



Be Connected - April 2010

Dear Volunteer,

On March 20th the new task forces consisting of a mix of volunteers and staff came together to begin their work. By doing so, we, as a council, entered a very important phase of the business plan implementation process – the phase that focuses the most on our future. Whether concentrating on signature programming, customer service, finance/information systems, the new way of work, the outdoor experience or retail, each of these task forces will help connect who we are today with who we will become. Their work will analyze the successes and challenges of our past, create a snapshot of the status quo and make key recommendations on how best to successfully enhance the Girl Scout experience we offer in the future.

As volunteers who play such an integral role in the development of the leadership skills and self-esteem of the 27,000+ girls involved in Girl Scouting throughout our council, your input, feedback, experience and passion has been invaluable throughout every step of the business planning process. For this we cannot say thank you enough. Currently we are taking the many suggestions we heard most recently at delegates meetings and considering them carefully in our planning. For example, many delegates suggested leaders-only training weekends at camps to make sure leaders are aware of what exists on the camp properties. Our operations team is starting to plan for that. Other delegates have strong views on how

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to improve the Cookie Program. Our product sales team will be meeting soon, with a representative group of volunteers, to consider all suggestions.

We encourage you to continue to share your feedback with us. While we recognize that we may not always 100% of the time agree on each of the next steps, your voice, your thoughts, your suggestions will always be something we welcome.

This is an exciting time for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. We look forward to coming together at our annual meeting this month and we pledge to keep you updated as we move ahead.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President/CEO

Task Force Work Begins

On March 20, 2010, the work of the six task forces began with an all-day workshop. The Task Forces will continue to meet over the course of the next few months and will focus on the following areas:

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

The task forces consist of both volunteer and staff representatives. Their work will include an analysis of our current efforts and recommendations on areas of improvement.

New Way of Work Pilot Underway

In late April 2010, our staff in the North Region will begin to pilot a New Way of Work. The goal of the pilot project is to deploy staff where they are needed most and be less tied to the office. Often staff members are most needed for Girl Scout events on nights and weekends. Our Montoursville staff will have more flexible schedules and the ability to telecommute using the latest technology. This will empower them to spend more time on the goals that matter most – i.e. establishing and maintaining community connections, increasing girl and adult membership, supporting and retaining existing volunteers and implementing quality programming – rather than worrying about how many hours they spend in

the office.

As part of the pilot, our Montoursville office hours will be changing. GSHPA will announce the new office hours to North region volunteers before we begin the project.

This pilot will be carefully monitored over the next few months. Both its successes and challenges will be used to implement a similar model throughout all five regions over the course of the next year.

New Online Store



Finding the essential Girl Scout materials online is now a little easier! After months of entering inventory, uploading images and researching shipping fees, the new online shopping experience gives customers an easier way to find the products they want and need 24/7 without wondering whether or not the item's actually in stock and/or when it will arrive at their doorsteps. The new online store also incorporates the new shipping charges based on the USPS standard shipping rates with only an additional 25 cents for packing materials. The new shipping charges go into effect on all orders placed on April 1, 2010. The new site is only the beginning. Planning for the traveling trunk continue as does the development of a way to seamlessly incorporate purchases using troop and service unit accounts into our online experience.

You opinion continues to be important to us and we encourage you to share your feedback at <http://www.gshpa.org/feedback.html>.

Thank You Volunteers

"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."

-- Juliette Gordon Low

You give your time, energy, dedication, talents, singing voice, minivan/SUV... but mostly you give your heart. Thank you for all that you do as a Girl Scout volunteer!

April is volunteer month and April 22nd is Leader Day and we hope you realize it's not just the staff of GSHPA and your fellow volunteers who appreciate your service. The girls also realize the commitment you have made to them and many will never forget the part you played in their lives.

Troop leaders aren't the only volunteers who give so much of themselves. Service unit team members, cookie chairs, facilitators, camp site teams, archive teams and many, many more important volunteers help our organization serve girls today to become tomorrow's leaders.

April is the time to remember other volunteers that you work with also. Remember, you don't have to spend lots of money to show someone you appreciate their help. Most times a simple thank you or a nice handwritten card is enough. So, this April, please join us in recognizing the Girl Scout volunteers in your life. Some ways to say "thank you" informally at a troop, group or service unit meetings include:

- Frame a photograph of the Girl Scouts who participated in a particular project or event (can be a blown-up snapshot).
- Present flowers, card or a gift made by the girls at a meeting.
- Complete a nomination form for an Outstanding Leader or Outstanding Volunteer award.
- Ask a local business with a portable, outdoor sign to allow you to post: "Thank You, Girl Scout Volunteer, (Name)".
- Present fun awards that you create yourselves such as Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Team Member, Green Angel, Green Knight, etc. as developed by your service area team, committee, or group.
- Small gifts such as breath mints ('you take my breath away'), note cards ('for a noteworthy achievement'), batteries ('you've added energy to our group'), cupcakes ("you take the cake"), nuts ("we'd go nuts without you"), or candles ("you light up our lives" or "no one holds a candle to you") are inexpensive, yet fun.
- Create a customized certificate and present it.
- Send a letter to their employer acknowledging the volunteer's contribution to Girl Scouting.

