



## Be Connected - March 2010

### **Flooding Forces Closure of Camp Lycogis**

Camp Lycogis located in Hillsgrove in Sullivan County, PA suffered extensive damages due to heavy rains and flooding in late January. Flood waters damaged several camp buildings, spread destructive debris along the challenge course and even washed out bridges leading to and from the camp property.



While initially hopeful that the resulting safety hazards and damages could be addressed quickly, the realities of the degree of the damages, the safety risks posed to visitors and the current weather conditions have forced Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania to conclude otherwise. With this in mind, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania regrets to announce that Camp Lycogis will be closed indefinitely. Every effort will be made by the Council to contact anyone who has an existing reservation at Camp Lycogis so that they can make alternate arrangements. Future reservations will not be accepted.

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### **Improvements to Retail Experience Continue**

Improvements to the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania retail experience continue and we are pleased to share the following updates with you:

#### **New Online Store Coming Soon**

Plans to unveil the new "look and feel" of the online store are still on track for late March/early April. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work diligently to pull together a new online experience that will make it easier for you to find the Girl Scout essential materials you want and need 24 hours a day/7 days a week with minimal extra steps.

#### **Free Shipping Continues Through March 21**

While the new online store is still in process, free shipping has once again been extended and will be applied to all orders placed through March 21, 2010.

#### **New Store Hours**

Beginning on March 1, 2010, the Council store in Harrisburg will have new hours and will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am – 3 pm.

#### **Phone Orders**

Not an internet shopper, but still want the convenience of placing your order from your home or office? Also beginning March 1, 2010, our friendly retail staff will be available to assist with your phone orders Monday – Friday from 9 am – 5 pm.

#### **More in the Works**

Future shipping charges on online and phone orders are still under consideration as is the feasibility of offering a variety of payment options on online and phone orders (checks, troop accounts, cookie dough, etc). Plans to pilot the traveling trunk are also moving forward and we'll continue to keep you posted on our progress.

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>.

### **Happy Birthday Girl Scouts!**



"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!"

That phone call from Juliette Gordon Low to her friend started a movement that has changed the world.

Shortly after that call, Low gathered 18 girls in Savannah, Georgia on March 12, 1912 to be the first registered troop of the American Girl Guides. The name of the organization was changed the next year to the Girl Scouts.

Each year, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania join girls around the country to celebrate this event with Girl Scout Week. The week starts on with Girl Scout Sunday (this year on March 7th) and ends with Girl Scout Sabbath and it always includes the Girl Scout Birthday on March 12th.

Many troops have special ways to celebrate and we'd love to see what your troop or service unit did to commemorate the week. Please send pictures along with descriptions of your meeting or special even to Chad Smith at [csmith@gshpa.org](mailto:csmith@gshpa.org) and your troop could be featured in next month's edition of Be Connected Newsletter.

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### **Volunteer Recognition Month**

April is Volunteer Recognition month and includes Leader Appreciation Day. We want to know the special things you are doing for volunteers in your troop or service unit. Please send any thoughts to Chad Smith at [csmith@gshpa.org](mailto:csmith@gshpa.org) and we'll share them with all the readers.

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### **Opportunities for Girls**

#### **Vintage Uniform Loaner Boxes Available for Rent!**

All service centers have uniform loaner boxes available as a Grab-n-Go kit for your troop or group to use! These kits cost only \$5 per use (plus the \$25 deposit) and are great for wearing during Girl Scout week, to do fashion shows at bridging ceremonies and for marching in parades! Contact your local service center today to reserve a box for your special event!

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### **Program Updates**

[Check out the calendar on www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org) where you can find all program listings.

Hope to see you at the great GSHPA Programs!

[Here's a link to programs coming up in your area.](#)

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### **Gold Award Webinars**

Please pass this information on to Seniors and Ambassadors! If they are interested in "Taking the Journey" to earn the Gold Award, join us for an informational webinar from the comfort of your home. All webinars are scheduled to start at 6:30. There's an adult webinar, as well.



