

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 2011 membership year.

Dear Service Teams:

Every year we ask troop leaders to fill out a leader review at the end of the year. The purpose of this is to hear what leaders think, and the information we get from them is amazing. Some of the comments shared told me we are doing some really great things, and of course they had some great suggestions of things we need to work on. For instance, over 75% of those that returned the reviews felt that service unit meetings are valuable, although some suggestions were that we send out an agenda ahead of time, send meeting reminders, and have a more structured meeting. We have a great meeting tool for your use; it's linked under the service unit director section. It's a helpful guide for you to use to make the most of your service unit meeting.

The other really important piece of information from troop leaders was that new troop leaders really enjoyed having a new leader mentor contact them and give them ideas. View the results of the [leader review](#).

Some additional support/comments made by leaders:

- Would like to get to know the parents of my girls better.
- It would be helpful to have more materials/guidelines for new leaders on how to structure and plan.
- Need more leaders; people are not willing to step forward.
- Better communication is needed between the council and leaders
- Every leader should be provided with a mentor.

In coming issues of Team Connections, we will be addressing a lot of these comments with helpful tools and ideas. If you are interested in giving your feedback, please contact me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org.

My favorite comment from all the surveys was a leader who said "Not only do I feel that I have made a difference in the lives of these girls, but I feel that they have made a difference in mine as well."

Again this year, the leader review will be included in the spring registration packet but more importantly it will be online. Will you please help us get as many leaders as possible to fill out the online leader review? It gives us really great feedback. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

Camp guides are coming soon. Plan on hosting a camp rally in your service unit to get your girls and parents excited. The cookie rally kit you received also includes camp rally information. With the fun changes happening at camps, there's even more opportunities for troops to participate and give the girls a great camping experience. Ask your Regional Membership Manager for details.

This purpose of this newsletter is to provide you the service team with valuable tips, information and news. If there is something you want to see specifically, please e-mail me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org.

Have a great month and a productive service unit meeting. I hope to hear from all of you soon!

Brenda Lloyd

Vice President 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.

What is Personify eBiz?

Personify eBiz is a collection of online tools and functions that will allow our customers to take advantage of online registration via the web. The customers are the girls, their parents, troop leaders, and volunteers. You may remember that we had "E-Council." This is no longer available as eBiz is the new way to do event registration online.

eBiz allows:

- Customers to update and maintain their own personal customer records
- Online membership renewal; either as an individual or a troop
- Customers to make an online donation
- Customers to register online for adult training
- NEW customers to register with Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois
- Customers to register online for program meetings/events
- Customers to register online for camp sessions

How are the e-mails in Personify used?

In order to utilize the eBiz system, you must be able to set up your account; either know your membership ID number; which you can get by calling your council registrar at your local leadership center, or you can use your e-mail address. However; we must have a current e-mail address on file in the new registration system.

To be sure that we have your most current e-mail address, we have added a **BUTTON** on the home page of our website at www.GSEIWI.org. When you click the button, the system will ask you for your first name, last name and e-mail address. After entering this information, click submit. **BE SURE TO DO THIS FOR EVERY REGISTERED GIRL OR ADULT GIRL SCOUT IN YOUR HOME.** You may use the same address when creating an account for every person in your home.

Along with updating your e-mail information and verifying that our council has your most current and updated e-mail address; you will need to create an actual login with a user name and password for the first time you use our online registration system. You will need to create an account for each person in your household that wishes to use the system to register for any program events or trainings. This means if you have more than one daughter you will need to create an account for each of them along with yourself. You may use this same e-mail address for each account. The reason for creating a separate account for each person is to allow the system to attach each individual registration to each person's personal customer record.

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please e-mail our help desk at ebizhelpdesk@gseiwi.org.

Demo Learnings

You may also access these DEMO LEARNINGS to help you become familiar with eBiz and the login and creating profile information:

[Customer Profile Management](#)

[Membership Renewals](#)

[New Member Registration](#)

[Programs & Events](#)

[Troop Maintenance](#)

[Troop Renewals](#)

[Troop New Member Registration](#)

Having Problems Registering Your Troop for a Program/Event in eBiz?