Birthday Celebrations

98 years and still going strong! Thousands of girls and volunteers across the Council celebrated the Girl Scout Birthday last month in big fashion. Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures. Here is how one service unit celebrated.



Service Unit 645 (Watson/Turbotville) held a Service Unit Birthday Lock-in. The girls started the night with Rollerskating with their family and then moved to a new building for a lock-in overnight. They had cake and ice cream! Sang happy birthday and even had a birthday paddle line while skating, where they were lucky enough to have 2 leaders from the troops that celebrated birthdays as well. They enjoyed having the leaders skate through the line and offering birthday paddles! :)

After skating they did karakoe, sang songs, played games, and danced, danced, danced the night and morning away! They enjoyed yummy treats offered to them and a healthy breakfast in the morning.

Girl Scout Voices Survey

This April all registered girls, parents and volunteers will be invited to share their opinions and experiences through a series of short surveys. This effort is very important for Girl Scouting. The results will help efforts in GSHPA and at the national level in many different areas—program, membership, integration of girl voices, and volunteer support, to name just a few. The survey link will be emailed to all girls and adults in early April. We look forward to your participation and thank you in advance for sharing the news of this upcoming opportunity with Girl Scouts and adults you know. Questions about the surveys may be directed to Jennifer Stolte at 717.692.7816 ext. 1236 or jstolte@gshpa.org

Opportunities for Girls Program Updates

Check out the Calendar at the bottom of the main page of www.gshpa.org where you can find all program listings and search for programs in your town, county, or that great art or science programs your girls want to attend. Hope to see you at the great GSHPA Programs!

Come join the fun!

Historic Canal Service Unit's second annual Girl Scout Jamboree at Kennedy Field in

Waymart in beautiful Wayne County on Sunday, May 30th from 10am to 4pm.

Advanced tickets are \$10 per person ages 5 and up; \$5 per person age 4 and under. Tickets at the door will be \$13.00 and \$8.00, respectively.

This year's theme is "International Girl Scouts Around the World". Girl Scouts will receive a passport and go from country to country getting their passport stamped. The girls will learn a little about the countries and sample some of their food and make a craft relating to each country.

There will be fun and games for all. Home Depot will be there again this year with a "Make and Take", and the girls will be able to enjoy a bouncy castle. If your troop would like to sponsor a booth or for tickets, please contact Cindy Blair at 570-253-0774 or 570-687-4418.

This year promises to be an even better year than last! Call with any questions.

Adult Opportunities Gold Award Webinars

If you are working with Senior or Ambassador girls who 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.

Adult webinar – April 28



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.



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.

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 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

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.

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!

Be Prepared! Save the Date! Summer 2013: West Sussex Camp, England

Join Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania for a once in a lifetime adventure at "WS 2013." The camp, held in the south of England, brings together over 2,000 Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, and Boy Scouts from more than 11 countries for a week-long experience. Make new friends from around the world and learn new skills in a variety of outdoor programs and service projects.

- Girls ages 14 - 17 years (must be 14 by July 1, 2013)
- Camp dates expected to be first week of August.
- International groups (such as GSHPA) are paired with a Girl Guide troop to camp together.
- Experience in tent camping is a "must."

Adults, start thinking about your troop or organizing a regional group to give more girls the opportunity to attend. The Girl Guide troops would love to each have an

international Scouting partner to camp with.

- Sign up for GSHPA's International Travel Webinar (required for any international trip.)
- Talk to parents and other Girl Scout volunteers in your area.
- Talk with volunteers who have attended past WS Camps.

Watch for more information in the months to come.

Parent Newsletter

Pathways
(to her future)

The parents of current Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania will soon receive a parent newsletter. This brief update is intended to inform parents about the importance of Girl Scouts and let them know some of the great things

happening in our Council. [You can check out the newsletter by clicking here.](#)

Still Time to Register for Summer Camp

There's still plenty of time to register for a Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Summer Camp! Did you know girls get a discount to camp if they register with 50% or more of their troop. (The girls don't all have to go to the same camp, they must just register together.) Hurry because this option only lasts until the end of April. [For more information, see the 2010 GSHPA Summer Camp Guide.](#)



Local Girl Scout Pioneer Passes Away

Long time Girl Scout Florence Pyle passed away on Saturday, March 27, 2010. She was active in the formation of one of GSHPA's legacy councils, Hemlock Council. She received the Golden Eaglet, Thanks Badge, Thanks Badge II and the Hemlock Award. A musicale and service of remembrance will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, in Bucknell Hall on the Bucknell campus. [Click here to learn more about Florence Pyle.](#)