

TEAM CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the April 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:

Finally, some warmer weather! What a long winter, but some **great Girl Scout programs have taken place** and you have all done a great job of running service unit meetings and hosting service unit events! Now on to camp! **We have four really awesome Girl Scout camps** that are just waiting for you to use them. Please encourage your troop leaders to take advantage of troop camping opportunities as well as to encourage girls to attend resident and day camps.

Spring registration is under way. A few notes about this year's packets. First, the roster has been changed based on feedback from leaders. It is larger and easier to use. Your service unit registrars have all the details. Incentives for this year are similar to last year. Each girl receives a spring registration patch and each troop receives an overnight camp certificate. Please find out from troop leaders if they need overnight readiness training and let us know so we can bring a training to you. *New this year, every service unit that has at least 70 percent of their GIRLS participate in spring registration will receive a pizza and ice cream party.* Also included in the spring registration packet is the end-of-year form for troops. A troop leader survey is included but please ask troop leaders to go online to fill it out. It will save them time and it will make it easier to compile the results. Please help spring registration be successful and make sure all your leaders understand the benefits.

Don't forget, **Girl Scout Leader's Day is April 22.** Our council is blessed to have more than 4,000 awesome leaders and co-leaders who do so much for the girls in their troops. Please make sure and thank them for all they do and encourage parents to do the same. Another great way to recognize leaders is at a service unit celebration. Please refer to the March Team Connections for a copy of the Girl Scout Recognition Celebration Event Planner.

Hope your service unit meetings in April go great and if you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org. Please make sure that all your team members receive this publication.

Sincerely,
Brenda L. Lloyd, Membership VP

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.

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

Service Unit Directors only: Mark your calendars for May 1. We are hosting a special event in your honor. Service unit directors from all over the council are invited to a special SUD appreciation brunch. There will be a great program along with some fun recognitions. You won't want to miss it!

New this year is a service unit spring registration incentive. Every service unit that has at least 70% of their girls participate in spring registration will receive a service unit pizza and ice cream party. If you're not sure what that number would be for your service unit, check with your RMM.

In addition, the service unit that has the best girl participation rate overall will be the recipient of a really cool, yet to be determined prize. ☺

Leader Mentor

The latest [Steps of Support \(SOS\) issue](#) was mailed in late March and new leaders already will have had a chance to look it over. Remember, this is available on the Web site in the New Leader Helps section (from the homepage click on Adults and then on New Leader Helps). You can suggest that more experienced leaders take a look at it as well. We have had lots of feedback that other leaders would like a copy. Please lead them to the Web site. This issue tackles Spring Registration and Court of Awards as the main topics.

Because **Spring Registration packets** are arriving, you will want to take a few minutes to go through the packet and make sure that you understand everything that is included. New leaders and even some of the second- and third-year leaders may need some additional help with this process.

Spring registration is such a great idea; it really goes a long way in reducing the stress of getting everything accomplished in the fall. Things are so hectic then, and by registering in the spring, troops are ready to experience all the events and activities right away in August and September. There also is a great incentive again this year for participating in Spring Registration.

There is a new Leader Review piece this year. The good news is that it is available to take [online](#) or if you prefer a [fillable form](#). (*Both forms are located on the Web site on the forms page, under Troop Management Forms.*)

TEAM Connections Newsletter

This piece is very important to us for feedback on how the year went. Did leaders get adequate support? Did they have the needed resources? Did the training meet their needs? There also is a space for them to let us know their plans for the coming year. It is good for service units to have this information early, too!

There is also a new Troop Financial Report. The best news about this form is that it also is available as a [fillable word document](#) or a [printable pdf](#). Again, this form helps us monitor troop bank accounts throughout the council. It also gives service units a heads up about accounts in their area and is a chance to find potential problems before they become too large.

As Leader Mentors you may want to think about having a short session on filling out the Troop Financial Reports. This is one form that seems to give leaders a hard time. If you need help, please email me at KimH@GSEIWI.org.

As the school year winds down, leaders also should be thinking about a Court of Awards ceremony ([see March SOS](#)), as well as making plans for keeping their troop active over the summer. The next SOS will have ideas and suggestions for that.

Registrar

Spring registration packets are ready for distribution. Here is a [link to the cover letter](#) that is going to each troop leader in their packet.

Your RMM has a complete copy of the packet for you as well as your postcards. The postcards are for your use to educate troop leaders on when the packets are due to you, the service unit registrar.