Try these helpful steps:

1. Click on the Troop Management Hub to the left
2. Shown will be the Girls and Adults listed that are currently registered with your Troop for 2011
3. Select the names of the Girls and Adults you wish to register for "this event"
4. Toward the top of the page, you will see ACTION. Pull that menu down and click on "purchase or register for"
5. A new screen will open up that will show all products that are available for registering/purchasing
6. Choose the product you wish to register everyone for
7. Click add to cart
8. You will see a GREEN check mark in a circle that says "product successfully added to your shopping cart"
9. To the left you will see the mini-cart and how many items your cart contains and the subtotal for these items
10. You may either click on "view cart" or "checkout" at this time
11. Click on "check out" and you will get a screen that will show you what you purchased and the Girl or Adult (SHIP TO) you registered for this program/event
12. Enter your credit card information and click process my order

13. The next screen will authorize your credit card
14. After your credit card has been authorized you will see a page that has your order summary
15. You are able to print this page out for your records

Service Unit Director

For the month of February, please plan on promoting the following items:

- Troop camping and resident camping
- Hosting a camp rally with your service unit
- Cookie booths
- World Thinking Day
- Spring Registration
- Journeys – Series 3
- Recognitions for volunteers
- Online registration
- Service unit meeting planning
- [Service unit meeting agenda](#)

Registrar

With Spring Registration right around the corner, we have some exciting things happening.

Troop packets will be ready to go to the troop leaders starting the first week of March. We have some exciting new incentives to offer! **Every Service Unit that has 100 percent of its troops register will earn \$100.** In an effort to make this even easier, troops will be able to spring register online through eBiz. Details on how to complete this will be included in the troop packets as well as a Q&A sheet. Start working with your Service Unit Director on getting the word out to all leaders and registered adults.

We also have an exciting opportunity for our [girls to design our Spring Registration patch](#). "It's Your Patch-Design it!" Is open to all girls starting Feb.1, 2011, with entries to be received no later than Feb. 28, 2011. The winning patch design will earn a \$25 gift card to the Girl Scout shop!

Treasurer

Please continue to work with your product manager and troops regarding budgeting cookie profits. Troops often need help with how to budget and spend money. Remember that if 100 percent of your troops participate in the cookie sale, you can earn \$100 for the Service Unit! Don't miss this opportunity to help the volunteers in your area.

Troop leaders are encouraged to obtain a debit card to use for the eBiz registration. They can

contact the bank where their account is and request to get a card. If the bank is requesting permission, please have the leader contact the GSEIWI Finance Department at 800.798.0833 for assistance.

Girl Scouts Forever Green (GSFG) - 100th Anniversary Take Action Project

The goal of "Reduce Plastic Waste" is to reduce the number of plastic bottles and bags. By using reusable bags and water bottles, waste can be decreased. A simple way to do this is by keeping both reusable bags and bottles in a car or another place you are often in.

To find more information about GSFG visit: <http://www.girlscouts.org/gforevergreen/>

Don't forget to report back!

For more ideas visit: <http://www.GSEIWI.org/events/forevergreen.asp>

Girl Scout High Awards

Journeys are books that the girls work though to help earn their high awards. There are three series for the girls to choose from:

1. **It's Your World – Change It!** Girls develop leadership skills and learn ways they can make a difference in their school, their community and the world!
2. **It's Your Planet- Love It!** Girls at each grade level have an opportunity to learn about grade-appropriate environmental issues such as clean water and air, noise pollution, global warming, soil contamination and agricultural processes.
3. **It's Your Story – Tell It!** This Journey uses a storytelling theme in a fun and grade-level relevant way for girls to better understand themselves and their potential

More info on Journeys can be found at the following link: <http://www.gseiwi.org/program/journeys.asp>

Once the girls have completed their journeys, they can start working on their Take Action project. The projects have a suggested minimum of hours needed for each award:

- Bronze Award- 20 hours
- Silver Award- 50 hours
- Gold Award- 80 hours

High Award information can be found at <http://www.gseiwi.org/program/awards.asp>

Have you or someone you know earned your Gold Award (or Girl Scout award equivalent)? Are you

interested in helping girls achieve the highest honor in Girl Scouting? We are looking for dedicated women to be involved in the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee. If you are interested in directly mentoring a high school girl as she works toward her Gold Award, please e-mail Angela Grunder at AngelaG@GSEIWI.org.

