

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?** This is our new theme in Girl Scouts. To go along with our new theme is a new brand. GSUSA has been doing some great research and is rolling out some great resources. This is the first Team Connections using the new look and we hope you like it. We have also redesigned the council website to make it even easier to find things. We've added more fillable forms, all of the troop resources in one easy location, and soon will be online membership! We can't wait, but we have to in order to get everything in place. We will keep you posted.

My father always use to say, "Begin as you mean to go on." As we begin this new Girl Scout troop year, we want to make sure we get off to a great start for our girls and our leaders. Service unit meetings will be happening in August and September. Your Regional Membership Manager will be sending out postcards inviting all troop leaders to the meeting. Please make sure that all of your leaders are invited and understand the importance of these meetings.

We are pleased to announce to you that we are "going green". In this effort to be more efficient we will not be carrying out tons of paper to your service unit meetings. Your Regional Membership Manager (RMM) will come to the meeting with copies of links from this newsletter; they will be available for viewing as you talk about the information. If someone does not have access to the website or a computer, we will make sure they get a copy. This will also be the case for fall start-up materials, they will not be getting large packets with multiple forms in them, and they will all be available on the website. Regional membership managers will have ample supplies of everything in her "service unit toolkit". Our girls have asked us to be environmentally friendly and this is a great start for all of us. We appreciate your help in this endeavor.

Please take advantage of this first service unit meeting and get your troop leaders involved in the planning of the events. Ask your girls what kind of events they would like to see offered in your area. If you have some ideas and are not sure how to implement, contact your regional membership manager or your program manager.

### 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.



We are looking forward to another great year of partnering with the service teams to make this year excellent for our girls and leaders. If you need any assistance, or have questions, please contact me at [BrendaL@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaL@GSEIWI.org).

Sincerely,

Brenda Lloyd, VP of  
Membership

## Service Unit Director

We're going green. We've been hearing volunteers say for years that there is too much paperwork and our girls are telling us, it's time to go green. So, we've reviewed forms and processes and come up with numerous ways to offer support without killing a tree.

In today's tech savvy world, there are all kinds of ways to get information. Our biggest resource is our website. Everything is available online. We are also on Facebook and Twitter. Visit our website at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org) and check out the look, new resources, and new links. Please remember, we are still under construction and some pages aren't completely finished.

## Registrar

Thanks to all of you for helping to launch a successful spring registration campaign. With your help the council saw an increase in the number of troops and girls that spring registered. If your service unit achieved over 70% participation of girls, check with your regional membership manager about your pizza and ice cream party.

Congratulations to the following service units that had at least 70% of their girls participate in spring registration.

605 – Butler County  
616 – Winnesheik County  
619 – Howard County  
622 – Buchanan County  
624 – Fayette County  
808 – Linn County, Center Point  
812 – Linn County, Mt. Vernon  
857 – Scott County, Bettendorf  
871 – Rock Island County – Andalusia/Reynolds/Taylor Ridge  
877 – Mercer County

## Treasurer

Again this year we will be making sure that we have all troop bank account paperwork on file. With your help we were able to gather more of this information and as a result, our bad debt dropped and we were able to safeguard the girls' money.

New this year, we are encouraging troop leaders to get debit cards for their troop bank accounts. One benefit will come when registering for events online. We want to make sure that troop leaders continue to have two signers on each account to make sure the girl's money is safe!

## Forever Green Project Spotlight

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 9093 from Fort Madison evaluated one of their local elementary schools for breathing hazards and planted two perennial gardens to help improve air quality for our children and the community as a whole. 25 people were educated about the environment and the girls have taken great pride, joy, and ownership in their project and have kept a watchful eye on each of 'their' plants.

## Mobile Market Coordinator

Check out all the [new sales and store information](#).

*(Click on graphic for link.)*

If you are interested in having a mobile market in your service unit, for instance at a service unit meeting or an event, please contact [LindaH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:LindaH@GSEIWI.org).



## Outdoor Program Coordinator

Horseback riding is available for girls in grades K-12. Please refer to your troop information packets for details.

Questions? Please call or e-mail Joanne Dumar at [JoanneD@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JoanneD@GSEIWI.org) or call 563-349-6149. Check online for more [equestrian program](#) information and be sure to read the [letter](#) from the equestrian program manager.

If you spring registered your troop, you should have received an overnight camp certificate. [Follow this link](#) for information regarding all four of our great Girl Scout camps. You can attend any of them and each camp ranger is ready, willing, and able to help. Be sure to read the [camp ranger letter](#). Call them today!

