

Welcome to the issue of **Team Connections: A newsletter for service team members.** If your team members aren't receiving Team Connections, it may be because they are not registered for the 2010 membership year.

## Dear Service Teams:

What did you do today? For those of you who answered this question with "I attended the annual meeting in Cedar Rapids," thank you! It was so great to see all of you and what an awesome representation of service units! If you didn't get a chance to attend, PLEASE put it on your calendar for next year. I'm sure we will have even greater news to share and more service units to thank!

My apologies to any service unit that was not recognized during the annual meeting. Thanks to all of you (42 of our 78 service units!) that reached their membership goal last year. You have all worked incredibly hard for the girls in your areas. Thank you for your continued excellence in service.

We have had an amazing turnout of new girls to Girl Scouts. So far this year we have more than 4,550 NEW girls involved in the Girl Scout program. This takes a lot of recruiting and now a lot of leadership. If you are in need of additional training, or support, please contact a leadership center near you and ask for your regional membership manager or program manager. They will be happy to offer assistance.

On November 15-17, a group of 20 volunteers and staff traveled to St. Louis to take part in an Act Now Take 20 conference hosted by our national office, GSUSA. The purpose of the conference was to explore year round membership recruitment strategies, learn more about the new Journeys (coming in December) and focus on volunteer management. We learned a lot! And my hats off to the volunteers that attended. What a dynamite group of people! They were informed, excited, and more importantly, willing to come home and share with all service units! WE are working on our back home plan and are looking to include thousands of volunteers across Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Look for more on this at upcoming service unit meetings and in future issues of Team Connections.

Coming in January is Girl Scouts' biggest and possibly the best program we offer, the COOKIE SALE! With all of your help last year, we had an extremely successful sale and we want to make sure we have an even better sale this year! The product sale committee and staff have implemented some great new strategies to make it an even better program for girls. With new incentive levels, service unit incentives, and a great new cookie, we can't wait to begin. Each service unit received a cookie rally kit and are planning cookie rallies. This is a great time to invite non-members as well as those members who haven't yet reregistered. We don't want anyone to miss it. So "COUNT ME IN", and let's have the best sale ever for GSEIWI.

May all of you receive the blessings you deserve and be safe as you travel to share holiday wishes with friends and family.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Brenda Lloyd, VP of Membership

### The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God\* and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

### The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do,  
and to  
respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place,  
and  
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

## Service Unit Director

Thank you for doing such a great job at your November service unit meeting supporting new leaders. Now is a great time to check in with leaders to see if they are participating in the cookie sale and attending your cookie rally.



### \$100 for 100%

**We are very excited to announce our \$100 for 100% bonus for the 2011 Cookie Sale Program!**

This idea was developed as we look for ways to give more back to our service units, as well as to encourage all troops and girls to participate and gain the benefits of this life skill building program. Every service unit that has 100% of its troops participate in the 2011 Cookie Sale Program will receive a \$100 bonus to use for a service unit event, girl or adult recognition event, or any way the service unit team sees fit. Here are the guidelines:

- ◆ If a troop has one girl in the troop participate, then, yes, that troop counts as participating.
- ◆ If a troop doesn't do the initial sale, but does do a booth, then, yes, that troop counts as participating.
- ◆ If a troop registers after the initial sale, but in time for booth sales, they do need to participate in a booth sale in order for it to count toward the service unit goal.
- ◆ Juliettes won't be taken into consideration for this bonus. We are just looking for 100% of traditional troops to participate.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Nikki Habben, Vice President of Operations, at [NikkiH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:NikkiH@GSEIWI.org). Thank you for all you've done so far to make this program successful, as well as for all you will be doing in the next few months!

If your service unit didn't get a chance to have a conversation about going from good to great, please do so at your December service unit meeting. For those of you that did, thank you and what great feedback!

## Registrar

Please remind troop leaders to use their camp overnight certificate by May 31 at one of our four great Girl Scout camps. If a new troop isn't sure they are ready for an overnight experience, they can attend for a day trip, or maybe they can partner with an older troop. You can

also suggest that your service unit host a camp out for all the troops in the service unit.

