

Welcome to the November 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:

As I travel from one end of our council to the other attending service unit meetings, I'm constantly amazed--blown away, actually—at the caliber of volunteers that we have. As service unit directors, I see you running great meetings, organizing your teams, and, more importantly, welcoming and supporting new leaders. It is so apparent to me that you truly care about our number one goal: supporting our girls and the program they receive.

I see service team members that are taking their role on the service team very seriously and presenting information to leaders, answering questions, and coming up with great ideas. I see school organizers reporting out on the number of girls and adults they have recruited and are now supporting. I see event coordinators, and sometimes whole service teams, pulling together and planning great events for girls – sometimes monthly! I've also been hearing about some great community service projects that service units are doing to make a difference in their communities. I see product managers that are doing a great job of training leaders for the Fall Sale Program and answering questions. I see troop leaders that are asking questions, volunteering to take more girls, offering to help run events, and stepping up into service team leadership roles.

All I can say is WOW! With volunteers like you, our girls are going to get the best. All in all, I am so proud to be part of such a great organization that has such wonderful volunteers. You are all making a difference. Thank you all for all you do and keep up the great work! And remember, if I see you doing your best, so do your girls – and they appreciate all that you do!

Brenda Lloyd, VP of Membership



It Takes TEAMWORK (A team-building lesson we can learn from geese)

FACT: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson Learned: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership.

Forever Green

Forever Green isn't just for troops and individual girls!

Service Unit 750 in Dubuque, IA, is planning a Service Unit-wide Forever Green Project and you can, too. SU 750 will be passing out an "eco tips" flyer to everyone in the community who purchases a box of Girl Scout Cookies this winter. To find out what your service unit can do, contact Angela Grunder at the Dubuque Area Service Center: AngelaG@GSEIWI.org or 563-583-9169.



FYI (For Your Information)

- **Planning a Troop Trip?** Check out page 26 of the Volunteer Resource Guide to see if you need to fill out any special forms, additional insurance or extra trainings that may be needed. This page is a good resource for what you may need.
- **Girl Scout Leadership Benefits Study Continues** GSEIWI is working with GSRI to study Girl Scouting's leadership benefits for girls. By December, troops will be selected randomly, and yours may be among those invited to complete two surveys - one in November and the other around April. *We cannot overemphasize the fact that every participant matters!* So please, if your troop is chosen, respond to your invitation right away, and encourage each and every girl you serve to respond, too! Participation is voluntary and confidential; responses will be used solely for research purposes related to Girl Scouts.

Service Unit Director

- **Thanks to all of you** who attended Kickoff this past August. We are gathering input regarding the Kickoff to determine how best to support your needs in the fall. Please take 5 minutes to complete a [short evaluation for Kickoff 2009](#).
- Don't forget, the **Annual Meeting** is coming up on **November 19, 2009** at the Clarion Hotel in Davenport, Iowa.
- **Troops Needed to Test Activities from Journey 3 Series --** In November and December, troops from across the council will have the opportunity to get a "sneak peek" at possible activities for the third Journey series, "It's Your Story -- Tell It!" Ten troops from each Girl Scout grade level are needed to try out a "session in a box" and give feedback to the resource developers. Of these, some troops will get to chat live with GSRI staff about what they liked and what could be improved. *Look for more information and a schedule for live sessions on the council Web site, www.GSEIWI.org, soon!* If you are interested in participating, please contact Hillary Blevins at HillaryB@GSEIWI.org or 309-788-0833 as soon as possible.