## Juliette Coordinator

Are there any girls in your area who were in Girl Scouts last year, but didn't re-register because there are no troops in their area or they are too busy with extracurricular activities? Well please inform them of this great opportunity to be a Girl Scout Juliette!

We have an optional Juliette Program Packet available to all Juliettes for the low price of \$5 (in addition to the \$12 2010-2011 membership fee). The \$5 fee covers 4 packets being sent out for the entire membership year. The packet includes updates in our council, events, materials based on your grade level, games, crafts (supplies included). If interested please contact your council Juliette Coordinator Jamie Harrington at [JamieH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JamieH@GSEIWI.org) or call 319-232-6601.

## Safety Zone

Check out the new publication [Volunteer Essentials](#) online. It is a combination of our Volunteer Resource Guide and *Safety-Wise*. Pertinent information that was in *Safety-Wise* can be found in this document. The [Activity Checkpoints](#) will also be on our own website and will include a 2-page summary of all you need to know about each activity. No more searching 3–4 pages for your information about a certain activity. It will all be on those 2 pages. Attached is a [Q & A sheet](#) on what it is and how it will be used.

## Journeys – the true story

Journeys were created to give today's girls a whole new program experience in Girl Scouts; one that focuses on Discover, Connect, and Take Action. The first series wasn't as successful as GSUSA had hoped so they listened to feedback from leaders and girls all across the country and made some changes. The second Journey series is more user friendly, lays out the program information in a format this is manageable and simplified for the leader and a lot less like school. There is also an easy to reach chart that shows the criteria needed to earn the award. Leaders have also found creative and unique ways to blend the traditional Girl Scout program with the Journey resulting in a more enhanced leadership experience for girls.

## School Organizers

It's recruitment time! Again this fall we will be doing recruitments at all 432 elementary schools in the months of August and September. Your help in making this happen is extremely critical and very much appreciated. We have all the tools and resources ready to go. Check with your RMM about working on a plan for your school. She will also have a list of all the troop leaders that didn't spring register. Please remind returning troop leaders to let you know if they are accepting more girls. If they are and need help with a recruitment flier or a troop post card, please let your RMM know or point them in the right direction. Almost every recruiting resource is available online. Last year we had 189 out 432 (44%) elementary schools were gold star schools, let's go for over 200 this year!

## Troop Leader Tips

We have some great resources for leaders located on our website. Want to learn some new songs? Want to learn how to do a ceremony? We have all kinds of ideas for you to use on our website.

If you're not getting enough parental support, invite your parents to the next meeting or plan a special parent meeting and introduce them to the [Families Make it Happen/Troop Team Committee piece](#). Have a conversation with them about how the skills they have can be shared by implementing the Girl Scout program. Once parents volunteer they see how rewarding it can be and often times will keep coming back.

## Community Information Coordinator

Welcome to a new membership year and a new year for our service units. An essential position for all service units is the Community Information Coordinator. We need each SU to designate someone on their team to serve as a CIC in the coming year. We don't want Girl Scouts to be a best-kept secret in any of our communities.

Community Information Coordinators work to get the word out about Girl Scouts in their Service Units. For instance, it might involve sending photos of SU events to local daily and weekly newspapers. It might involve putting information about SU events on online calendars. It also could involve going on the air at local radio stations to promote our great events!

We hope to have a CIC in every SU this coming year. The more we can get out the word about Girl Scouts in every community across Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois, the more visible our organization and the more members we will have!

For information about the CIC program, please contact Chuck Gysi, vice president of marketing and communications direct at 309.283.2359, toll-free at 800.798.0833, Ext. 716, or [ChuckG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ChuckG@GSEIWI.org).

## Personify Project

Last spring we shared with you the new data system coming to GSEIWI that replaces E-council. Eventually, we will all be able to register for Girl Scout membership online. Troop leaders will be able to manage their troops. Stay tuned for more information and a timeline in upcoming issues of Service Team Connections.

## National Convention 2011

The 2011 National Convention is being held **November 10-13, 2011** in Houston, Texas.

We are starting to receive some delegate applications, so be sure to encourage volunteers who have an interest in governance to send in their application.

If you are interested, [click here for more information](#), or ask your RMM for the flier. [Applications are available online](#) and will be accepted until October 1.

We are hoping to send a visitor delegation to the Convention and we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in attending or helping us to plan this trip. Please contact Kim Hull at [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org) or Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org) if you are interested.