## Treasurer

Help your service unit receive \$100 by asking troop leaders if they are participating in the cookie sale. If you have 100% of your troops participate, your service unit receives \$100! Toga

## Girl Scouts Forever Green (GSFG) - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Take Action Project

Girl Scouts Forever Green is a national effort of girls leading their families, schools and communities in improving the environment and protecting natural resources. This winter and spring GSFG invites everyone to participate in any of the following three projects:

1. **February** - Reduce Plastic Waste: Goal- to reduce the number of plastic bottles and bags used.
2. **March** - Earth Hour: Goal- to encourage sustainable behavior change, lower CO2 footprints, and save energy and money.
3. **April** - Create Rain Gardens: Goal- to increase green space and wildlife habitat, and improve water quality by reducing water-borne pollutants running into streams, rivers, and other water supplies.

All participants are also encouraged to take the online Girl Scouts Forever Green Pledge at [www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen](http://www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen), which asks participants to make a yearlong commitment to take daily actions in their lives to protect the environment. Choose one or all of these great projects! Look for more information about GSFG in the New Year!

## Mobile Market Coordinator

### Redeem Troop Rebate Certificates:

Certificates are coming in December for troops that signed up for the Troop Rebate program. All purchases made in council shops beginning September 1, 2010, and ending October 30, 2010, were eligible to earn 5% rebates. All purchases were tracked in our shops by name and troop number. Certificates have no cash value and will not be replaced if lost or stolen and must be presented in advance of purchase and used in full.

**Certificates must be redeemed between January 1 and February 28.**

**Cookie merchandise** is beginning to arrive in the council shops. Check out the online cookie-themed merchandise.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Merchandise** to arrive in council shops in January.

### Not sure what activities to work on with your girls?

Here are some recommendations for badges and patches that work well based upon the time of year, events or holidays:

- Brownie Try-It Girl Sports
- Junior Badge Winter Sports

- IP Patch Emergency Preparedness
- Community Service Fun Patches
- GSEIWI Council Own Scoops for Service Patches
- Caroling Patches
- Winter Fun Patches

**World Thinking Day** is celebrated on Feb. 22 and our council-sponsored event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at The RiverCenter, in Davenport, Iowa. Stop by the mobile shop during the event.

## Outdoor Program Coordinator

It may be cold outside, but that's no reason to stay indoors! Be watching for more information about regional Winter Carnivals. These outdoor events are a great way for girls to experience winter activities at our beautiful camps. Check the PRG, website, and regional fliers for more information.

Watch for a Camp Guide to be mailed to each household at the beginning of February. There will be exciting new opportunities for resident camp as well as troop camping! Until you receive your camp guide, check our website for all the latest information regarding the 2011 summer camp programs. Toga

## Juliette Coordinator

All service unit team members should be sure to inform any Girl Scout Juliettes in your area about our Juliette Program. The Juliette Program is for any girl in grades K-12 who doesn't have time to be a part of a traditional troop with having other extracurricular activities going on or if there is no troop in your area.

We also have available a Juliette Program Packet which is a quarterly mailing for Juliettes, including council information, council events, crafts, games, service projects ideas, field trips and more. To receive the Juliette Program Packet, please send \$5 to: Attn: Juliette Packet, GSEIWI, 2530 University Ave., Ste 1, Waterloo IA 50701. The \$5 will help pay for shipping and handling of packet and cover cost of supplies for one craft. If you have any questions regarding Juliettes, please contact Jamie Swart at [JamieS@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JamieS@GSEIWI.org) or 319-232-6601.

## Safety Zone

Winter is fast approaching. What would girls like to do over the long winter months? Stay indoors? I don't think so! Get them out and explore the outdoors in the winter time. Look for animal tracks, go snow shoeing, sledding, ice skating and more. Check out the [Activity Checkpoints](#) to make sure you are aware of everything you need and be prepared for. Also, read information on Page 66 of Volunteer Essentials to get ideas when traveling with girls. Have fun and stay warm!

Be sure to review the [Canceling Meetings](#) piece in this newsletter with them individually to be sure they understand the process. It is so important that ANY time a meeting has to be canceled with short notice (such as an illness, weather) that the leader talk personally to the caregiver that is responsible for the child after school.

TEAM Connections Newsletter

Leaving a message on an answering machine is not enough. A parent, expecting their daughter to be home from the Girl Scout meeting at 5 p.m., may decide to go shopping, and a young child arrives home to an empty house at 3:30 p.m. because the meeting was canceled. This form helps take care of those issues.

