



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts In the Heart of Pennsylvania

Discover.

Be  Connected.

Take Action!

October 2009

From the C.E.O. and Board Chair

Last month, we shared our plans to take our Council through an accelerated business planning process. We also shared with you that the purpose of this process is twofold - put our Council on a solid financial footing and create a path by which we can best align our mission with the needs and interests of the girls we serve because keeping “Girls First” is our most important guiding principle.

Soliciting feedback from both the girls and the volunteers has been a key ingredient throughout the preliminary stages of this process. In order to do so, we asked both parties to share their feedback/insights/comments throughout the month of September by way of either focus groups and/or online surveys. Nearly 1200 girls and 800 volunteers responded to our invitation and did just that.

We are extremely excited by the overwhelming response we received and wanted to take this opportunity to share a snapshot of some of the findings with you:

Both girls and volunteers agreed on the following top three programming themes:

- Leadership and Self Esteem
- Health and Wellness
- Community Service

What do the girls want?

- Fun
- Affordable activities
- Modernized camping facilities

What do the volunteers want?

- Excellent customer service
- Flexible store hours or fast delivery of materials
- Improved camp facilities/resources (i.e. flush toilets, showers and outdoor expertise)
- Streamlined and clear communication from the Council

While the formal solicitation of volunteer feedback has come to a close, we continue to be very interested in your thoughts and encourage you to submit your feedback by following the link: <http://www.gshpa.org/feedback.html>

As we enter the home stretch of the business planning process, our next challenge is to find a way to realistically match what our girls and volunteers want/need today with a Council infrastructure that is both financially sustainable and flexible enough to match the “way we do business” with the ever changing needs, interests and wants of the girls we serve.

Sincerely,

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Happy Birthday!

A woman who would change the world was born this month almost a hundred and fifty years ago. We've all heard the story of how Juliette Gordon Low called her friend in Savannah, Georgia and declared, "'I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!'" It was that enthusiasm and drive that grew the Girl Scout movement so quickly from the first troop of 18 girls in 1912 to an organization today with more than 3.7 million members around the World.



Many things have changed about the Girl Scouts in its nearly 100 year history, but what has remained the same is the vision that Low had for her organization. From the very start, Girl Scouts welcomed girls with disabilities during a time when many organizations

would not allow them to participate. This seemed very natural to Low, who had dealt with many disabilities of her own including deafness. She also encouraged girls to learn to become resourceful and develop self-reliance.

As we celebrate the life of our organization's founder, take some time to reflect on how Low's vision for girls continues today and how her dream became a reality for millions of girls. To learn more about Juliette Gordon Low's life and legacy, [go here](#).

Archives Grab 'n' Go Resource

What better way to celebrate the life of the Girl Scout founder by checking out the uniforms of Girl Scouts throughout the nearly 100 years of our history. With the Archives Uniform Loaner Boxes, your girls can step back in time and let their imagination fly. Dress up in uniforms of different styles and different eras. This Resource is available for troops of all ages and it can be borrowed for a fee of \$5.00.

Never used a Grab 'n' Go before? Grab 'n' Go resources are a convenient, self-contained program for your next meeting.

To Rent:

Call or email your local service center to check the availability of the Resource.

Required information for all G&G Resources:
(Resources may be borrowed for up to three weeks)

Number of girls

Leader's name

Address, city, state, zip code

County

Daytime phone number

Email address

Refundable Deposit

There is a \$25.00 refundable deposit per Resource. The deposit check should be separate from the check for the rental fee (i.e.: 2 checks.) Make checks payable to Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania (or GSHPA) and mail them to your local service center. The \$25.00 deposit will be returned when the Resource is returned in good condition and with no contents missing.

Membership

Where is the 2009-2010 Fall P.A.L.?

Leaders you hold in your hands the most current edition of GSHPA's 2009-2010 Fall P.A.L. and it is "green". All troops have received a CD containing the 2009-2010 Fall P.A.L. and V.R.G. On the CD you will be able to see ALL the programs and adult learning opportunities GSHPA has to offer from October 2009 through February 2010.

The "Programs at a Glance" section on pages 19-32 is your quick reference to finding the best program for your troop. Grab'n'Go Resources can be found on page 113, GSHPA Patch programs can be found on page 125, and those all important Adult Learning Opportunities can be found starting on page 141.

Use this CD as your quick reference to what is being offered. When you find the program you want to attend, print out a registration form, found on page 17-18, and send it along with payment to our Harrisburg office OR go to www.gshpa.org to E-Council online registration in the lower right hand corner. Use your troop debit card to register for that perfect program or adult learning opportunity.

Don't forget about those deadlines. Please take into consideration the rate of "snail mail". We would hate for you to miss out because the deadline passed.

Can't wait to see you at all the great events we have planned for your troop!

I Have a Troop... What Now?

