



Be Connected - January 2010

GSHPA Charter Renewed

Girl Scouts of the USA renewed the charter of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania in December 2009. The one-year charter is on track for renewal next year as long as GSHPA continues to increase its financial reserves and its membership. The business planning effort that our Council undertook in the Fall provides a roadmap for the growth that GSUSA is looking for. We thank our volunteers for the feedback you gave to create the business plan and look forward to working with you on its implementation in 2010.

Sincerely,

Jane Ransom
President/CEO

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Business Plan Update

Helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders continues to serve as our guiding principle as we bring to life the priorities outlined in our new business plan. Initiated by our need to put our council on firm financial footing while not losing sight of our long standing tradition of developing the leadership and self-esteem of girls, the business plan continues to roll out in strategic stages. The following are some highlights of our most recent and/or next steps:

Retail Store is Back Online

Essential Girl Scout materials can once again be purchased online at www.gshpa.org. To the

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returning online shopper the site may not look all that different; many improvements have been made behind the scenes to guarantee that the items purchased are in stock and will ship out as soon as possible without any additional steps or delays. Free shipping will continue on all orders placed through January 31, 2010 with shipping rates for future orders still under consideration. Over the course of the next few months, we will continue to make improvements to the online store's look, feel and usability and continue to plan to pilot the traveling trunk in at least one region this coming Spring.

Six Task Forces to Convene in March 2010

Input from volunteers and girls continues to be extremely important as we enter into the next planning and implementation stages of the business planning process. With this in mind, six task forces will begin to meet as early as March 2010 to recommend the best way(s) for our Council to Invest in the Experiences that Build Leaders and Invest in the People Who Make It Happen. More specifically, the task forces will focus on the following areas:

- Outdoor Experience
- Signature Programming
- Retail
- New Way of Work
- Customer Service
- Finance & Information Systems

Announcement of Seven Key Camps is Coming Soon!

The seven key camps that Girl Scouts in Heart of Pennsylvania will invest in moving forward will be announced this Spring. Current/past usage, current/future programming opportunities and current/anticipated overhead/capital/maintenance expenses are all being considered when selecting the seven key camps.

Next Steps

Look for future announcements in the weeks and months ahead as we continue to work together to help today's girls become tomorrow's leaders. As always, your opinion continues to be important to us and we encourage you to share your feedback at <http://www.gshpa.org/feedback.html>. Thank

you to those who have shared their feedback thus far – many of your suggestions and questions will help make the implementation of the business plan even better.

Newly Minted Cookie Entrepreneurs Now Ready for Success



More than 130 girls from central and northeastern Pennsylvania are newly minted CEOs - "Cookie Entrepreneur Officers". The girls in grades 7-12 successfully completed the 2010 Cookie College, provided by Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, in partnership with Susquehanna Bank. The program was held on Saturday, January 9th at Penn State University Harrisburg Campus.

To these girls, words like goal-setting, financial literacy and marketing are just as important as Thin Mints, Samoas and Tagalongs.

"Girl Scouts is all about building leadership and self-esteem of girls," said Jane Ransom, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania CEO. "So marketing and public speaking and learning those kinds of skills in the context of the cookie program help girls for life," remarked Ransom.

Hands-on workshops at the Cookie College provided girls with the opportunity to work one-on-one with successful business women in their community. The interactive workshops focused on public relations, basic finance and marketing skills. Many were led by employees of Susquehanna Bank.



"Financial literacy is at the heart of Susquehanna Bank's charitable mission," said Beth Miller, senior vice president with Susquehanna. "We're honored to partner with the Girl Scouts in empowering young women to be successful throughout their lifetime with solid business sense."



To wrap up the big event, the girls created and presented marketing plans and tested their new knowledge by playing fun games.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is much more than a way to help troops raise money. It is a hands-on leadership and entrepreneurial program unlike any other in the world. Girls gain a wealth of essential skills, not from a book, but from real-life experiences that build a strong foundation for success.

H1N1 Virus Prevention Tips

The H1N1 flu virus is impacting school-aged children across Pennsylvania. Therefore, it is extremely important to keep Girl Scout members, troop leaders and volunteers informed about the virus and the steps they can take to prevent it.

In an effort to reduce the spread of H1N1 among kids, the Pennsylvania Department of Health produced a music video to educate children between the ages of six and 12 about steps they can take to avoid getting or spreading the H1N1 flu virus:

1. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and discard the tissue in the wastebasket. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve but never into your hands or onto bare skin.
2. Keep your hands away from your face and don't touch your mouth, nose and eyes.
3. Wash your hands with soap often. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer will work too.
4. Keep frequently used surfaces clean, such as knobs, countertops and desks.
5. Stay home from school if you get sick.

The "These Five Things" H1N1 prevention video can be played during troop meetings or other Girl Scout events. If you would like to receive a DVD copy, please complete the online order form at www.H1N1inPA.com. (Note: only one copy is available per troop.)

By learning these five simple prevention methods, your Girl Scouts can help stop the spread of this virus, keeping themselves and others healthy. We hope you will share this video with your troop and help us keep our Girl Scouts well.

