

Welcome to the June/July issue of Team Connections: A newsletter for service team members. Please be sure to forward this onto your service team, if that is not possible, please work with your Regional Membership Manager to have her forward it.

Dear Service Teams:

I hope this issue of **Team Connections** finds all of you enjoying a great summer. Congratulations to all you Service Units that have already reached your end of year membership goal, have retained at least 65% of your girls from last year, and are working towards the president's award for next year.

This summer, your regional membership manager will be sitting down with you and your team, to talk about this past year, as well as plans for next year. The focus will be on building your service teams, Kick-off in August or September, planning events for next year, help you might need and overall support. We made great strides this year in supporting our leaders and will continue our work to make sure our leaders get all they need to provide a great program for girls.

Don't forget, leaders are encouraged to take a few minutes and fill out the on-line leader review as well as the end of year bank statement. Please ask them to have them completed and turned in by August 15. Please make sure your RMM receives the copies. Your help is greatly appreciated in gathering this information.

I hope all of you have a great, relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lloyd, VP of Membership

Service Unit Director

Thank you to all of you that attended the SUD appreciation brunch on May 1. It was great to see all of you, meet those of you who are new, hear what you had to say. For those of you that are stepping down as SUD, THANK YOU for all of your hard work and dedication. If you weren't able to be there, please ask your RMM for details on what you missed.

We still need to hear from many of you in regards to the SUD evaluation; if you have not had the opportunity to fill it out please do so as soon as possible. If you don't still have the link, please contact me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org. Your RMM will thank you for your honest feedback. The purpose of this is to make sure that you are receiving the service you deserve. Help us make that happen.

Treasurer

Please continue to follow up with troop leaders to get the [end of year bank account information](#) for each troop.

School Organizers

The membership department is gearing up for fall recruitments. If you plan on returning as school organizer next year, check with your RMM about what the plans are for your school for next fall and when recruitments will be held. It will also be beneficial to find out which troops have already spring registered so we know where to focus extra effort. Recruitment materials and school organizer trainings are being revised so we will roll out new information this summer.

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.

Registrar - Spring Registration

Thanks to all of you for helping to market spring registration this year. Packets were due to the council office on June 11. If you are in need of more camp certificates or spring registration patches, please let your regional membership manager know. Also, if your Service Unit achieved 70% of girls spring registering, your regional membership manager will be in contact with you about your pizza and ice cream party.

Taking your troop to camp? Please let troops know that, if they would prefer to not stay overnight at a Girl Scout camp, there are [daytime opportunities and/or activities available](#).

If there are troop leaders in your Service Unit that are in need of overnight training, please contact Claudia Reich at 800-798-0833 or ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org.

FYI – a mailing was sent out to all adults not affiliated with a troop regarding spring registration. Unfortunately, a few lifetime members also received the mailing. Please let these members know that their lifetime status is still intact and this was an internal error; we apologize for any inconvenience.

Personify Project

Due to the changeover of our membership registration system, we will be rolling out a brand new training for Service Unit registrars this summer. Your regional membership manager will be in contact regarding training dates.

New information is coming! Watch your fall packets for how-to's for on-line registration for membership, program events, and training.

Juliette Coordinator

Now is a great time to invite all your Girl Scout Juliettes to an event to talk about plans for next year. Do they want to meet as a group by grade level? Are they participating in Service Unit events? Do they know about the Juliette packets they can receive in the mail? Can you work with them on the Journeys? We want to make sure they know about all the ways they can participate in Girl Scouts without being in a troop. You can help make their experience a great one. If you have any questions about Juliettes, please contact Jamie Harrington at 319-232-6601 or JamieH@GSEIWI.org.

Troop Leader Tips

Please remember to turn in your leader review form. It is important that we hear from each of you on what about your experience this past year went well or could be improved. If you don't have the hard copy, please follow [this link](#) to complete the survey on line.

Leader Mentor

Thank you for all you did this past year to help support our new troop leaders to be informed and stay connected. Be sure to watch your email for a Leader Mentor survey. We are sending this survey to get your suggestions and insights on how this year went and how we can make the Leader Mentor program better. Please take a few minutes to complete and return it. If you have additional ideas for how to make Leader Mentor program even stronger, please contact Kim Hull at KimH@GSEIWI.org.

Kudos Korner

Who are the unsung heroes in your troop? Are there parents or grandparents who always seem to step up to the plate to help with a special project? Was there a business that helped you monetarily this year or an organization that offered a great program for your girls. Take some time to thank them for all of their efforts. Maybe even a public thank you in your local newspaper, or a letter to the editor. Can you pay it forward? Those kinds of thanks are never forgotten.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

We need your help! We have four really great Girl Scout camps that need to be used. You can help by becoming the expert on your local camp, or all four, and letting your Service Unit know what activities are available. As your Service Unit plans events for next year, remind them that camp is a great place for girls and troops to gather. We have four camp rangers that are ready, willing, and able to help you make your trip to camp a memorable experience.

In the May issue of Team Connections, we shared with you a great program coming to camp this summer, Space Explorers. There's been some exciting news regarding this.