Girls webinar - March 10, March 18, or March 23

Adult webinar – April 28

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**Camping Connection 2010 News!!!! Registration is Open!**

Registration forms for Camping Connection 2010 are now available and Registration is OPEN as of March 1! If you do not have your registration forms by now, please contact your Associate, Membership Services or your local service center. Registration closes on April 1.

This Cadette / Senior / Ambassador troop camping event will be on Friday, June 18 through Sunday, June 20, 2010 at the South Mountain Fairgrounds in Arendtsville, PA (Adams County). The Theme is "Girl Scouts Go South of the Border!".

Some highlights include a Troop Banner contest, a "Girl Scouts Got Talent" show, as well as Workshops ranging from basket weaving to stepping stones, from hip-hop dance to yoga and pilates, as well as sports, jewelry making and painting. Everyone is sure to find workshops to fit their needs, talents, and abilities!! Register early for the best workshop choices!

Any questions can be sent via email to [campingconnection@comcast.net](mailto:campingconnection@comcast.net) or to Lisa Donohoe at the Gettysburg Service Center at 1-800-692-7816 ext 1604 or via email at [ldonohoe@gshpa.org](mailto:ldonohoe@gshpa.org).

We hope to see you there!

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**Adult Opportunities  
STAR Center Facilitators**



The STAR (Science, Technology, and Adventure Researchers) Center at Camp Small Valley is GSHPA's hands-on science facility where girls can discover new skills and learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as they take on the role of scientists by observing, problem-solving, and hypothesizing.

STAR Center Facilitators nurture and build girls' interest in STEM subjects through interactive activities and experiments. We are looking for volunteers to join the STAR Center Facilitator team. If you are interested in science and are willing to share your interest with girls, please contact Susan Neville at 1-800-692-7816 ext. 1035 or email [sneville@gshpa.org](mailto:sneville@gshpa.org).

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**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](mailto:vmiley@gshpa.org).



### **Family Extravaganza – Memorial Day Weekend – Camp Furnace Hills**

We're looking for a few volunteers to plan and carry out our second Family Extravaganza at Camp Furnace Hills, May 28-31, 2010. This is great opportunity to enjoy a weekend with our Girl Scout families. A tentative schedule is already developed, a lifeguard is in place for Saturday afternoon at the pool, and strong volunteer support for many activities is already in place. Mika House is available for lodging. GSHPA staff will be on-call for the entire weekend. If you are interested in a relaxing weekend with time to get to know some of our families who love to camp, contact Vicky Miley, [vmiley@gshpa.org](mailto:vmiley@gshpa.org) or 1-800-692-7816 ext. 1504.

### **Join the Nature Explorers**

Do you love nature? Do you want to share that love with Girl Scouts?

Nature Explorers is a group of Girl Scout adults who have been trained as facilitators in nature study. They enthusiastically share their love of nature with Girl Scouts of all ages as they lead the girls through a series of exciting hands-on activities! Through these activities, the Nature Explorers strive to help girls develop an understanding and appreciation of the natural world and educate the girls about the impact they can make as stewards of our earth.

Help Bring the Nature Explorers Program to your area of the GSHPA Council! The next training event for new Nature Explorer facilitators will be held the weekend of

April 10, 2010, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
at the GSHPA York Service Center  
1600 Mt. Zion Rd., York, PA 17402

(There is no fee for this training; lunch will be provided)  
Deadline for registration is: April 2, 2010

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER FOR TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT:

Rachel Miletto  
1444 E. Lackawanna Ave  
Olyphant, PA 18447  
[rmiletto@gshpa.org](mailto:rmiletto@gshpa.org)

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### **Outdoor Learning Opportunities**

Planning to go camping this spring or summer? Planning to attend Camping Connection or the Girl Scout Camp-O-Ree at Hersheypark? You will need "Ready, Set, Go!" as well as "Basic Outdoor Skills" before you set out with your troops on any of these activities. "Ready, Set, Go!" is available right now online as well as in classroom sessions. More "Basic Outdoor Skills" courses are coming beginning in April. These are 2-day weekend courses and there is a fee of \$15.00. Courses close 2 weeks before the course date, so register now.