For the latest H1N1 information, visit H1N1inPA.com.

2009 Edition of Blue Book of Basic Documents Now Available



GSUSA has recently made the Blue Book of Basic Documents, 2009 edition available in electronic form. To create a more efficient process of distribution, GSUSA has made the publication available in PDF format which will permit more timely updates when changes to policies or procedures are approved by the National Board of Directors rather than having to reprint the books. [You can find the Blue Book here.](#)

Spring PAL Preview

The 2010 Spring/Summer PAL will be out in early February. [Click here](#) to see a preview of some exciting programs.

Girl Scouting in the Diocese of Scranton

The Diocese of Scranton offers the follow Religious Emblems for girls:

- Family of God (grades 2-3)
- I Live My Faith (grades 4-6)
- Mary the First Disciple (grades 7-10)

- The Spirit Alive (grades 9-12)

All awards are to be completed with the assistance of a trained advisor. Program booklets and medals are available through the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Awards for girls in Juniors and up are given out at a Scout Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton in the Spring of each year.

For more information please contact:

Sarah Mountain

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Office for Parish Life and Evangelization

570-207-2213 or 207-2275

Fax: 570-207-2256

or email Sarah-Mountain@dioceseofscranton.org

The Future is Green

What: The Future is Green destination is an opportunity for Girl Scouts ages 13-18 (entering at least 9th grade at time of event) to explore how green technology in astronomy, environment or robotics can help save the Earth. Astronomy participants will learn about the night sky, technology that is used to explore the universe, and how astronomers have become instrumental in research regarding global climate change and space debris. Robotics participants will explore the importance of robots in exploration, health care, and helping to make the world "green." They will then design, build, and program their own robot to meet certain challenges. Environment participants will explore the eco-challenges and successes of the San Francisco Bay.

When: July 22-August 1, 2010

For more information:

Visit

http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/event_details.asp?eventid=523 for a complete description of the event, costs, and application procedures or contact Jean Fahy, jfahy@girlscoutsnorcal.org or 510-562-8470 x246.

Applications are due by February 28, 2010 to:

Jean Fahy

Girl Scouts of Northern California

7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 340

Oakland, CA 94621

Attn: The Future is Green

Here's another great opportunity for girls!

GSUSA Leading the Way

What: GSUSA Leading the Way is a 2-part inclusive destination opportunity for Girl Scouts of all abilities ages 14-18 and girls with disabilities up to age 21 to

explore conservation, culture and digital arts. Girls will participate in a weekend training retreat in Colorado in the spring and a 10-day Field Workshop expedition in the summer. During the retreat portion, girls will gain valuable communication skills through a Digital Arts Workshop provided by the Pearson Foundation, learn about inclusion and outdoor adaptations, and gain leadership skills as they explore beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park. During the Field Workshop, she will get the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend 10 days exploring the Southwestern US as she rafts the San Juan River in Utah and explores the majestic and historic Canyon de Chelly in Arizona. Through a partnership with the National Parks Service Natural Sounds Program, girls will study and conduct experiments exploring the natural and cultural sounds of the area while learning why these pristine acoustical environments demand restoration and preservation.

When: May 13-16 – Retreat; July 28-August 6, 2010 – Field Workshop

For more information: Visit

http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations/event_details.asp?eventid=521 for a complete description of the event, costs, and application procedures or contact Shannon Smiley, shannon@globalexplorers.org or (877) 627-1425.

Applications are due by February 28 to:

Shannon Smiley
Global Explorers
420 S. Howes, Suite B300
Fort Collins, CO 80521
Attn: GSUSA Leading the Way

Adult Opportunities Volunteer Regional Committee News

It's time to be thinking about recognitions for your hard-working volunteers. Be looking around your service unit/program area for those folks who stand out in their work on behalf of girls and GSHPA. Anyone may make nominations for any of these recognitions.

Service Unit-approved recognitions include: Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer. Also included at this level are recognitions for Episodic Volunteers. These are people who provide service at the service unit level. There are different levels of these awards: Letter, Certificate(s), and Volunteer Service Pins I, II, and III. These are determined by the service unit team and are awarded at appropriate events locally. It is suggested that the recognition packets be submitted to the Service Unit Team by March 15 to allow time for pins to be ordered.

Board-approved recognitions include: (These awards are all due into the York office not later than January 15, 2009.

Progressive Volunteer Awards – Stage 1 – pin, plus other stages that consist of a key to hang on the stage 1 pin. Service Unit team members, Council committee members, and those who give service in particular areas qualify for these awards.

GSHPA recognitions: Forever Green - for volunteers who continue to give long-term service to Girl Scouting; Heart of PA - for volunteers actively giving outstanding service that benefits the entire council.

GSUSA recognitions: Appreciation - outstanding service of one service unit/program area; Honor - outstanding service to more than two geographic areas; Thanks Badge - for volunteers actively giving service impacting the council or the entire Girl Scout movement; and Thanks Badge II - for prior Thanks Badge recipients.

