

August 2009

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Be Connected Newsletter

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Membership News

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for registered Girl Scouts, both girls and adults. Assistance is provided by Council for troop dues, national dues, sashes/vests, program fees and GSUSA insignia.

Troop leaders can request assistance for national dues and troop dues. Forms are available online at www.gshpa.org in the "forms" section.

Tip: If parents are not requesting financial assistance, here's what troop leaders can do:

1. Send a letter to all parents explaining the financial aid process.
2. Stress that financial aid requests are confidential.
3. Share with parents that donors and organizations such as the United Way contribute funds to help girls participate in the Girl Scout program. We cannot provide financial assistance without the request.
4. Processing financial aid takes about 3 weeks.

If you have any questions, call your membership associate or the local community development director.

"Ponds" Available for Ceremony Use

Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Troop 53, based in Dunmore, PA, recently donated four ponds to the S'mores Valley Unit. These ponds are to be used by Daisy Scouts who are going to become Brownies in their year-end ceremony or by Brownie Troops to initiate their new members into the troop.

The Troop 53 girls are working to earn the Artistic Crafts and Visual Arts badges and their Gold Award by doing this project. The girls learned to cut, sand, construct, prepare and finish the wooden pond base. When this was complete, they decorated the surrounding "pond" (a mirror) with woodland decorations. Each pond cost just over \$100 to construct. They are available for your Brownie Troop to borrow for your investiture ceremony or your Daisy troop for your year-end ceremony.

At the Daisy Year-end Celebration or upon Brownie initiation, your new Brownies will be taken outside the meeting room. They will knock on the door. The Leader opens it and asks:

LEADER: "Who comes to these woods?"

GIRLS: "We do!"

LEADER: "What do you want?"

GIRLS: "We want to be Brownie Girl Scouts."

LEADER: "Please come in."

(Brownies enter and stand in orderly line)

LEADER: "We all remember the Brownie Girl Scout story from our handbook. We, too, will perform a little magic of let's pretend. Close your eyes.

LEADER: "Cross your little fingers,
Stand upon your toes
that's a bit of magic
Every Brownie Girl Scout knows.
Now we all are standing in a forest glade.
Listen very carefully
See the magic made.
Open your eyes
Here we are in the big woods
before you is a pond
you can almost hear the Wise Old Owl
and the friends of whom you're fond."

(Assist each girl to the pond and while turning her – repeat:)

"Twist me and turn me and show me an elf,
I looked in the water and saw

(Girl says, "Myself.")

(Place Brownie Girl Scout pin on uniform upside down, give Girl Scout handshake, and ask the new member to repeat the Girl Scout Promise. She then stands to the side. Repeat process for each girl.)

NOTE TO LEADERS: At this time, all girls make the Girl Scout sign and repeat the Promise. Call each girl forward and place her membership pin on her clothing upside down. Explain that the pin is upside down because she should go home and do three good turns ... one for each part of the Promise. When the good turns are completed, her parent or guardian can turn the pin right side up. Note that you hope to see all the pins turned over by the next meeting. *(Discuss the meaning of good turns with the girls prior to the ceremony.)* Note: putting the pins on upside down is an optional activity.

(At this point, you may wish to sing a song.)

LEADER: "Uncross your little fingers,
down from off your toes,
then the magic goes away,
As every Girl Scout knows."

Please contact Amy Raider at (570) 307-0601 x1325 if you'd like to reserve one of these ponds for your year-end or initiation ceremony.

For more info on Ceremonies, check out the PAL (coming August 15th) for info on our Adult Learning Opportunity Ceremonies 101.

2009 Fall Kickoff

Don't forget the 2009 Fall Kickoff event is scheduled for August 15th at Camp Small Valley in Halifax. This event is for service unit level volunteers. If you received an invitation in the mail, there is still time to register. Go to www.gshpa.org/kickoff.

Camp News

Remember Camp Lycogis?!

Camp Lycogis is back in action! We have some awesome program opportunities available for girls of all ages this summer. Our brand new adventure program features four progressive levels of high adventure opportunities. Girls entering grades 6-8 will get the basics on the low ropes course and climbing wall in *Stretch Your Limits*, then challenge themselves on the high ropes course with *Up in the Trees*. Girls entering grades 9-12 will take it to the extreme with indoor and outdoor climbing walls in *Rock On*, then push their limits on the high ropes course in *Livin' on the Edge*. Additional programs include *Campfire Kitchen*, *Hit the Trail*, *Night Owls*, and many more. Please help to promote Camp Lycogis and our resident camp program. Questions can be directed to [Liz Brobst](#), ext. 1316. There's still time to register for Camp Lycogis. Programs run August 9-14 and August 16-21.