- **Mark your calendars!** It's Girl Scout Day with the University of Iowa Hawkeyes on **Sunday, January 31**. The game will be televised on ESPN2! Watch for a flier coming soon. There will be special activities, a discounted price for Girl Scouts and a chance to cheer on the Lady Hawks!
- **Have you ever been asked**, "What do you do in Girl Scouts?" Have you ever heard someone say, "All I know about Girl Scouts is that they sell cookies."? Check out the attached article, ["So Your Daughter Wants to be a Girl Scout."](#)
- **Are the older girls in your service unit tired of trying to compete with younger girls when it comes to selling Girl Scout Cookies?** Does your service unit have a really good program for older girls to participate in the Cookie Sale Program? We want to help give the older girls some additional ideas for participating in the awesome Cookie Sale Program. If your service unit has some ideas, please email them to ShawnaP@GSEIWI.org.
- **It's finished!** We teased you last month with a look at the new [year-long permission form](#) and had to pull it for a few minor adjustments. Now it's ready and you can follow the link for your copy. Please remember, you will need to communicate your troop activities with parents to keep them informed. Check out our [troop news template](#) on our council Web site.
- **Service unit directors asked for it and here it is** – a blank template for you to use at your service unit meetings: [Team Connections Continues Template](#). You can also follow this link to a sample [service unit meeting agenda](#).

Service Unit Director Tips

Having trouble getting leaders to attend your service unit meeting? Try a few of these tips offered by some really great service unit directors:

- Offer a songs and games training – lots of leaders always want to learn things to do with their troops.
- Make sure leaders are aware of the meeting time and location, and sometimes offering food is a sure way to get them there.
- Offer a supply swap of left-over materials that can be used by other troops. Advertise this to your leaders when you remind them about the meeting.

School Organizer

- **Great job, school organizers, on recruiting girls this fall!** First-time recruitments were done at every one of our 445 elementary schools by October 15. Let's not forget to follow up with the troops/girls that haven't re-registered from last year. A lot of them are looking forward to participating in the Fall Sale Program, so please remind them to get registered. Your regional membership manager can also help to follow up with lapsed troops and girls.

- **Congratulations to those schools that have already reached gold star status.** If you aren't sure of your school's status, please check with your regional membership manager.
- **Just a reminder**, if you have new troop leaders that are just getting their troop started, please check with them to see if they need any support. Sometimes a quick phone call can make all the difference for someone who isn't sure about the next steps to take. You also have a lot of first-hand knowledge that would be of great value to them. Please share your wisdom!

Leader Mentor

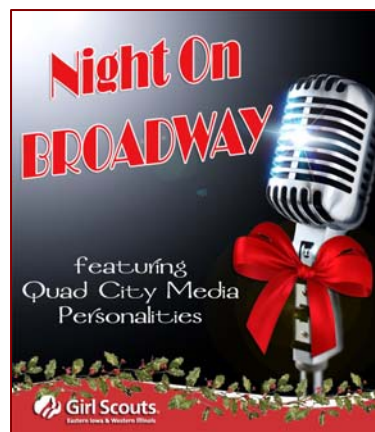
- **Can you believe that it is November already?** Be sure to check in with your new leaders this month and talk to them about the Fall Sale Program. Do they have questions or concerns? The Fall Sale Program is a great starter activity to get both girls and leaders ready for the upcoming Cookie Sale Program, as they can "get their feet wet" with this smaller sale. It is also a great way to earn troop funds ~ remember troops make 25% profit on the Fall Sale Program. Have them look at the Program Resource Guide, page 11, for more information.
- **Take some time also to talk to new leaders about how things are going.** Have they completed their training? Do they have follow-up questions from that training? Are they looking for ways to add more girls to their troop? We have a **great new template**: [Troop Invite](#) to help them get the word out to girls in the classrooms.

Registrar

- **November is a great month to begin looking at which schools are going to be Gold Star Schools.** If a school serves 1 out of every 2 to 3 girls they achieve Gold Star status and earn a certificate and a cookie party at their school. This is a great way to recognize the partnerships with schools as well as to recognize troop leaders for all their hard work.
- **November is also a great time to follow up with lapsed troops and lapsed girls to see if they are returning.** If your service unit is planning events, think about how we can invite lapsed girls to attend. Your regional membership manager can help get postcards created or help with different ways to market your events to lapsed girls.
- **Kudos to Peggy Crew**, service unit director from SU 940 in Mt. Pleasant for finding great ways to connect with lapsed girls. Peggy and some of her team members have been having call-a-thons to lapsed girls personally inviting them to come to an upcoming event or activity. Peggy has had over 16 lapsed girls return to Girl Scouts! Great job Peggy!

