

Town can't tax Boy Scout camp

ALBANY (AP) — A middle-level state appeals court has ruled that a large portion of a Boy Scout camp in Sullivan County can't be placed on the tax rolls even though much of the land is commercially lumbered.

The unanimous ruling Thursday by a five-judge panel of the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court went in favor of the Nassau County Council, Boy Scouts of America and the council's Onteora Scout Reservation.

Since 1977, town of Rockland assessors have included about 3,700 acres of the 4,300-acre scout camp on the tax rolls arguing that it should not be tax-exempt because its main purpose was not for scouting activities.

The judges, in upholding a lower court ruling, noted that the timber sale contracts had netted the scout council about \$10,000 annually in 1977 and 1978 and about \$20,000 in 1979.

Nonetheless, the five-judge panel ruled that the land in question was "used primarily in furtherance of the exempt purposes for which the Boy Scouts are organized."