[Click here for a listing of opportunities.](#)

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### **Outdoor Odyssey is Coming!**

What's Outdoor Odyssey??? It is a great opportunity to learn new outdoor skills to teach your girls when you go camping. Picture it...nature, you, instructors and lots of other adult volunteers who share your love for the outdoors! It's a great weekend of fun, friendship and learning.

Mark your calendar...this Adult Learning Conference will take place August 21 through August 22, 2010 at Camp Golden Pond. Watch for more information soon!

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### **2010 Family Partnership Program**

The 2010 Family Partnership Program is a unique opportunity for you, our volunteers, to assist GSHPA in its fundraising efforts. As Girl Scout volunteers, you really are ideal spokespeople for the organization – you choose to share your valuable time with the girls of our region and you do it for a reason. Girl Scouting is about the girls we all help become strong, confident women and this program is the ideal opportunity for you to share your passion with your community and spread the word about all the good we do together for the girls.

Funds generated through this program will be used towards general operating expenses which include not only staffing and facilities/camp maintenance, but also volunteer development and financial assistance for girls in need. Funds will also be used to offset the costs associated with Council-run programs like those offered annually in the PAL Guide.

Participation in this voluntary program is through each service unit between the dates of April 15 to May 15 only. If a service unit decides to participate, there are three easy methods volunteers can implement to reach their goals – it is up to you and your fellow service unit volunteers to decide which method is best for your particular Council-area. Service units can choose to use one, two or all of the following methods:

1. Encourage people to go online to [www.gshpa.org/donatenow.html](http://www.gshpa.org/donatenow.html). At the start of the program on April 15 there will be an area added to this online form for the service unit number to be entered, so be sure the donor knows your number so that credit can be applied correctly.
2. Distribute GSHPA donation envelopes. These envelopes will be provided by GSHPA before the April 15 start date, should a service unit select this method.
3. Hold a special event of the service unit's choosing, such as a sub sale or father-daughter dance. Net proceeds from the event would be submitted to GSHPA and applied to your group's financial goal. Should this option be selected, please keep the following in mind:
  - a. Raffles of any sort – including bingo – are not permitted because of PA small gaming regulations.
  - b. These efforts should be volunteer-led – girls should not be selling tickets or soliciting for money in any way.
  - c. Names and addresses of event attendees/customers must be collected and submitted to GSHPA.

So what's this goal we keep mentioning? A financial goal has been set for each service unit based on the number of girls registered – so each unit's goal is a little different. The exciting part is that any dollars raised and submitted to GSHPA above your goal will be split with your service unit 50-50. And there's no cap – so, for example, if your group raises an extra \$1,000 we'll send the service unit a check for \$500!

How do you sign up? Again, this is a service unit project so the unit should select

a point person to call or email Beth Beyer at GSHPA once the method(s) of participation has been chosen – but no later than March 31, 2010. Beth can be reached at 800-692-7816 or [bbeyer@gshpa.org](mailto:bbeyer@gshpa.org).

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**Cookie Direct Sale is Well Underway!**

We have a record number of Cookie Booths this year, check out [findcookiesnow.org](http://findcookiesnow.org) to find a booth near you! We also have troops participating in Walkabouts or Red Wagon sales this month. Be on the look-out for girls selling cookies in your neighborhood! Cookie Sale ends on March 22nd, so don't wait to get your cookies!

Lemon Chalet Crème - You may have heard that the Little Brownie Baker has voluntarily pulled some of the Lemon Chalet Cremes due to quality issues. Council has posted an advisory on the main page of the Web site [http://www.gshpa.org/images/2010\\_02\\_24\\_cookie\\_advisory.pdf](http://www.gshpa.org/images/2010_02_24_cookie_advisory.pdf). Service Units and troops are in the process of exchanging the cookies for new ones.

Check out our Troops who participated in our Cookie Rallies! We have pictures online: <http://www.gshpa.org/cpgirls.html>.

Thanks to all the volunteers who continue to help make the Girl Scout Cookie Sale a huge success!

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[general@gshpa.org](mailto:general@gshpa.org) :: [www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org) :: 1.800.692.7816