Mobile Market Coordinator

The 3rd Journey Series of publications have arrived at all of our shop locations. The first two series continue to be stocked at all shop locations as well.

Mobile Markets are a method to get Girl Scout Merchandise out to your volunteers to see and purchase. If interested in being a mobile market coordinator, please contact your local shop associate or the Retail Sales Manager at LindaH@GSEIWI.org. If you have a desire to volunteer in your local council shop or office, please contact your local shop associate or office manager at a Leadership Center near you.

Troop Rebate Certificates were mailed in late December to redeem in January and February. Be sure to stop in to your local shop location and use it on cookie-themed merchandise, clearance sales, and essential Girl Scout merchandise for all grade levels.

Council shops will be offering "Bridging Kits." A "Bridging Kit" is a quick and simple way to purchase everything for year-end ceremonies. "Bridging Kits" include certificates, membership stars, bridging patches (age-level rainbow patch) and the option to prepurchase the coming grade-level journey series book.

"Great Start Kits" were an outstanding success and again will be offered. This kit gives you everything for your Girl Scout to start the coming grade level. This kit includes a Journey Series book of your choice, troop numerals, ID Set, Tab, Uniform piece (tunic, sash, or vest) and the American Flag patch and it all comes in a "FREE" drawstring style bag.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Camp will be here before you know it! This year there are new and exciting opportunities for troops and individual girls alike! To get girls excited about these opportunities, don't forget to host a camp rally. The planning packet was included with the Cookie Rally materials, If you need a packet, contact Hailey at 319.752.3639 or HaileyW@GSEIWI.org.

The **Camp Guide** will be mailed one per household in early February. New to camp this year are resident camp director Alicia Soppe at Camp Little Cloud, and troop summer camp director Kim Blake at Camp L-Kee-Ta and Camp Tahigwa.

The plan for camps for the summer are:

Conestoga and Little Cloud will be traditional resident camp from June 19-July 29 with the week of the 4th of July off.

Camp L-Kee-Ta and Tahigwa -Troop Summer Camp where troops come explore camp and the outdoors with your troop but leave the details to us! All troop summer camp sessions include meals, snacks, and staff-led programs. Adults also will have the opportunity to receive overnight/camp trainings.

Day Camp - individuals come to camp during the day for the week to discover what camp has to offer.

Traditional Overnight where older girls come to camp and work on leadership skills in the outdoor setting or go on a trip.

Special Events are all family and troop events to make those wonderful camp memories while learning new skills, exploring nature, and having fun.

Parades -Join the camp staff at the Burlington Steamboat Days or Decorah's Nordic Fest. You must register and wear a camp shirt.

Registration for camp begins March 1. See the camp guide for details! Check us out online at www.GSEIWI.org for registration and camp guides available March 1.

Juliette Coordinator

Does your service unit have a Juliette Coordinator? If not, is there someone who would take on the responsibility of communicating with Juliettes? The Juliette Program is for any girl in grades K-12 who doesn't have time to be a part of a traditional troop, or for those girls that only want to participate in events.

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 this 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 our council's coordinator, Jamie Swart, at JamieS@GSEIWI.org or call 319-232-6601.

In addition, please inform Juliettes of any service unit and council events coming up. Juliettes can also participate in the cookie sale program and attend camp!

Safety Zone

With spring fast approaching, many troops are thinking about activities that involve travel and/or camping activities. Refer to [pages 66-69 in Volunteer Essentials](#) for tips when traveling. If you are planning trips more than 100 miles away, you will need council approval. An Event/Trip form will need to be filled out and sent to your local program manager for approval. Additional training may be required. Check out Page 44 of the Volunteer Essentials to find everything you will need to do or think about before going outside of your meeting place. Then check out the Safety Activity Checkpoints on our website that will walk you through an activity you might want to do. Have fun and think spring!