## Journeys

**"It's Your Story-Tell It!"** is arriving in the Girl Scout shops in December. Building a strong sense of self is an underlying goal of the series, which was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Dove Self-Esteem Fund. Below is a brief summary of what each journey in this new series is about with a link to try one of the activities.



In the Daisy **"3 Cheers for Animals!"** – girls enjoy a fictional story about the flower friends, they learn just how much they can care for animals and for themselves – and just how confident that makes them feel.

[http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/daisy\\_turtle\\_shell\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/daisy_turtle_shell_activity.pdf)

The Brownie **"A World of Girls,"** book is designed as a flip book that devotes one side to fictional stories that take the Brownie friends around the world. The other side has real-life Brownies exploring their own World of Girls. [http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/brownie\\_globe\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/brownie_globe_activity.pdf)

On the Junior **"aMUSE"** journey, girls gain an understanding of just how limitless their potential can be as they try on a range of roles – real and creative – that the world offers.

[http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/junior\\_cloak\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/junior_cloak_activity.pdf)

In the Cadette **"MEdia,"** girls put the ME in media. They will explore the great, big multimedia world around them and then remake media to better match the reality they know.

[http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/cadette\\_camera\\_lens\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/cadette_camera_lens_activity.pdf)

On **"Mission: Sisterhood!"** Seniors widen their networks and ignite the energy of sisterhood to create real change in the world.

[http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/senior\\_sisterhood\\_circle\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/senior_sisterhood_circle_activity.pdf)

And for Ambassadors: **"BLISS: Live It! Give It!"** inspires girls to dream big, now and for the future, as they assist others in pursuing their dreams.

[http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_story/pdf/ambassador\\_bliss\\_activity.pdf](http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_story/pdf/ambassador_bliss_activity.pdf)

## School Organizers

Take a rest this month - you deserve it!

## Community Information Coordinator

Is your service unit able to assist with delivering media kits to your local news media at Cookie Sale time? This is an essential function of our Community Information Coordinators in reaching out to the community to help spread the word of Girl Scouts in your area.

Almost every news media outlet will do something on their pages or on the air for our annual Cookie Sale Program. Our mission is to deliver the message. Our Marketing and Communications Department is preparing media kits for delivery to our news media throughout Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Our media kits include a news release, radio PSA scripts, images, background information about Girl Scouts – and cookies! You'll be a fan favorite walking into your local newsrooms with our media kits.

If your Service Unit's Community Information Coordinator can assist with the delivery of cookie media kits to your local newspapers or radio stations, please contact Chuck Gysi, director of marketing and communications, at [ChuckG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ChuckG@GSEIWI.org) or 309.283.2359. We need to know by Dec. 10 if you can assist to allow us time to deliver the media kits to you or your local Girl Scout Leadership Center and allow you time to get the media kits to local media before the sale starts. We hope you can help!

## World Thinking Day 2011

### "Empowering Girls Will Change Our World"

World Thinking Day is a celebration of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. This year World Thinking Day will be celebrated on February 5, 2011, at The RiverCenter in Davenport, Iowa, from 1-4:30 p.m. This fantastic day will include troops and community groups hosting interactive booths.



Exciting new activities this year will include community group performances and activities from the new Journey Series- "It's Your Story- Tell It!" So far we have some great countries already signed up including: Australia, China, France, Germany, Jamaica, Korea, Africa, Italy, Ireland, Brazil, Japan, Switzerland, South Korea, Greece, Sierra Leone, Malawi, and Thailand.

There is still plenty of time for your troop to [register to host a booth](#). [Registration for WTD](#) is now open!

**S.W.A.P.S.** (Special **W**hatchamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere) the tradition of Girl Scouts exchanging keepsakes, started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song, and making new friends. Swaps are still the perfect way for Girl Scouts to meet each other and promote friendship. Each one is a memory of a special event or Girl Scout Sister. At World Thinking Day girls will have a chance to make a S.W.A.P. and exchange S.W.A.P.S. at a special S.W.A.P. area. Some tips for making and exchanging S.W.A.P.S. are:

- Ask the girls to think about the kind of swap they would like to receive from someone else.
- Try not to spend a lot of money. Consider making something from donated or recycled material.
- Be creative, and take time to make hand-crafted swaps. (Include directions for making the swap if it is a craft project that can be replicated.) Your group does not need to make a swap for every girl and adult in attendance, but if you choose to please plan for 1,300 swaps.
- Plan ahead so there's time to make the swaps.
- Make swaps that can be worn, used, or displayed.
- Make swaps portable. Remember: Swaps will be carried by the girls throughout the event, and other girls will be taking them, so they should be small and easy to handle.