Kudos to Volunteers at Camp Louise & Camp El Wa Ho

On the Berwick United Way Day of Caring, 20 volunteers from various area companies helped get Camp Louise ready for the coming camping season. The group cleaned the leaves from the pool, organized and cleaned the Dining Hall and Kitchen areas and help with general camp clean up by removing downed branches and clearing brush.

The Red Rock Job has been coming to Louise several times a year. This spring they put up all the tents, tent flys and pavilion covers. At the same time, they put all the cots and mattresses into the tents to get ready for the camping season.

Adams County United Way celebrates May of Caring. Camp El Wa Ho has been a beneficiary of this program for many years. This year on May 12 and 23 approximately 55 volunteers, including Orrstown Bank employees and their families and friends, worked at the camp. They washed and repaired all the mats in the camp, painted a deck and screen doors. Bringing their own equipment, they removed 20 hazardous trees and split the wood.

Thanks to all of our great camp volunteers!

Product Sales

Fall Product is coming!

The Fall Product Program/Sale is set to start on August 24th! Troops are encouraged to choose 2-3 weeks to participate in the sale, and may begin at any time during the sale.

This year's sale has some exciting new programs!

That is right! Due to the huge success of the "Cookie SU Rally" – it was decided to give a "Fall Product SU Rally" a try! Service Units will have the opportunity to participate through our online form (coming soon to our Web site). What a great way to gather all your family and friends to

enjoy some product samples and partake in some SUPER SLEUTH-ASTIC programs! So get together and let's rally for a FUN-TASTIC Fall Product sale!

Curious what the fall line-up includes this year?

Click here to see a sample of the order card.

http://www.gshpa.org/programs/fps_09/order_card_2009.pdf

You heard it on the grape vine...

Chocolate Covered Raisins are back! Due to popular demand, we have added the chocolate covered raisins back to the Fall Product Line-up.

What else is new this year?

- This year, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are able to choose (unanimously as a troop) to receive extra proceeds instead of incentives.
- Fall Product Dough has been added to the line-up of incentives.
- And a Mystery (day) Trip to Washington DC has been added as an incentive.

And back this year...Webinars!

We have several Webinars set-up to help you through the sale...click here for the schedule.

http://www.gshpa.org/programs/fps_09/fps_webinars_2009.pdf

Need more information?

Check out our Web site (www.gshpa.org) – and check back often for new and exciting updates! Forms for this year's sale will be posted soon.

Wouldn't it be nice if all your questions could be answered with the click of a mouse?

Well for Fall Product it can! Webinars are coming in August, so stay tuned! Click here for the link to the Webinars schedule. http://www.gshpa.org/programs/fps_08/pgm_fps.html

Banking questions?

No problem, just email it to banking@gshpa.org.

We are in the process of planning cookie and will be releasing information on training and cookie sale schedule soon...so stay tuned!

Council Shops

Girl Scout Catalogs are Here!

The 2009-2010 Girl Scout Catalog have been arriving in your mailbox! You can also check out the catalog [online](#). New this year...there is a 20% off coupon for two or more GSUSA girls and teen apparel in GSHPA Store locations (York, Harrisburg & Scranton) and online. The coupon will also be honored in our GSHPA Council Shop locations while supplies last. GSHPA is also please to announce the expansion of this coupon to include all clearance adults, teen and girl apparel as well! Remember the coupon is valid August 1st through October 15th.

There is a small correction to the catalog. The Bridge to Ambassador placement in the catalog is listed incorrectly. It is located on page 29.

There are great new items, including T-shirt designs in girl and adult sizes , “Future Girl Scout” onesie, dress, and bib that make great gifts for moms of new baby girls, as well as a sharp-looking adult polo shirt in white. Great new briefcase and many new gift items for your friends in scouting.

Get Ready for Journey 2 Books: Coming Soon to a GSHPA Store or Shop

It’s coming. The “It’s Your Planet – Love It!” Journey Books will be here soon! The new catalog features information on the new Journey series that is days away from arriving in a Council Store or Shop near you! Many will have the opportunity to preview the new series at the Camp Small Valley kickoff on August 15th.

Please take a look at the attached sheet to see how the Journey series can make planning your meetings a breeze and keep your troop members interested and engaged in Girl Scouting!

Girl Scouts in Action

Service Project- Arts Universe Wilkes-Barre

Here’s a note from Toby Landon, of Arts Universe in Wilkes-Barre regarding four Northeast region troops that helped with gardens in front of the center:

“Sunday went great!! So many girls and parents showed up and gave us their time, energy, and enthusiasm. What a great group of adults and children. Everything that needed to be done was completed in less than 1 1/2 hours... a testament to what a community can do when everyone works together.”