1. We will be awarding a \$100 scholarship to the first 60 participants to sign up (due to a generous grant from NASA) that brings the cost down from \$260 to \$160. Plus, the first 10 at each camp get a Galileoscope, a high quality telescope kit. Get the word out that campers need to sign up ASAP to get the discount!
2. Girls that are entering grade 6 in the fall can also attend.

[Please pass this flier out](#) to all girls, leaders, parents, etc. of girls in currently in grades 3 – 5. Space Explorers will be held at all four camps:

- L-Kee-Ta: July 11-16
- Little Cloud/Conestoga: July 18-23
- Tahigwa: July 25-30

Some other trip opportunities are listed below. For more information on either of these additional trips, please contact Jo Dumar at 563-349-6149.

- Women's camp August 20-22 at Camp Conestoga. Activities include horseback riding, swimming and more. Cost is \$170/person.
- Mother/daughter camp ride in Wisconsin Sept. 17-19. Cost is \$220/person. Girls must be in grades 6-12 and all riders must have at least 5 hours experience and weigh less than 250 lbs. Stay at Camp Little Cloud Friday evening and leave early Saturday for Wilderness Pursuits in Wisconsin (6 ½ hour drive.)

Adult Learning Coordinator

The adult learning department is excited about some plans for this fall. New for this fall, we would like to have Getting Started Facilitators in each Service Unit. This person would be available on specific days of the month (such as first Tuesday and third Thursday) to offer Getting Started training to new leaders in their local Service Unit. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Claudia at ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org. There is an outline to follow and all supplies are provided.

Start thinking now for ways to bring more leaders to your Service Unit meetings. Many Service Units have used the Short and Snappy trainings that we have offered throughout the year or have had sessions on Parental Participation, Ceremonies, Songs and Games, Bridging ideas, etc. What would your group enjoy learning more about? Do you have a group of older girls that could come and teach camp songs? Do you have leaders that want to learn about earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award? What about getting each grade level together just to share ideas and tips? All can be done in 30-60 min. sessions. Contact Claudia at ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org for ideas or additional information.

Safety Zone

Be looking for *Volunteer Essentials* – a new publication that combines our GSEIWI Volunteer Resource Guide and the national publication *Safety-Wise*. It will be our “go-to” resource, and will be all in one booklet. It will be coming with all of the Kick-off materials and will be distributed one per troop. Activity checkpoints that have been in *Safety-Wise* in the past will be on our website with easy to use, concise information about the activity of your choice. It will be available on our website by August 1. We will be doing some additional training how to access all of the information that you will need to ensure the safety of your troop.

Recognition Coordinator

Summer is a great time to reflect on the past year and think about what you did (or didn't do) to recognize volunteers. What went well that you would like to do again? What didn't go so well and what would you change to make it go better? Would you present the recognition forms in a different way? Is there anything you would change about how the Service Unit awards were presented?

As you think about the past year, write down changes you would like to make and talk about them with your Service Unit Director or Service Unit Team. As the Service Team is making plans for the upcoming year, you will want to make sure your plans for recognizing the leaders and volunteers in your Service Unit are included.

Check out this month's [Recognition Tips](#) for more information on evaluating the year and ideas for implementing changes for next year.

Community Information Coordinator

We have lots of things in Girl Scouts to celebrate and your job as community information coordinator is important to making that happen. Here are some items that we can celebrate:

- Girls in your Service Unit that achieved their Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.
- Service units/troops that did great Take Action projects.
- Upcoming events to invite more girls to.
- Volunteer opportunities within the Service Unit.

We need every Service Unit to appoint a community information coordinator for the coming troop year. This is an essential position in getting out the word about Girl Scouts in your locale. Training for the position is offered on an individualized basis at your convenience. To become a CIC for your Service Unit or to find out more information about the position and how it benefits your girls, contact Chuck Gysi, vice president of marketing and communications, at 309-283-2359 or ChuckG@GSEIWI.org.

Service Unit Director Tips

Please watch for information in regards to Service Unit Director Meetings that will be held in August. These meetings are a great way to share ideas and receive information about what is happening in Service Units and throughout the council. You will be receiving all the information and handouts that you will need for fall Kick-off.

If you haven't checked out the Scoutlink website for Service Unit Directors, please contact Holly Bark at HollyB@GSEIWI.org for how to get signed up.

National Convention 2011

The National Convention is quickly approaching, and this National Convention will be especially exciting because it will be the kick-off to Girl Scout's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

This is your opportunity to not only be a part of the national policy making body, but also be a part of the history that is the 100th Anniversary! Become a GSEIWI National Convention Delegate and travel to Houston, Texas from Nov. 10-13, 2011.

Our council will elect seven volunteers to serve as delegates to the convention. Every volunteer in our council (over the age of 14 by September 2011) has the opportunity to apply to be elected as a delegate. If you are interested, [please click here for more information](#), or ask your Regional Membership Manager for an information flier. [Applications are available online](#) and will be accepted until Oct. 1.

It is so important to have representation from all corners of our council, so please consider applying.

For Your Information

Be sure to check out the [Events at a Glance](#) for all the upcoming events in your area.