To find more S.W.A.P.S log on to:

<http://www.culturecottage.com/index.html>

## Leader Mentor

It seems like the months just keep rolling along! The Fall Sale Program is complete and cookies are just around the corner. Be sure that your new leaders have all of their questions answered regarding the Cookie Sale Program. Do they know their SU Cookie Manager? An extra reminder about the importance of permission slips is always important. You could encourage them to find a parent who would be a troop product manager for the Cookie Sale Program.

Be sure to review the [Canceling Meetings](#) piece in this newsletter with them individually to be sure they understand the process. It is so important that ANY time a meeting has to be canceled with short notice (such as an illness, weather) that the leader talk personally to the caregiver that is responsible for the child after school. Leaving a message on an answering machine is not enough. A parent, expecting their daughter to be home from the Girl Scout meeting at 5 p.m., may decide to go shopping, and a young child arrives home to an empty house at 3:30 p.m. because the meeting was canceled. This form helps take care of those issues.

Have your new leaders been receiving [Steps of Support \(SOS\)](#)? We are emailing them to all new leaders this year. We have added the Leader Mentors to that email list, so you should be receiving a copy at the same time. Of course, you and anyone else can always access them on our website. Just click the link above.

Be sure to ask your new leaders about this piece. What additional help would they like to have? Send an email to [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org) with any suggestions you have.

As you are asking questions from your contact sheet, please notice if there are consistent areas of concern. Are there lots of questions about a particular subject? Is there an area of support that we are just missing? Contact Kim Hull at 319.752.3639 x417 or [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org) to talk about it. We can set up some individual training for your area, or send you some extra support material to help you out.

## Troop Leader Tips

How can you share what you know with other leaders? Ask your service unit director to include time on the agenda for idea sharing and networking. Let them know what topics you struggle with and ask other leaders at your next service unit meeting. I'm sure someone will have an answer and you will probably get 100 new ideas.

Not sure how do to a flag ceremony? What is flag etiquette anyway?

[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/ceremonies/flag.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremonies/flag.asp)

Our website is designed to be your greatest resource. If you can't find something, please email [JenB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JenB@GSEIWI.org) and she can help.

## Council Patch of the Month

Did you know that GSEIWI offers a number of earned awards that are unique to our council? They provide additional opportunities for girls to discover new things. This month we are highlighting the Grant Wood Council patch. This award enables girls to learn about a famous artist from right here in Iowa. Wood was born in Anamosa, IA, lived and Cedar Rapids and taught at the University of Iowa. By exploring more about this important artist and his work, girls gain insights into their communities and the world of art. Personal expression through art is one of the themes of the new Journey Series, "It's Your Story-Tell It," so this is a great way to get ready. [Click here](#) for details on the Grant Wood Council patch.

## Adult Learning Coordinator

Try leading a discussion about some of the topics that are of interest to leaders (see above). Are there some that are easy to answer, and are there some that would take a little more time and need to be scheduled into the next Service Unit meeting. Sharing with other leaders is the best way for all of us to learn. From new leaders where everything is "new," to leaders moving up to the next grade level, all can benefit from having time to ask questions and get some answers! In the course of the conversation you may even be able to dispel some not so true facts as well.

## National Convention 2011

If you attended the Annual Meeting you saw that the 100th anniversary committee is putting together a ROAD TRIP for volunteers for the National Convention. If you are interested in hearing more, please contact Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org). There is information on our website regarding the [National Convention](#) ~ be sure to check it out.

Don't forget about the girls! National Convention 2011 is going to be a once in a lifetime opportunity for adults AND girls, and we want to give them the chance to go to. If you're over 21 and would like to be the Trip Director for a girl trip to the National Convention, please contact Hailey Workman at [HaileyW@GSEIWI.org](mailto:HaileyW@GSEIWI.org) or 319.752.3639 by December 15.