Journeys

The new Journey, "It's Your Story, Tell It" books have arrived and are full of fun activities for the girls. Self-esteem is the underlying theme for this series but it has so many ideas and approaches it will be fun for all.

Daisies: 3 Cheers for Animals - The opening garden scene in the girls' book, on Pages 6-7, give the Daisies a chance to search for hidden animals and insects. Encourage them to have fun finding them.(hint: some of the animals are in the clouds!!!)

Brownies: A World of Girls - is all about learning to find clues about what you hear from a story or see in the world. Good stories and good clues can be found in all sorts of ways. Hold a special stone in your hand or wear a favorite bracelet. Do these things remind you of a good feeling or a happy time? What stories might they tell? So look at a picture or pick up an object and invent a story about it!

Juniors: aMuse - As part of the Opening Circle Ceremony in Session 5, holding a ball of yarn one girl begins a tale or "yarn" with one sentence. (Once upon a time,). She holds the end and passes the ball to the next girl and says, "What happens next?" The next girl adds to the story and holding on to her part of the yarn tosses to another girl in the circle. When the story is finished, point out that the yarn has formed a web, connecting all the girls and symbolizing that the story they told belongs to them all. *Sound like something we did when we were Girl Scouts?*

Cadettes: Media – Girls get together and host a marathon "movie night" to learn more about media. Suggested movies are – "Singing in the Rain," "That's Entertainment!" "Julie & Julia," "His Girl Friday," "Selena," "Women Behind the Camera" and "The Pixar Story."

Seniors: Mission: Sisterhood! – Moving into your Social Style a great game for older girls (and

adults, too) about what type of scenarios you are comfortable in – from being at a party by yourself, talking to a stranger in a coffee shop, visiting a new city, etc. After playing, find out the importance of having a variety of "types" of friends in your life.

Ambassadors: BLISS Live It! Give it! - Girls play a quick game of "Your Wildest Dreams." It can be something big, crazy or out of this world! Then they can reflect on if they think their dreams are achievable ... and why or why not. They will see by using this journey they will gain the tools and skills needed to do their very best to achieve them.

School Organizers

It's time again for Petal Power! For those of you that aren't familiar with this program, this is a unique program for incoming kindergarten girls or for those kindergartners that weren't able to join a troop yet this year. When they sign up for Petal Power, they get monthly packets from May-August mailed to their homes that they can do with their parents/families. With crafts, games, council info, volunteer resources and much more, it's a wonderful opportunity for new families to learn about Girl Scouts and get excited about being a Daisy over the summer. At the end of the summer, girls are invited to an event to learn more about being in a troop.

You can help us advertise this program to incoming kindergartners in your school. Find out when your school is holding Kindergarten Round-Up and let your RMM know. You could set up a booth during "Meet Your Teacher Night", put fliers in take-home packets or leave them where parents can see them on informational tables. Help us spread the word! [Click on this link for the flier.](#)

For questions about this program contact Laura Hahlen at LauraH@GSEIWI.org or 319-363-8335.

World Thinking Day 2011

World Thinking Day not only gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships, but is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of nearly 150 countries with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Here are ways that you can celebrate in your troop. Please visit our website for more information.

<http://www.gseiwi.org/resources/ThinkingDayActivity.pdf>

Leader Mentor

Cookie time is in full swing! Contact your new leaders with your best tips to make the sale, delivery and money collection run as smooth as possible. What is your best cookie sale tip? Perhaps have a quick 5-minute round robin at your SU meeting where everyone shares one quick tip for new leaders!

Steps of Support (SOS) is ready for distribution and contains information on the cookie sale, managing money and setting up cookie booths. We also have included information on bridging and Court of Awards ceremonies. SOS will be emailed to all new leaders. Please be sure to ask your new leaders if they are receiving SOS, and if not, share the link to our website with them. This is also a great publication for 2nd- and 3rd-year leaders or anyone who feels like they need a little extra support.