Incentives for this year:

- Girl – spring registration patch
- Troops – overnight certificate at a Girl Scout camp to be used from Aug. 15 to May 15.
- Service Units that have at least 70 percent of **girls** participate will receive a pizza and ice cream party.
- A special prize will be awarded to the service unit that reaches the highest girl participation rate!

The roster has changed this year to be easier to read and to gather pertinent information. Only one copy is being distributed so if you want

copies of them, feel free to make them yourself or ask your council registrar to make one for you when you turn them in to the council office.

Cookie program credit is earned by girls and can be used for numerous opportunities for girls such as day camp, resident camp, council program events, Girl Scout store merchandise and service unit events – to name a few. Please do not accept CPC for membership registration fees. There is financial assistance for membership dues available if it is needed. The volunteer product sale committee endorsed the decision to not use CPC for membership so girls can use their earned incentives for programs and or merchandise.

Both the leader review and troop financial report form have been updated this year. These are both available as fillable forms online. Please encourage troop leaders to go online to complete these. It's extremely important that we get these back from 100 percent of our troops. Another change this year is that the troop leader does not need to provide a bank statement from their bank. If a troop leader is not able to fill this out online, these can be turned in at the time the spring registration packet is turned in. Deadline for having all leader reviews and troop financial reports is Aug. 1.

Adult position codes are important to the registration process. Please [follow the link to the position code listing](#) and have it available in case troop leaders are not sure what their correct position code is.

Forever Green Project Spotlight

Many troops are wrapping up their Girl Scout Forever Green project this month! For those of you who have completed their project (or are almost done) don't forget that you will need to log on to www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen/ to report how your project went! You will need to do this before you will receive your certificates from the council.

Also, you will have the chance to order the limited edition Girl Scout Forever Green patch!



FYI (For Your Information)

Here is special information for volunteers who work with girls in grades 6-12: Are you and your girls interested in earning a Silver or Gold Award but just can't seem to find the time to finish a Girl Scout Journey? Raise Your Voice is the perfect event for you! Your girls will spend a fun-filled weekend at Clarke College in Dubuque completing an entire GS Journey! We will be doing the It's Your World-Change It! Series – including Amaze, GIRLTopia, and Your Voice Your World.

There is also a track for volunteers as well! While your girls complete their Journey you will have the opportunity to learn all you need to know to guide girls through a Take Action project – the only other step for girls to earn a High Award! Look for more information and registrations coming in the mail soon! For information about this event contact Angela Grunder at AngelaG@GSEIWI.org or call 563-583-9169.

Fund Development Coordinator

New this year, we are giving every registered family of Girl Scouts a chance to participate in a special Friends of Scouting campaign. I've heard many troop leaders and parents ask why we don't ask our parents to support our programming throughout the year. This year, we are sending a letter (one per household) to every member asking them for a gift to support Girl Scouts. Donations will be used to offset operating expenses including financial assistance for membership dues as well as for subsidizing our camp program. With the stress of today's economy, we have seen an even greater need for growing our financial assistance budget. If you get questions relating to the mailing, please share with parents the real need that is there and expound on the great benefits of the Girl Scout program. If you need assistance, please contact Nancy Renkes at 800-798-0833.

Mobile Market Coordinator

Wow, it is hard to believe we are looking to year-end events and the purchases that go along with those events.

Bridging Kits are available this season in our council shops to aid in year-end purchases. Everything is pulled together for you by girl for

you to easily purchase and award. Bridging Kits may be purchased at a cost of \$3 each (basic kit) or \$10 each (basic kit plus the upcoming age-level Journey series book)

Camp season is fast upon us; look for hot new items in our Trading Post at all four of our camp locations. Mobile Markets may be scheduled for day camps through the service center retail shop closest to your area, or by contacting Linda Heil, Retail Sales Manager, at 800-798-0833, Ext. 310, or LindaH@GSEIWI.org

Camper Care Packages are back in full swing again this season. Two options are again available. There is the TOADally awesome frog wearing a camp T-shirt at a price of \$15 delivered with a card to your camper during her camp stay. There also is the ever popular care package bag with an assortment of items including but not limited to a stuffed animal, game, bandana and jewelry at a price of \$25.

As the school year comes to a close, so to Saturday shop hours. The following Saturdays remain with hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- April 10, 2010 (all shop locations) and Mobile Market at the Recognition Event in Coralville
- April 17, 2010 (Cedar Rapids shop only)
- April 24, 2010 (Mobile Market at Girls Go Global Event in Coralville)
- May 1, 2010 (all shop locations)
- May 15, 2010 (Cedar Rapids shop only)

Juliette Coordinator

Juliette Girl Scouts can participate in spring registration as well. Each Juliette will receive a mailing from the office with a registration form. Each girl that spring registers will receive the spring registration patch. Please [click here follow the link to see the flier](#) that is being mailed to each Juliette.