Congratulations and thank you for becoming a Girl Scout volunteer. Your time and dedication will change the lives of the girls you are working with. That is why you became a volunteer, but that doesn't mean that you know what to do next? GSHPA provides trainings and workshops to get you ready to become a leader, but you still may need a little help with what to do with all those girls each week. We have a resource just for you. There is a guide on the GSHPA Web site that provides specific instructions on what to do with your girls for the first four meetings. That's a whole month of ideas in one simple to use document. No matter what age level you are leading, you can find help by going [here](#). Start downloading and have fun!

Thank You!

A BIG thank you goes out to all the volunteers across the council who supported local day camps this past summer. Thank you for the hard work and dedication you put into making this happen. Committees will be forming again soon to plan for next year's day camps, so please contact your Service Unit or Associate, Membership Services if you are interested in participating on a local committee.

More Thanks!

A big THANK YOU to Service Unit Registrars for their speedy and accurate data entry of membership registrations this year.

Great job! Kudos to all.

Pink Lights



October has traditionally been the month to participate in the Pink Lights project at GSHPA. Now, we are thrilled to bring you a new program based on breast health. Although statistics show that only .001% of females under the age of 40 will ever experience breast cancer, but we still know so much about it. That's the power of women! Do we know as much about how to keep our "girls" healthy? By completing the GSHPA Pink Lights Patch Program, girls and adults, will learn many ways to keep their breasts healthy for a lifetime. This program is age-appropriate for all levels of Girl Scouting and YES, the Pink Lights are still a part of it. So... Discover, Connect and Take Action to a lifetime with healthy breasts.

Go to www.gshpa.org under girls and then patches for the program guide.

Is your troop participating in the Pink Lights program this month? Please let us know what you are planning and when. We'd love to share your story. Please submit your information and a way to contact you to Chad Smith at csmith@gshpa.org by October 15th.

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

This unique program provides an ideal opportunity for the community to celebrate the spirit of youth volunteerism, and to recognize those students who have distinguished themselves through volunteer work. Girl Scouts who have participated in community service are encouraged to fill out an

online application form at <http://spirit.prudential.com>. Once the form has been completed online*, print it out, sign it, have a parent/guardian sign it, fax the signed signature page to 615-627-9685, and submit the entire printed application to GSHPA, 350 Hale Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17104, Attn. Anne Reitzes, by November 2nd.

By November 9th, GSHPA will review the applications, and select the most deserving applicant to submit to the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Committee. Potential honors from the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Committee include a trip to Washington DC, an engraved medallion, and an unrestricted award of \$1,000.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards organization will announce the results on February 9, 2010.

*If you know of a Girl Scout that does not have internet access, she may call 1-877-525-8491 toll-free to receive a paper application.

What to Do in an Emergency

The primary concern of Girl Scouts is always the health and safety of the girls and adults we serve. On those occasions when a crisis situation arises, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is prepared to respond quickly and effectively. Please use the following guidelines and incident report form when responding to any crisis situation.

First Things First – Dealing with an Emergency
In the event of an accident, major emergency or fatality, follow these procedures:

- Care for the injured.
- Call 911 and secure an ambulance and police as appropriate.
- Report the emergency and secure additional staff assistance by calling 866-205-4744. (Toll-free). You will be connected to a telephone service that will put you in touch with the appropriate staff.

Work directly with the chief executive officer, chief operating officer and chief communications officer on statements to the media. For clear and consistent messaging, only council-appointed individuals can speak to the media in a crisis situation.

Please print and keep a copy of this information with your troop's first aid kit.

Regional Updates

Northeast Region

Day Camp at McDade Park

Montage Valley Service Unit is planning on having another day camp at McDade Park in Scranton next summer. We will be forming a committee in October. If you are interested in joining the planning committee please call Amy Raider 1-800-692-7816, x1325 to sign up!

Online message board-Lackawanna County

Check out the online message board for the leaders of Lackawanna County-

www.lackawannagirlscouts.ning.com

Lackawanna leaders can post pictures, events and form groups such as "Lackawanna County Brownie leaders". Also, the message board is set up to have online discussions and open up forums for new ideas/suggestions.

Bus Trip to Lancaster

Service Unit 307 is taking a bus trip from Hazleton to Lancaster for a fun filled day of dairy farms, pretzel factories and PA Dutch food. The trip will be held on Saturday, October 17th. Please contact Beverly Brobst at bluewitch@live.com for more info on reserving a seat on the bus.

Upcoming programs in the Northeast Region

Check out the PAL or online registration at www.gshpa.org for more details

Don't forget to look ahead, there are many deadlines in October for programs in Nov.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Went the trolley! and **Riding the Rails** on Oct. 24 will let you experience the Electric City Trolley Station and Museum with an actual ride throughout Scranton and the surrounding area aboard an old fashion trolley. Don't miss out on this exciting day on the rails!

Lighten up! On Oct. 25 let older girls explore the fascinating world of light using simple chemistry experiments.

Council Campfire – Oct. 16, Camp Pocono and Camp Archbald. Bundle up for great old-fashion Girl Scout fun around the campfire.

Nature Explorers: Camp Environmental Service Project & Nature Explorers – Endangered Species Oct. 24 Camp Laurel. Whether you are coming to help spruce up the camp or to experience the wildlife extraordinaire you won't want to miss this day at Camp Laurel.