The camp guide will be mailed in February to all Girl Scout families. There are some new options for resident camp this year, so be sure that you take some time to understand those options so that you can explain them to your new leaders. Troop Summer Camping is a great option for that first time camping experience. Leaders can take their girls to camp and know that the Camp Staff will be there to provide the program! Leaders do not have to be Troop Camp trained for this camping option. Resident camp is a fantastic leadership experience for girls. Help your new leaders to understand the process for registering for camp and how Cookie Program Credit and grants can be used. Be sure that you understand tiered pricing so that you can help leaders understand it. Suggest that leaders spend some troop time going over the camp sessions that are specifically for their grade level to encourage girls. Encourage new leaders to attend a Camp Rally in your area ~ this will answer lots of questions that both girls and adults might have.

Product Sales

Cookie Sale Program – Important dates:

- **February 1** Troop product orders due online: www.abcsnap.com
- **February 21-26** Delivery to Service Unit Product Manager
- **February 26-March 20** Girls deliver product to customers and collect money
- **February 26-April 23** Cookie Cupboards and Cookie Booths available
- **March** Capri certificates will be sent in the mail to Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors who sold 75 packages or more. Once they receive their certificate in the mail, they may call the Capri location nearest them to schedule their appointments. Expiration date for making appointments is **Aug. 31, 2011**.

Cookie Booths

Cookie Booth sales will take place **February 26-April 23**. Packages for booth sales will need to be checked out of -- and returned to -- your nearest Cookie Cupboard.

Remember: You must contact your Cookie Cupboard Manager at least 10 days in advance of your cookie booth to guarantee that they will have the varieties you want. [Click here for a booth request form.](#)

Product Sales Committee

The Product Sales Committee members advise Council Product Sales staff on current and proposed Product Program activity procedures, materials and communications. The committee will consist of nine members on a rotating basis.

We are currently looking to appoint three new members to the nine-person committee. Each member must be a registered member of Girl Scouts, and will be expected to attend several committee meetings throughout the year. To keep council wide representation, we are looking for volunteers from the Dubuque, Cedar Rapids and Burlington regions. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, please contact NikkiH@GSEIWI.org. [Click here for more information.](#)

Remember that your Service Unit can still qualify for the \$100 for 100% with booth sales. Encourage troops that may not have sold in the initial order that they can still participate to help your Service Unit reach the 100% goal for the \$100.

Troop Leader Tips

Troop leaders have great ways to maximize Spring Registration, eBiz and cookie sales. See below the great tips to make this spring the best yet!

Spring Registration saves you paper work in the fall (and online saves paper, too!)

Troops can use cookie profit (NOT cookie program credit) to register girls, buy uniform pieces or bridging supplies in the spring so starting in August they are all ready to go!

Troop Leaders can manage their own roster and girl information! eBiz allows Leaders to update girl information, e-mail to troop members, and inputting of new girls. Rosters will be more accurate and in leaders' hands quicker!

Spend cookie profits (NOT cookie program credit) the year they are earned! Girls need to enjoy the fruits of their labors. Make sure girls are as involved in the spending of the money as they were in earning it.

Register online using eBiz! You don't have a debit card or don't want to get one? Consider purchasing a Visa or MasterCard gift card, your school's scrip program might even sell them. Use the gift card to register online, that way you can refill the card or shred it when you are done. If you are experiencing problems with your bank regarding debit cards please contact the GSEIWI finance department for assistance.

Want more events? More support? More training? A way that each troop leader can get "MORE" is to register in the spring. This year Service Units who have 100% of troops participating in Spring Registration, get \$100. That means MORE for leaders and girls! So please make sure you take advantage of Spring Registration.

Camp Certificates! Troops who register in the spring get a free night or maximum of a \$50 valued coupon to be used at one of our great outdoor facilities. This is separate from the Troop Camping that will be available this summer. However, troops can use Tahigwa and L-Kee -Ta camp space during the summer time when council-sponsored Troop Camping isn't going on. Interested in using the facilities? Contact your Camp Ranger for dates and more information.