If your service unit is hosting a special spring registration event, please be sure and invite your Juliettes. If the service unit isn't hosting one, think about doing something fun with just your Juliettes.

Event Coordinator

Is your service unit planning on hosting a service unit celebration? If you missed the March Team Connections issue, you can go online to see the "Girl Scout Recognition Celebration Event

Planner."

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Camp registration began March 1 and we still have lots of openings. Please encourage your troop leaders to share with parents the awesome camping program that we have at GSEIWI.

Don't forget about camp open houses. Following are the dates and times at each of the four locations:

Camp Little Cloud – May 2, 1 to 3 p.m.
Camp Tahigwa – May 16, 1 to 3 p.m.
Camp L-Kee-Ta – May 23, 1 to 3 p.m.
Camp Conestoga – June 6, 1 to 3 p.m.

It's not too late to have a SU Camp Rally! Please contact [Hailey Workman](#) if your service unit is interested. Girls who attend a rally will receive a \$5 coupon for their session fee.

Treasurer

As troops begin to spring register and fill out a Troop Finance Report, be aware of troops that are not continuing. There are some steps that troops need to take when disbanding, especially concerning their bank accounts. The leader should fill out the [Disbanded Troop Record form](#) and submit it to their Regional Membership Manager. The troop bank account should be closed, and the balance sent to the finance department. It will be held in a special account for a year, in the event that the troop will reregister. If girls are going to other troops, the money should be distributed equally amongst those troops. A Troop Finance Report must be completed and turned in along with a bank account statement. The troop leader also needs to turn in all troop equipment and books that were acquired through troop funds. All this info can be found on Page 23 of the *Volunteer Resource Guide*. Being aware of what troops may be disbanding may help girls get into another existing troop and help make sure Girl Scout money is not just sitting in an inactive bank account.

As cookie money comes in, it is also a good time to talk to troop leaders about involving parents in the troop's financial status. Troop leaders should prepare their Troop Finance Report and have a copy at a parent meeting, Court of Awards or other troop/family gathering. Families contribute both time and money to the financial health of the troop, and they should be kept informed.

Take time to talk about the troop's goals and the plans for the money that has been earned.

Adult Learning Coordinator

We've talked about bridging and given many ideas for troops to plan their meetings to prepare them for bridging. Check out the latest issue of *Momentum* for bridging requirements and ideas. There are also ideas on the Web site (under Troop Management Forms). But what about those troops that are not bridging ... they also need to have a ceremony to celebrate all they have accomplished this year and to receive the badges and awards they have earned. This is called a Court of Awards. Click here for the Court of Awards handout, a helpful handout for having a Court of Awards ceremony with tips on what the ceremony might look like, who should attend and even some ideas on how to present the awards. Include girls in the planning – talking about some of the favorite things they did, having pictures of places they traveled to, having each girl talk about the different activities they accomplished – these are all ideas to make your Court of Awards special.

Safety Zone

Cookie money is coming in, girls have made their plans, and the troop is now off to a special place to have some fun. Whether it is camping, water parks, Girls Go Global, other cities (near or far), remember to check what forms may need to be filled out before you venture out. Great information can be found in the *Volunteer Resource Guide* on troop trips (Page 25). There also is a nice chart (Page 26) that will give you a breakdown on necessary requirements depending on where you are going, how far away it is, whether it is an overnight or a camping trip, etc. Check your ratios of adults to girls, make sure you have additional insurance on non-registered participants, figure out transportation to the location (guidelines are in *Safety-Wise*) and check that you have a first-aider with you. An event trip approval information form is needed for trips over 100 miles, overnights, extended overnights, and troop camping. You also will want to make one more check of *Safety-Wise* to be certain you are covered for the activities that you are planning on your trip. Once everything has been reviewed and all the forms and consents are in place ... Have fun!

Product Manager

Thank you, product managers for a successful cookie sale! We couldn't have done it without your help. Also thanks to our cookie cupboard managers for the awesome job they are doing shuffling cookies.

Recognitions are tentatively scheduled to be shipped from ABC the week of April 26. If you do not receive your shipment by the end of the week email the Product Sales Director at KirkW@GSEIWI.org.

Juliette Bucks will be mailed directly to the girls with the goal to have them mailed by the end of April.

Ipod speaker and Ipod Touch prize winners will be posted to our Web site as soon as winners are confirmed and notified.

You will receive the CPC for your service unit via mail before the week of April 26.