South Region

Help with Girl Programs Needed

Do you enjoy helping girls learn new things? Are you interested in assisting with girl programs beyond the troop setting? Then we have an opportunity for you! The South Region Program Team is looking for help with upcoming fall/early winter programs. Those interested in helping, please contact Marilyn Gual at 1.800.692.7816 ext. 1500 or mgual@gshpa.org. To see a list of programs where help is needed, [click here](#).

South Central Region

The South Central Region is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with council programs on an occasional basis. We are looking for volunteers who might be willing to help carry out programs in the Fall PAL or who would be interested in planning programs to be offered through the Spring PAL. If you enjoy working with girls to help them discover new things, then this just might be the role you have been looking for! If you are interested in helping with council programming in the South Central region, please contact Susan

Neville at 717-233-1656 ext. 1035
orsneville@gshpa.org.

Product Sales

Fall Product Program

Fall Product Program is well underway and the last day of program sales is October 16th! The girls and volunteers were very excited with the incentives this year and option for increase proceeds in lieu of incentives as well. We also heard positive reviews about including Product Sales Dough as an option at some levels. To learn more about the incentives, please review them on our Web site.



Two great programs that many SU are participating in this year, SU Rally Kickoff and the Missing Link Puzzle Activity. Both programs are meant to bring the girls together and work as a team.

The SU Rally Kickoff event was an idea that formed during the Cookie sale last year, it proved to be a huge success so we incorporated it into the Fall sale! One SU in the Northeast region had ...Need Shelli info.

And in the South region...SU 231 held a SU Rally Kickoff that included several GSI stations run by their Cadette Scouts. The stations included "Make your own ID badge", "Crime scene investigation" and "Missing Link service project ideas". There were 100 girls in attendance.

The Missing Link Puzzle Activity is meant to highlight each troop in the local service area. Troops are asked to decorate a puzzle piece to reflect a community service project that they participated in last year or this year. It is a great way for the girls to reflect on what they have done together as a troop –

and of course for the rest of us to see how amazing our “Girl Scout Heroes” are!

The Cookie Program is coming!

It is hard to believe that cookie is literally right around the corner! Product Sales is looking to recruit veteran and new SU Cookie Managers for the Cookie Program. Please contact the Associate, Product Sales with your SU Cookie Manager name and contact information.

Training is almost here! A schedule is now available online (link?), please be sure to register early!

The theme this year is “Inspired by U”. Cookie sale begins on January 8th.

Communications

We Want to Hear from You

Starting next month, the Be Connected newsletter will feature a new segment devoted specifically to what’s going on in your service unit and troops. In November, we’re putting the highlight on Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Do you have a great story of what your girls are doing in their community? Send along the details (with a picture, if you have it) to csmith@gshpa.org and that story may be featured in the next edition of GSHPA Be Connected Newsletter. Please submit all entries by October 21, 2009.

Council Stores/Shops

Yes, they are back!! Basics in a Bag have returned and will be available in the Council Stores as of October 12th!

What is basics in a bag? These are girl level bags which include uniform vest/tunic, flag patch, 5 digit troop numerals, Council ID set, insignia tab, and girl level books in a GSHPA bag! The bag is included for free and we have 5 assorted colors to choose from. Stop by one of our stores today!

Parents saying “thank you”! Our newest girl scout parents are finding their way into our stores to purchase the basics for their daughters new to girl scouts....ok our returning girls too. Some troop leaders have been sending emails or providing sheet on items that their girls will need for the year and including specifics such as their 5 digit troop numbers and which Journey book the girls will be using. This is a great help for parents new to girl scouting – they really appreciate your efforts!!

Online Shop Under Construction!

Please continue to shop! You will notice over the next few weeks several changes to the online store to better serve you – Thank you for your patience! We will be adjusting Department section to allow for ease in finding items and increasing the number of items available on line.

In celebration of Juliette Low’s birthday on October 31st, all customers who purchase item(s) online between October 1st and October 31st will be entered into a raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive a copy of Lady from Savannah: The Life of Juliette Low (Paperback) by Gladys Denny Shultz & Daisy Gordon Lawrence. Winner will be contacted by November 5th and announced winner will be in the December Volunteer Newsletter.



The count down is one for the 20% off when you purchase two or more Girl or Teen Apparel. Expires on October 15th so hurry!

Be sure to check out the new items featured in the 2009-2010 Girl Scout Catalog. Visit our store locations now to take advantage of a special sale!

Buy 2 or more regularly priced Girl or Teen apparel items, and save 20%! Now is the perfect time to stock up on all of your favorites! GSHPA has extended the offer to include all clearance apparel as well! **Remember this sale ends October 15th so shop now!!**

October Hours:

Our Council Stores & Council Shops will the following hours of operation:

Stores – Harrisburg, York, Scranton
M-F 10 to 5 with Thursday hours until 7PM

Shop – Lancaster, Gettysburg, Hazelton,
Montoursville & State College
M-F 10 to 5PM with Thursday hours until 7PM
Saturday – closed
Online Store – 24 hours a day/7 days a week!