<http://www.gseiwi.org/program/camp.asp>

Council Patch of the Month

Juliette Gordon Lowe World Friendship Fund

This program is designed to help girls think, share, and learn about international friendships and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Juliette Gordon Low had friends around the world and was committed to offering the benefits of Girl Scouting to girls around the globe. To honor Juliette's love of travel, of experiencing different cultures, and of making new friends, Girl Scouts of the USA created the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF) in 1927.

The money collected by the fund is used to send Girl Scouts to other countries and to bring Girl Guides and Girl Scout from other countries to the USA. It also goes to the World Thinking Day Fund set up by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) to promote the Girl Guide/Girl Scout movement throughout the world.

For more information on the American Girl History patch and all the requirements check out our [website](#) to order patches with the 15% discount, visit one of our council shops or [shop online](#).

Adult Learning Coordinator

Did you make a list last fall of enrichment sessions that your service unit might like to have? These might include sessions like songs and games, ceremonies, parental involvement or conflict resolution. Have you included any of these short learning sessions at your Service Unit meetings? If not, think of some of the top ideas and try to incorporate one or two in the next couple of months. If you need help with the content, just ask.

Reminder to leaders about bridging: if there are girls who will be bridging to a new grade level, now is a great time to start planning how you will complete the bridging activities. We have a link to the new bridging steps for each grade level on our website at:

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/in-signia/bridging_awards/. At the top of the page just click on the grade level you are working with. You might want to suggest finding an older girl troop to help. What better way to learn than from the girls themselves. Another thing to consider is whether the troop will be splitting up because of bridging and girls being in different grade levels. Now would be a great time to recruit assistant leaders for next year.

Coming soon – Online Learning!

Leaders have said they need help with Parental Involvement, Troop Finances, Bullying, etc and the Volunteer Leadership Team has heard the call. In the very near future we will be adding some online learning sessions to our website. Check out the new online sessions and let us know what you think. If you have any suggestions for future online sessions, please contact Claudia at ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org. Thanks and spread the word!

Community Information Coordinator

Our Community Information Coordinators provide valuable assistance to their Service Units this time of the year. We want to support the girls with the Cookie Sale Program as much as possible and CICs can help spread the word in their communities, especially about upcoming booth sales.

By going to the cookie booth locator on our website at <http://www.GSEIWI.org>, they can check to see when and where local cookie booths are being set up and can help spread the word. Post the cookie booth locations on online community calendars, include the information in weekly and smaller daily newspapers' calendars and make sure local radio stations have the information to include in their on-the-air community calendars.

If your service unit still doesn't have a CIC, it should! Please find someone to help with this essential position to help spread the good word of Girl

Scouts in your communities. For more information, contact Chuck Gysi, director of marketing and communications, at ChuckG@GSEIWI.org or call 309.283.2359.

100th Anniversary

Things are moving right along for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. The committee is busy putting the finishing touches on our Adventure 100 activities for girls and troops. Service Units will have a special packet of events, activities and ideas to plan a variety of activities to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting right in your own area. Girls and adults will be able to submit stories, pictures and videos to our website. Our Kick-Off event will happen in February 2012 in conjunction with the World Thinking Day Event ~ make plans now to attend. The Leadership Experience Department is planning a girl trip to Savannah as well as the National Convention in November 2011. Are you getting excited yet? We will have all of the information for our 100th Anniversary celebration events and activities on our website. The 100th Anniversary site will launch in August, but be sure to click on the 100th Anniversary button now to keep up on all of our plans!

We are still looking for volunteers to plan 100th Anniversary Camporees for these camps: L-Kee-Ta, Little Cloud and Tahigwa. The volunteer committee has begun planning the Camp Conestoga Camporee and all of these plans can be shared with volunteers who would like to have a camporee at their local camp. These will be volunteer-run committees with staff support. If we do not have volunteers from a particular area to plan the event, then there will not be a camporee at that camp. Troops will be able to attend camporees at any of the locations.