## Leader Mentor

Here we are at the start of another year! Are you ready to help get new leaders off to a good start? Be sure that your service team has a clear process to match new leaders with a Leader Mentor. This is the most important step, but seemed to be a stumbling block last year, according to the LM's responding to the evaluation. Your RMM will give you a list of new leaders that were approved over the summer. We are working on a password protected link to the list so you can see who the newly appointed leaders are in your services unit area. Please be sure to talk to your SUD regarding these new leaders to be sure someone is supporting them.

Dust off your Leader Mentor folder and get out those checklists. Remember – this is just a [help sheet](#) for you to make sure that you are connecting with your new leader on the topics that they need help with to get started. You need to be the person to take the initiative to call them and begin asking them questions. Can you offer to bring them to the SU meeting?

Be sure to introduce yourself and give your contact information at the first SU meeting so that the leaders in your SU know who you are and can call you with questions.

Included is a [Next Steps handout](#) that you can use if needed. Call new leaders to help get them registered for the required adult learning courses they need. Some may need help setting up a troop bank account, or be looking for some support in holding a parent meeting. All of these resources (and so much more) are available on the [website](#).

It might be good to do a walk through the website at a roundtable discussion. The [New Leader Helps](#) pages on our website are pretty incredible. If you haven't taken the opportunity to see all that we have available, do so right now.

Some of our Leader Mentors suggested that it might be a good idea to offer to attend a Getting Started or Leadership Essentials training with their new leader. That may not work for you, but think about some creative ways to support her.

Please let us know if there are some things that you specifically do to support new leaders that you find helpful.

If you have any questions, or need some additional help, please don't hesitate to contact me at: [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org).

Think about doing an Investiture Ceremony at the September or October meeting to welcome new leaders AND to give them an idea of how to do this ceremony. Here are some helpful links to pdf's and videos:

- [Daisy Investiture.pdf](#)
  - [Daisy Investiture.wmv](#)
- [Brownie Investiture.pdf](#)
  - [Brownie Investiture.wmv](#)
- [Older Girl Investiture.pdf](#)
  - [Junior Investiture.wmv](#)

## Adult Learning Coordinator

Your first Service Unit meeting will be filled with all the latest from the council office to start up a new year. Let everyone know about the new publication [Volunteer Essentials](#), which will be the new combination of GSEIWI Volunteer Resource Guide and *Safety- Wise*. Attached is a [Q & A sheet](#) on what it is and how it will be used. All new leaders will receive a copy of Volunteer Essentials in Getting Started training.

The [Adult Learning Schedule for 2010 – 2011](#) is on the website and ready to use! Please encourage leaders to register online for courses listed on the schedule. Remember that the Getting Started facilitators in many of the service units have additional dates already set aside to do Getting Started Training for their service units. Be sure to have the SUD or the Getting Started facilitators give those dates out at the Service Unit Meeting and to School Organizers and other team members who will be recruiting new leaders this fall. Quick and consistent support for our new leaders is critical in getting them off to a good start.

Work with the Leader Mentor(s) in your area to hold an Investiture Ceremony. It's a great way to welcome new leaders, but also make that re-commitment to our returning leaders. Now is a good time to see who your new leaders are to make sure they have begun the process of getting the training they need to be successful leaders.

Be thinking of some returning leaders in your Service Unit that might be able to help lead a grade level discussion on running a troop for new and existing leaders. At the October meetings we want to have a focus on welcoming new leaders and teaming them up with leaders like them that are working with the same grade level. Having those returning leaders help lead the discussion will give those new leaders that extra help as they start their new journey as leaders.

## Program Event Coordinator

We have lots of great events happening already this year! Keep informed about what's coming up by checking out the "[Events at a Glance!](#)" Remember, you can register for a lot of our council events online. However, you will need a debit card. Troops can have a debit card for their troop account if it's more convenient for the troop leader.

Love to travel? Have a knack for organization and planning? Love working with adults & girls?! Than you're just the person we need. We're looking for Trip Directors for next summer (2011)! Contact Hailey at 319-752-3639 or [HaileyW@GSEIWI.org](mailto:HaileyW@GSEIWI.org) for more information.

Back by popular demand, it's the Program Resource Guide (otherwise known as the PRG)! Each troop will receive one copy of this user-friendly guide that will answer the most frequently asked program questions, including information on: Journeys, product sales, outdoor opportunities, trips, council patches, community resources, Girl Scout awards and scholarships, and much, much more!. This guide will also give you a peek at the council-wide events and programs that are scheduled for the 2010-2011 troop year. The PRG and its valuable information can also be found on our council website.