Recognition Coordinator

There are several fun pins and patches available in the online store that you can pass out to your service unit volunteers as a way of saying thank you for their work and support. There is even a patch for Volunteer Appreciation Week. Check out the pin and patches on-line at www.GSEIWI.org. Go to the Gifts section or the Fun Patches/ Pins section for a selection.

Service Unit awards for Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Volunteer, Volunteer Development, Volunteer Achievement, Years of Membership, and Volunteer Years of Service (five to 15 years) are typically presented in April or May at a service unit meeting or at a celebration event.

Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer pins are sent to Recognition Coordinators (or Service Unit Director) from the council for presenting to the recipients. The Volunteer Development pin and leaves, along with the Volunteer Achievement pin and keys are purchased by the service unit or the individual, and are presented with the other service unit volunteer awards. A voucher to purchase the awards is sent to either the service unit or the individual.

The Years of Membership numeral guards and Volunteer Years of Service pins (five to 15 years)

are purchased by the service unit or the individual and are presented with the other service unit volunteer awards. There is a form for each award to list all eligible volunteers. This is sent to the council office for purchase and awards are sent to the appropriate store for pickup, if desired.

Don't forget to look at this month's [Recognition Tips](#) for some inexpensive ideas and gifts to recognize the volunteers in your service unit.

Community Information Coordinator

There are a number of opportunities for CICs to be involved in April. Here are a few ideas. Make sure you are promoting the last of your local cookie booth sales. Go on our Web site at www.GSEIWI.org and click on the cookie booth locator button and find out what sales are going on in your service unit. Post them on news media sites' online calendars. Many newspapers and radio stations pull this info for print and on-air listings.

Also, Girls **Go Global is this month!** Get photos at Girls Go Global of girls from your service unit and submit them to local newspapers. Many weekly newspapers and smaller daily newspaper will publish these photos. If you're not going to the event, make arrangements for troop leaders to send you the photos. If your service unit doesn't have a CIC, you should find someone willing to take on the task. Have them contact Chuck Gysi, vice president of marketing and communications, at 309-283-2359, or ChuckG@GSEIWI.org.

Service Unit Spotlight

SU 846 of Clinton, Iowa, had 360 girls attend their cookie rally. SU 846 also celebrated Girl Scout Week by creating a store display in a downtown location in Clinton!

SU 859 of Eldridge, Iowa, for thinking outside the cookie box. Heather Hillyer and her girls created cookie commercials at their cookie rally to show how to market cookies to potential customers.

SU 819 of Johnson County held a Thinking Day event for 150 girls and had 16 troops doing displays from different countries. They even had a rain forest and waterfall from Puerto Rico, a girl father project by Jill Cronbough's Southeast troop. They had music from Brazil, performed by a college group, and folk dancing from Israel and

other places by the International Folk dance group. Gelato is our usual treat for all plus troops prepared traditional foods from their countries such as Paella and baklava. Way to go, SU 819, for a great event to showcase Thinking Day!

SU 809 – Linn County for their incredible March service unit meeting. Under the direction of service unit director, Stephanie Hamer, the team spent some time with troop leaders talking about the future of their service unit. They began with "What do we do now," with all troop leaders talking about what they currently do at service unit meetings and moved on to "what do we want to do." The team then spent time working on suggestions for what the service team wanted to do in the future. It was truly amazing hearing the things from this service unit that ultimately benefits the girls. Thanks to this service unit for doing an amazing job of meeting leaders' needs as well as being willing to grow and change to meet future needs.

SU 619 - On March 13-14, about 40 girls and adults headed for Camp Tahigwa for their winter carnival. Girls decorated personalized pillow cases, the Daisies, Brownies and Juniors made fleece hats and scarves. The Cadettes made fleece hats, scarves and mittens. They also did some watercolor painting, made friendship bracelets, did a camp scavenger hunt and some general hiking. Cadette girls taught the new girls some new songs.

Service Units that hit their membership goal since last month!

Congratulations to the following service units for achieving their end of year membership goal:

SU 615 – Black Hawk County

SU 807 – Linn County, NE CR

SU 855 – Scott County, Davenport

Kudos Korner

THANK YOU

For every step taken on a wet and rocky trail,
For every reminder note you didn't forget to mail.
For every skinned knee you attended,
For every broken heart you mended.
For every burnt camping meal you ate,
For every late parent on which you had to wait.
For every tearful disappointment you heard,
For every time you could've ... but didn't say a word.
For every ounce of laughter to a little girl you brought.
For every midnight giggle your tired ears have caught!
For every tear you've shed as they've grown up through the years.
For every one of your Girl Scouts, now full of confidence, not fears.
For every song you've sung,
For every song you'll sing...