GSUSA President's Award - recognizes service unit team/program area efforts to carry forward the program. Information requested on the form should include material from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008. Copies of flyers, documentation, etc. are what is required. This is the highest recognition for Service Unit Teams/Program areas.

The Volunteer Recognition Handbook is found in the website: www.gshpa.org. Also there are the required forms - there are two choices: PDF and MSWord. If you choose MSWord, you can fill these out on line, print them, sign them, and submit them to your SU Award Consultant.

South Region Volunteer Enrichment Sampler

Venture out this winter and join us in the South Region as we host a Volunteer Enrichment Sampler at Camp Echo Trail on Saturday, January 30th, 2010 (Snowdate-February 6th) from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. This morning will be jam-packed with FREE mini-workshops designed to inspire leaders on a variety of topics including:

- Swaps
- Songs-Ideas for the Singer and Non-Singer
- Girl Scout Traditions & Ceremonies
- Getting the Most out of your Cookie Booth
- Bridging-Tips for Completing Requirements and Giving a Special Send-Off

All participants will participate in ALL workshops! Bring your lunch and participate in group discussion following the workshops! Register online under the Adult Training section in E-council. If you have additional questions contact Kris Gross at kgross@gshpa.org or 1-800-692-7816 x1231.

Foxfire House Happenings

The Foxfire House Team is looking for more volunteers to help with GSHPA's historic Foxfire House, located at Camp Furnace Hills in Lancaster County. The Foxfire House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and allows girls an opportunity to experience life as it was in the 1800s. Adult volunteers are needed to keep history alive by showing girls how life was lived over 150 years ago. Volunteers are needed to give tours and demonstrate everyday living activities before there was electricity, refrigerators and modern stoves. Volunteer Site Aides are asked to help with a "live-in" camping experience at least once a year. Training is provided.

Some of Foxfire House's recent events include the Holiday Open House which was held on Dec. 6. Many people were able to participate in the holiday customs that the families of Foxfire would have done in the 1800s. The annual Foxfire Open House was held on Sunday, Sept. 27, and approximately 150 guests attended it. Several girls who had participated in Foxfire events over the last year came back to share the new skills they learned at the house. Visitors were treated to several demonstrations including the making of German paper stars, counted cross stitch embroidery, ice cream making, calligraphy, weaving, baking and many other crafts. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time, energy and crafts to both Foxfire Open Houses.

Look for the NEW Foxfire House History DVD coming to your service center in January! This DVD will be available for you to show to your troop and give you interesting facts about how the Foxfire House has become the GSHPA treasure that it is today. Once you see the fascinating history, your troop will want to earn the Foxfire House patch and participate in a Live-In!

If you are interested in history and would like to join the Foxfire House Team in bringing history to life, contact Vicky Miley, Associate, Membership Services, at 1-800-692-7816 ext. 1504 or vmiley@gshpa.org.

Girl Scout Gold Award Advisors Needed



Do you want to help shape a future leader of our society? Do you want to make a difference in the life of a teen Girl Scout? Do you have a few moments to share with a girl?

Become a Gold Award Advisor and help our Senior or Ambassador girls achieve the highest award Girl Scouting has to offer. Advisors are needed throughout the entire council. SO... If you answered yes to any or all of the questions above, you would be a perfect fit for a Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor. Contact your local GSHPA Office and ask to speak with the Regional Gold Award Staff Liaison for your area. Thanks for making a difference in the future of a girl.



Cookie Sale is Underway!!

We have over 60 Service Units participating in the SU Kickoff Rally event this year! We are excited to see the Service Units joining in this fun-filled cookie event! Girls can participate in several different workshops, see the new recognitions and taste some yummy Girl Scout Cookies – did we mention the new Thank U Berry Munch cookie?!

Girls are out and about with their order cards selling cookies. We have the brand new cookie – Thank U Berry Munch that has white chocolate chips and cranberry bits in every bite...mmmmm! The volunteers spoke and Little Brownie listened! A new and improved version of the Dulce de Leche is also available. Little Brownie

Baker, our cookie supplier, changed the Dulce de Leche by taking the caramel drizzle off and by making the cookie a little more fun – into bite size cookies! Are you hungry yet?

Cookies for a Great Cause! Girls will also be participating in the Project Cookie Jar program. Ask the girls what organization they are supporting, and offer to buy cookies as a donation for a great cause!

And we would like to extend our thanks to all of those who participated in the Fall Product Program, it was a big success! We truly appreciate all the hard work and dedication from our volunteers and girls who helped the program meet its goal.

Family Partnership

Details are still being planned for the 2010 Family Partnership campaign. Look for final plans in next month's newsletter.

Mailing Address Updates

Please note that the Post Office Boxes for the Harrisburg and York Service Centers have been closed. Please direct your mail as follows:

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg Service Center
350 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania
York Service Center
1600 Mt. Zion Road
York, PA 17402

Message from GSUSA About Haiti Relief Efforts

GSUSA CEO Kathy Cloningner has released a statement about how the Girl Scout community can help in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake. [You can read the full statement here.](#)

general@gshpa.org :: www.gshpa.org :: 1.800.692.7816