We are also looking for volunteers with a musical background! We would love to have a Girl Chorus from every Region or Service Unit perform at our girl Kick-Off event next February. If you or someone you know might be interested in working with girls to learn a couple of songs to perform, give us a shout. Even better ~ if you have a musical background and would like to submit an original song for our 100th Anniversary, we will be looking for something special to perform.

Please contact Deb Boyd at DebB@GSEIWI.org for more information or to volunteer for any of these projects!

Program Event Coordinator

Don't forget to take a look at [Events-At-A-Glance](#) for the most up-to-date list of events coming near you! We Want to Hear from You!

Leadership Experience Managers (formerly Program Managers) are in the process of contacting Event Coordinators and planners from each SU. They are collecting information on the events that are being held and seeking ways that they can support volunteers in their event planning. If you have not been contacted or you would like some support, please contact your local Leadership Experience Manager.

Refund Procedure for Events

Refunds will be made if a registration cannot be accepted for an event (due to maximum capacity or past deadlines), written notification of a cancellation is received prior to the registration deadline, an event is cancelled (due to minimum capacity or hazardous conditions), or there is a documented medical/emergency situation and a written request is submitted to the Girl Scout leadership center within one month of the event date. Some events may include nonreturnable supplies and/or require a non-refundable deposit fee; these fees will not be refunded. Nonrefundable deposits will be noted in the event description. A refund will not be made if a group/individual does not attend the event and/or if a group/individual comes to an event without the required clothing, equipment and/or permission/health forms and is unable to participate in some or all of the event activities

Cadettes, the direction has been set!

We sent out an interest survey for this year's Cadette Trip happening this summer, and the results are in. Our destination will be ... (drum roll) ... Chicago! For two days, and one overnight, girls will explore all the Windy City has to offer. Activities that girls will get to do include: dinner and show at Medieval Times, a trip to Navy Pier (includes amusement park rides), "swimming with the sharks" at Shedd Aquarium, an IMAX Show at the Museum of Science and Industry, and a lights show at the Adler Planetarium! There will be so much in two days that girls will not want to miss it! The dates will be **June 16-17, 2011**. Registration will open this month, so be watching online for fliers and more information. Fliers also will be available at Service Unit meetings in March. Contact Hailey at HaileyW@GSEIWI.org for more information.

For Your Information

Friday, February 25, 2011

Join us for an evening of laughter at the 17th annual Love to Laugh event to raise funds to support Girl Scouts in the Dubuque area. This year's featured act will be Guys in Ties, an elite improv group that has performed with Weird Al Yankovic, Norm MacDonald, Howie Mandel, and many more. They also have performed at the legendary Aragon Ballroom in Chicago.

Event Location: Hotel Julien, 200 Main St., Dubuque, Iowa. For more information, please call the Dubuque Area Leadership Center at 563.583.9169.

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois will honor Teresa Colgan, Vice President of Nursing, at Great River Health Systems in West Burlington at its Woman of Distinction Celebration on June 23.

The Woman of Distinction Celebration recognizes a member of the community who represents the ideals of Girl Scouting. The recipient's deeds and work fulfill our mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Contact the Burlington Area Leadership Center at 319.752.3639 for more information or to make a reservation.

Property Chats

Property Chats will be happening in each of our 5 regions for the purpose of gaining your feedback and giving your more information regarding the long range property plan. The volunteers working on this process have done some incredible work and can't wait to share their findings with you. Location, date and time are TBA. For more information, please contact your area Leadership Center.

Background Rechecks

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois has a system in place to check the backgrounds of our troop leaders and assistant leaders. When someone wants to be in troop leadership, we require that they go through a background check that includes a search for criminal activity, a search by address on the nationwide sex offender registry, and a check with the state registry for child abuse. As needed, we also check local state court websites.

It is suggested that we do background rechecks every three years, and due to a private donation, we

are able to do rechecks this year. Since we have not done rechecks before, we will be checking on all leaders/co-leaders/assistant leaders who were approved prior to Oct. 1, 2007, and who continue to be active troop leaders this year. Sometime in early February, volunteers fitting the criteria will get a letter and two forms to fill out and return to us, one form to the state registry for child abuse and the other form for all other checks.

