



*For Immediate Release*

## IDOC Announces Closure of Camp Summit Boot Camp

LaPorte, IN (August 29, 2014) – Due to the continuous decline in the Indiana Department of Correction’s (IDOC) youth population, the IDOC is announcing plans to close the Camp Summit Boot Camp in LaPorte, IN.

The 72 youth currently housed at Camp Summit will be transitioned to community-based programs or transferred to other IDOC juvenile facilities before the facility officially closes on or about October 1, 2014. Those who are not scheduled for release before then will be moved to either the Logansport or Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facilities, where there is ample bed capacity available. To continue the boot camp model, Pendleton Juvenile plans to expand the facility’s current Future Soldiers Program, a paramilitary program that prepares youth as potential military recruits by teaching good citizenship, leadership, self-reliance and responsibility.

Since 2009, when the IDOC Division of Youth Services (DYS) was created, DYS has utilized national best practices to improve treatment and services to the youth in our care. The agency has undertaken major efforts to reduce the length of stay of youth in secure facilities and to assign youth to the least restrictive setting based on their individual needs and risks. This has not only resulted in the dramatic reduction of the number of youth being held in Indiana’s juvenile correctional facilities, from more than 1,200 youth in 2007 to just over 400 today, but has also allowed that only those youth who pose the greatest public safety risk are being committed to a juvenile correctional facility.

“Due to efforts of our youth services staff, at-risk youth are spending less time in prison and are returning to community programs as quickly as possible to reunite them with their families and provide them with the support they need to be responsible citizens. This move will enable our youth services staff to better serve the youth in our care, while making more efficient use of taxpayer dollars,” said Commissioner Bruce Lemmon.

Approximately 50 Camp Summit employees will have the opportunity to transfer to other facilities or apply for vacant positions throughout the Department following the facility’s closure. The IDOC is working closely with the State Personnel Department to find placement options and minimize the impact on staff. “Our goal is continued State employment for every affected worker,” assured Commissioner Lemmon.

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