**Thank you, Girl Scout leader...
simply put... for everything!**

Personify Project = SU Registrars

Last month, we shared with our service unit registrars that the council will soon be undergoing a change in our membership data base system. While this is exciting news, it does mean that some changes and delays will be taking place with our information. The good news is that after all is said and done, our data base will be cleaner, more accurate and easier to manage. Our final date for entering data into the current E-Council system was March 19. Our go-live date for the new system is April 12. In the meantime, council registrars are entering all registrations into an Excel spreadsheet so we can at least track what is coming in. We don't know the timeline or the specifics about volunteer usage at this point, but please know it is on our radar and we will be keeping you all informed as we move forward. Thanks for your patience!

Service Unit Director Tips

Do you have troop leaders who aren't sure whether they are returning or not? Do your leaders need a stress relief session? Spend some time at your April service unit meeting asking what some of their needs are. Are there common themes? Is there additional training needed? We hate to lose good leaders if there is

something we can do to help.

Please encourage all your troop leaders to fill out the end-of-year troop bank account form as well as the leader review form. Make a checklist of all of your leaders and track who has completed them. Your RMM also will help follow up to make sure we receive them from every troop.

School Organizers

The Daisy Petal Power is off to a great start! Kindergarten roundups have been happening all over the council and parents are excited about the program. If you get questions or need assistance, please contact your regional membership manager. All the Daisy Petal Power participants are being tracked on a separate spreadsheet for mailing purposes so if you want information, check with your RMM.

Gold Star School parties also are taking place from now until May 31. If you aren't sure whether your school is a Gold Star School, please check with your RMM. If you're only a few girls from being a Gold Star School, your RMM can help with that as well. Don't forget to share your Gold Star school success at the April SU meeting.

Who's Who

Meet your Waterloo and Decorah Area Office Team Members

Regional Vice President – Joanne Wzontek is also responsible for fund raising and community cultivation for the Waterloo area. Joanne started with the council last July.

Regional Membership Managers

Holly Bark has been with the council for almost three years and works part time out of the Decorah office and serves six counties.

Nicole Liebau also has been with the council for almost three years and serves the five counties that surround Black Hawk County.

Jenna McAnally is our newest RMM, just starting in February. Jenna covers Black Hawk County.

Regional Program Manager

Jamie Harrington is the program manager and enjoys planning Girl Scout programs for her 10 counties. Jamie has been with Girl Scouts for almost three years.

Administrative Staff

Fran McGarvey is the receptionist and store guru. Fran has been with Girl Scouts for 2 ½ years and

enjoys waiting on customers, especially helping little ones prepare for their first troop meeting.

Lindsey Brown is the registrar for the office since June of last year. Her work entails entering all girl and program registrations. She also assists with the store and general office help.

Debra Leymaster is the office manager. Debra began with Girl Scouts last September and is responsible for making sure the office runs smoothly.

For more staff information, check us out on the Web site.

Troop Spotlight

Troop 702 of St. Lucas, Iowa, had a Journey Leadership Retreat on March 5-6 at the Best Guest House in Fort Atkinson. We used the Junior Journey Book, Agent of Change.

We started the retreat with learning about Power of One. In this session, we made "I've Been Framed" pictures and added our powers and strengths around a picture of us. We also made individual trading cards of ourselves and then traded them with each other.

Next, we had five women speak to us about their careers in our community and why their job is important in keeping our communities running. We had a teacher, a principal, a veterinarian, a nurse, and a newspaper owner. Holly Bark of GSEIWI and Nancy Bether (lifelong Girl Scout and leader) also spoke to us about future opportunities in Girl Scouts. After our interviews with these women, we started creating "Herstories" about them. Once these are finished, we will share them with the guests.

The Power of Team brought us into a human knot and we worked together to unwind it. During Operation Cooperation, we made individual quilt squares and then tied them altogether to make a troop quilt.

After reading "SuperShelterMakers," a comic series from the Journey Book, we re-created the story as an introduction to the Power of Community. We looked at our individual communities that we belong to and then we looked at how they overlapped each other. We decided on two Take Action Projects that we will work on to earn our Bronze Award. Part of our troop will start a relationship with a local nursing home and the other part is working on a Farm

TEAM Connections Newsletter

Fun Day camp for other Girl Scouts in our area. We will be hosting a day camp in August.

Our troop enjoyed our retreat and we look forward to wrapping up our Journey Book with a ceremony in the fall to celebrate our accomplishments!



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Leader's Day
is
April 22!**