**Coming soon is the World Thinking Day event on February 5, 2010 at the River Center.** This year we would like to have every service unit participate. Kathleen Bates is the staff person in charge of the event and would love to hear from you. Please contact Kathleen at [KathleenB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KathleenB@GSEIWI.org) or 309-788-0833 to find out more about the World Thinking Day if you would like to be on the committee, be a booth host or volunteer to help at the event.

## For Your Information

### Save the date for October Town Hall Meetings!

Agenda items will include 100th Anniversary Plans, Annual Meeting topics discussion and follow up from our winter Town Hall meetings. Plan to attend to let your voice be heard!

October 5 – Cedar Rapids Office

October 14 – Burlington Office

October 18 – Rock Island Office

October 25 – Westminster Presby Church, DU

October 28 – Waterloo Office

### Mark your calendar now ~ 2010 Annual Meeting!

Thursday, November 18, 2010. Volunteers from the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area will be hosting the Annual Meeting this year. Plan to come out and support their efforts!

## Help Needed

Calling all Service Units to have some fun at the Annual Meeting on November 18, 2010! Put together a silent auction package to help raise funds for financial assistance.

This year's theme is "What Did You Do Today". Create a themed package revolving around something educational, memorable, fun or personal you might do in a day. Some ideas might include: A Spa Basket; An Exercise Basket; Water Fun; A Troop Meeting in a Basket; Dessert; Art Creation; Read a Book(s); Tour a Museum or a Nature Center; Dinner Out; Plant a Garden; or let your imagination run wild!

Need help or have questions? Ask your RMM or contact Ruth Adams at [RuthA@GSEIWI.org](mailto:RuthA@GSEIWI.org). If your Service Unit plans to participate in the silent auction, please notify Ruth via email by October 15. A description of your auction basket is due to Ruth by November 5. Thank you and let the fun begin!

## Recognition Coordinator

With the start of a new year, we have some great changes for recognition of volunteers and it all starts with the annual recognition event. We are looking at moving the annual recognition event to mid-November and combining it with the Annual Meeting, thereby saving time and travel for our volunteers by eliminating one council meeting.

This change will also make it easier for Service Units to recognize volunteers for the current year of service. The due date for recognition nominations will be May 31 for volunteers to get nominations to you (the recognition coordinator), and September 1 from you to the council recognition committee.

Our next event for adult recognition will be November of 2011. That means any volunteer actions to be recognized for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be due to you by May 31, 2011 and due to the council by September 1, 2011. This should give you some time to follow up with applications that are incomplete, need additional information, or perhaps you can even contact volunteers for a nomination not received.

Keep in mind, these dates are just for council awards; Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge, Thanks II and President's Award.

So what about the Service Unit awards and scholarships? Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Volunteer, Volunteer Achievement, Leadership Development, Years of Membership, and Years of Volunteer Service (5, 10 & 15 years) are due to the Council by April 1, 2011 to be ordered in time for May Service Unit Celebrations. They can be turned in at any time before that date.

For consistency, all scholarships are also due to the council April 1, 2011; the Donetta Schaeffer Scholarship, the Girl of Courage, Girl of Confidence, and Girl of Character Scholarships. The scholarships will be presented to awarding seniors before they start college in the fall and honored at the November 2011 recognition event.

All [recognition forms](#) are updated with the date changes. Please don't hesitate to contact Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org) for more information.

Don't forget to check out this month's [Recognition Tips](#) for ideas on revving up your Service Unit meetings and getting volunteers engaged in your meetings.

## Service Units Reach Goal in 2010

Congratulations to all of these service units that hit their membership goal for 2010. Thank you to all the school organizers and other team members that helped with recruitments. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

SU 607, 615, 608, 619, 622, 625, 627, 740, 750, 770, 841, 846, 847, 803, 807, 808, 811, 821, 809, 810, 812, 877, 886, 889, 890, 897, 855, 856, 857, 858, 868, 871, 910, 912, 922, 923.

## Kudos Korner

We have a wonderful committee that has been meeting once a month since December of 2009 to plan Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary in our council. They are a fun and creative group who are now working on sub-committees, many as the chair. Please say thank you to the following volunteers for their many hours of commitment to this committee:

Laura Beck	Deb Oliver
Marty Beck	Cinda Tanner
Theresa Dunkin	Shelley Bell
Judy Johnson	Jennelle Black
Linda Kennedy	Sharon Hesse
Peg Merfeld	Deb Mowers
Donna Moritz	Caralee Rath
Julia O'Donnell	