## Program Event Coordinator

Halfway through the year! Are you looking for something new to do with your girls? Then check out the new Journeys coming out this month! A whole new theme, with some awesome activities for girls to jump into and try. Contact your local Girl Scout Leadership Center for availability.

Don't forget ways to support your community. Holiday parades and caroling are great ways to spread the spirit and show people in your neighborhood that Girl Scouts are helping out!

>> December 2010 :: [Events at-a-Glance](#) <<

## For Your Information

Don't forget, the new Cedar Rapids office will be finished in January 2011 and staff will be moving in to the new digs on January 3. Say goodbye to Westdale Mall and hello to the new Girl Scout Leadership Center in Cedar Rapids! The address is 317 Seventh Ave. SE, Suite 201, Cedar Rapids IA 52401. Toga

## Recognition Coordinator

**New!** All recognition forms are now fillable online. Just type and submit. It's that easy!

<http://www.gseiwi.org/volunteer/recognition.asp>

Have you had a chance to share the good news with your service unit yet? If you haven't had a chance to fill your service unit in on the great changes to recognition, please don't forget to do so:

The due date on all adult awards and girl scholarships is March 1.

The awards/scholarships can be turned in when the event took place. The exception to this is the President's Award that needs one whole year to complete the requirements.

All awards and girl scholarships will be awarded at the Green & White Pilot Celebrations or service unit celebrations. Pins/awards purchased by the council will be sent to service unit Recognition Coordinators or Service Unit Directors for presentation.

Now is the time for volunteers to start filling out the adult award forms and girl scholarship forms. With the March 1 deadline fast approaching, you can save time scrambling to get them in if you start now.

Have any questions on the changes? Please contact Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org) or 309.788.0833 for more information.

## Product Sales

**Extra Fall Sale Product Available:** If you have a need for more Fall Product, we will have some available in each office on a first come first served basis. Troop profit will be earned on the sale of this product but we will be unable to offer recognitions.

**Cookie Rally Kits:** Distribution of rally kits (1 per SU) is complete. If you have not received one, please contact [MarilynA@GSEIWI.org](mailto:MarilynA@GSEIWI.org). Due date for submitting your Cookie Rally Information Form was Nov. 1, as ABC Bakers needs a minimum of six weeks lead time to process our

cookie sample order. The cookie samples will be delivered to the coordinators after November 29.

**Available by request:** (see your Cookie Rally Information Form), a set of "Count Me In" recognition items will be provided for use and display at your Cookie Rally. Samples will need to be returned to your council service center. Please contact [MarilynA@gseiwi.org](mailto:MarilynA@gseiwi.org) to check out a set.

**Cookie U** is an online educational experience designed to teach **experienced** leaders about what is new for the 2011 Cookie Sale Program. Cookie U software is easy to use and easy to understand. Each course is made up of a series of lessons. When you have finished all of the lessons, you have completed the courses and will be ready to receive your materials. ***Note that you must still read through Cookie Connections to make sure you understand all of the procedures.*** For more information, log on to our website at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org) ->Program->Cookie Sale Program.

Cookie U is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have three or more years of Cookie Sale Program experience, please check out Cookie U at <http://cookieu.abcsmartcookies.com>.

## Service Units Reach 2010/2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congratulations to the following service units that have already reached their girl membership goal:

761 - Ed-Co/Starmont

771 - Western Dubuque

877 - Mercer County

855 - Davenport

856 - Buffalo

857 - Bettendorf

859 - Eldridge

871 - Andalusia

## Kudos Corner

Who really knows what goes into planning the council's annual meeting? Well our Annual Meeting Committee of course! Many thanks to: Marj Grimm, Chair, Virginia Roudabush, Ronda Thompson, Debbie Wordehoff, and Cathy Morrison. They helped with planning and organizing this year's meeting in Cedar Rapids.

Also, many thanks to the service units that donated silent auction baskets to the annual meeting. There were lots of fun baskets to bid on and the money earned will go towards financial assistance for girls.

Thank you to the following volunteers that travelled to St. Louis to take part in the Act Now –Take 20: Diane Sadler, Tina Gullick, Russ Smolik, JJ Creger, Anita Frisch, and Paula Mahoney. Your input, excitement and participation was greatly appreciated and we hope to make a huge difference back home moving forward!