dust can travel as far as several miles away from a quarry, which means that Girl Scouts at Camp Martha Johnston could breathe it in. When I think back to my days at Camp Martha Johnston, I am reminded of the fresh, clean air I was able to breathe in. I am worried that future campers might not get that same experience because the air would put their health at risk.

Additionally, I am very concerned about how the increased traffic at the intersection of Highway 80 and Girl Scout Road could put camp visitors in danger. There could be over 100 large trucks entering and exiting the quarry on any given day. This additional traffic increases the likelihood of car accidents in the area. I'm deeply concerned about the safety of parents who might be dropping their children off or of young drivers who might be driving to camp. While I wish that the additional traffic didn't put lives at risk, the reality is that these large trucks can cause more bodily harm than regular vehicles and increase the likelihood of fatalities. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 14% of all roadway deaths in Georgia involved commercial vehicles. We simply cannot put our children at risk. Girl Scouts from all over the state, and sometimes from other parts of the country, visit Camp Martha Johnston every year, and it is important that we do everything we can to keep them all safe.

I urge you, as a representative of our community, to carefully consider these concerns and prioritize the well-being of the residents you serve as well as travelers from all over the state who visit Camp Martha Johnston each year. I kindly request that you reject the proposed rock quarry project and explore alternative strategies that would contribute to the growth and prosperity of our community without compromising the health and safety of residents and visitors alike. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give serious consideration to the concerns expressed by myself and other concerned citizens. Together, we can preserve the beauty, integrity, and safety of our community for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Sample



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Canva Templates for Letters

If you are looking for fun, creative templates to use in your letters, we have designed some that you can use. [Click here to access editable Canva templates](#). If you do not already have a Canva account, you will need to create a free account in order to access the templates.

Check out this preview of some of the templates to decide if this is the resource for you:

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Dear _____

My name is _____, I am a _____ level Girl Scout of Troop # _____.

As a local Girl Scout who cares for the environment, I ask that you do not support the proposed rock quarry in Crawford County.

Thank You For Your Time,

Dear _____

Thank You For Your Time,

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