Any letters sent to a volunteer who is not in troop leadership should be reported to Deb Boyd at 309.788.0833 or e-mail to DebB@GSEIWI.org.

GSEIWI is conducting a short survey to learn more about trips planned by troops. Troop leaders/co-leaders please **complete the survey** once for each troop trip offered since Fall 2009.

Girl Scout Voices

Want to know what our campers thought of the 2010 resident camp season? How was last year's volunteer experience for troop leaders? Find out what our girls and volunteers said: [see the reports](#).

Did your daughter or troop attend a council event in the last few months? [Tell us what you thought!](#)

Recognition Coordinator

The March 1 deadline is fast approaching for all adult awards and girl scholarships. Remember all awards are going to be presented by your service unit. You have the opportunity to have some fun with your presentations and really make your volunteers feel special.

Did you also know that girls can write endorsement letters on behalf of a volunteer? That's right, you don't have to have an adult volunteer or parent write the letter. In fact, the volunteers told us they feel more appreciated when the kudos comes from their peers and the girls. So, when you are looking for a letter of endorsement, don't forget to ask girls.

Here is what is on your checklist for February and March:

February

- Following the plan to recognize leaders, choose a fun way to recognize the volunteers at the Service Unit meeting(s).
- Discuss an end-of-the-year celebration with the Service Unit where Service Unit awards will be presented (unless you already have a committee lined up to do this.)
- Continue to remind volunteers to nominate each other for awards.
- Turn in all awards and scholarships to the council with a postmarked deadline of March 1, 2011.

March

- Following the plan to recognize leaders, choose a fun way to recognize the volunteers at the Service Unit meeting(s).
- If needed, continue discussion on an end of the year Service Unit celebration. Announce the details.
- Plan something to recognize leaders for Leader's Day at the April Service Unit meeting.
- Purchase membership pins and years of service pins (5-15 years) for volunteers. Purchase Leadership Development pin and leaves, and Volunteer Achievement pins and keys as needed.

Service Units Reach 2010/2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congratulations to the following service units that have already hit their membership goal for the 2011 membership year:

- SU877 Mercer County
- SU940 Henry County Iowa
- SU627 Grundy County

Kudos Korner

Linn County SU 810 held their fourth annual Noon Year's Eve Bowling Event Dec. 31. Once again, it was a huge success! This SU incorporates the fun of bowling with a New Year's Eve spin. Troops and families spend a few hours bowling and at noon are invited to celebrate Noon Year's Eve with a countdown and punch. Door prizes are announced throughout the event and fun is had by all. Their attendance has grown from 92 to almost 362 and they are hoping to have even more next year! Thanks to Kim Kacena and her planning team for once again throwing a fabulous SU event for troops and their families.

Kudos to **Junior Troop 8516** for finishing their Bronze Award Project. The girls completed their Agent of Change Journey in spring and in August decided on their own, on a Bronze Award Project that truly fit their community's needs. The troop was directly affected by the 2008 flood and knew that their public library was still in need of some help almost 2 ½ years later. They set up a meeting with a local member of the library to get the facts on what the library needed. The answer: BOOKS. So the girls sprung into action with posters, fliers and e-mails to everyone they knew, many going door to door. For almost five months, the girls collected books, magazines, DVDs and games to donate to the Friends of the Library to help. On Jan. 9, the troop delivered more than 5,000 items to the drop site. With the help of the local newspaper, television and a radio station, the girls have brought attention and help to their community library. Way to go, girls!

Smart Cookie U was held at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, Jan. 15. This pilot project provided a Cookie Rally especially tailored for girls in grades 6-12. Girls attended 6 classes throughout the day that focused on Business Management, Finance, Marketing, Speech and Nutrition. They learned how the Girl Scout Cookie Program enhances life skills that will be used in their future. By the end of the program, the girls had increased their confidence, as well as, their goals with several of them reaching toward the 500+ club. The Leadership Experience and Membership Departments plan to put these types of events in place throughout the council next year to encourage and support our older Girl Scouts.