

## **Timothy Casey (Secretary to the Board)**

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**From:** Kim Ruffin <kim@cardinalencounters.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:55 PM  
**To:** CookCounty Board (Secretary to the Board)  
**Subject:** CLIC experience

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Dear Cook County Board,

I was unable to join the online public hearing, so I am writing to share my positive experience as a Camping Leadership Immersion Course (CLIC) participant. As a volunteer leader for Outdoor Afro (a national non-profit which reconnects Black people with the outdoors), I have been looking for ways to meet the high demand for camping events and address the need for camping gear among our participants. Many in the Outdoor Afro community want to try camping, but the cost of gear is a barrier to their participation. CLIC provides a valuable resource for those without camping gear. Attending the CLIC training not only assured me that I could use this Forest Preserves of Cook County resource to meet the needs of Outdoor Afro but also made me excited to lead group camping events.

While I was primarily interested in the gear library and how to be sure I follow the policies and procedures for it, I was happy to experience the ways in which CLIC expanded my understanding of leading a group camping event. Despite less than perfect weather, my fellow CLIC training attendees and I had a great time completing all of the features of CLIC. I will definitely be incorporating ideas I learned at CLIC into my group camping events. Brian Arnoldt and his team were excellent guides throughout the training.

I'm grateful that this resource is available, look forward to using it for my scheduled group camping trip, and urge the Cook County Board to continue its support for the program.

Please feel free to contact me should you like more information about my CLIC training experience.

Thank you. All best,  
Kim Ruffin  
Volunteer Outdoor Afro Leader (Chicago/NW Indiana)

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Kim Ruffin  
Founder, [Cardinal Encounters](#)  
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