Fund Development Coordinator

- **As new troops are getting started, alert them to the [guidelines for other money earning opportunities](#) (Application).** If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Renkes at 800-798-0833 or NancyR@GSEIWI.org.
- **You are invited to join fellow volunteers and community members for the return of A Night on Broadway.** This popular event held in the Quad Cities will feature local media stars performing the sounds of the Holiday Season. For only \$30 attendees will enjoy a reception, silent auction, and heavy hors d' oeuvres before the wildly popular show begins. The event will take place **December 3, 2009** at the Davenport Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, beginning at 6:30 pm. Proceeds benefit Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Renkes at 309-788-0833.



Mobile Market Coordinator

- **Submit your September and October shop sales receipts and the Troop Rebate Application** to the Retail Sales Manager by **November 30, 2009** to receive your Troop Rebate Certificate. Certificates will be mailed in late December. The certificates may be used in the Girl Scout Shops in January and February 2010.
- Stop in our Girl Scout shops in November to participate in the "**Turkey Pull**." Remove a feather from the turkey and take the percentage noted on the feather off of your purchase.
- Badges and patches are a fun and exciting component of the Girl Scout program. **During the month of November, consider** working with your girls on the following: Ms. President or Political Power. Plan a Thanksgiving event or participate in a Holiday Parade and purchase fall-themed or parade fun patches.

- Stop in our Girl Scout shops in December to participate in the “**Snowball Sale.**” Remove a snowball from the bucket and take the percentage noted on the snowball off of your purchase.
- **Be sure to check out the reusable ‘grocery’ style GSEIWI tote bag.** Purchase a bag for \$5.00 and then bring back on the Saturday shopping days between now and May 29, 2010 to receive a 10% discount off your purchase. You must have your bag with you to receive the discount.
- **New merchandise is arriving daily,** stop in to purchase a Girl Scout Polar Fleece Vest (limited supplies are available at all council shop locations) with an outstanding retail of just \$19.99.
- **Seasonal merchandise is arriving daily.** Stop in to take a look or visit our council Web site. Please remember seasonal merchandise is available while supplies last.
- **New Cookie Merchandise** is due to arrive in late November and early December. Again, check-out our council Web site.

Event Coordinator

- **Did you participate in the Go Red Girl Scouts patch program, created in partnership with the American Heart Association, but have not ordered your patches yet?** The AHA has some patches left for the 2009 year, but they are going fast! *Haven't heard about this great new patch program?* Over 500 Girl Scouts throughout Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois have taken the challenge and have learned how to live a heart healthy life. Its time for your troop to check it out! You can still earn the 2009 patch by logging on to: www.GSEIWI.org/patches/GoRed.asp. The 2010 patch requirements and a brand new patch will be coming out early next year, so be on the lookout for fun new heart healthy activities for you and your girls!
- **Looking for a fun activity to do with your girls?** Try a fully stocked program kit! These kits are ready to go with the supplies you need for up to 15 girls. There are several different kits available throughout the council for a small fee. Check out page 26 of your Program Resource Guide for a full list of available kits!
- **We are beginning to plan Girls Go Global** which will be on **April 24, 2010**, at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Convention Center! The theme this year is “Its Easy to Be Green” and will focus on the environment and what girls can do to make a change for the better. We need your support to make this event even bigger and better than last year! Please take a [Girls Go Global Volunteer Worksheet](#) to read about all the opportunities!



Outdoor Program Coordinator

Now is the time to plan for spring camping trips!

Why not plan an encampment for your whole service unit? You can find activity suggestions for planning outdoor events at www.GSEIWI.org/events/outdoor.asp. Scroll down to the bottom of the Web page and select topics to view these fun, printable files!

Treasurer

November is a great month to talk about ideas for how to raise service unit funds. If you have some ideas, please share them with Brendal@GSEIWI.org and we will compile them to share with other service units.

Safety Zone

During the Fall Sale Program (November) and the Cookie Sale Program (January), be sure to review the *Safety-Wise* guidelines and Activity Check Points for product sale activities with your girls. When selling, girls should be identifiable as Girl Scouts by wearing a Membership Pin, official uniform, uniform component, or Girl Scout clothing. Adults must monitor, supervise, and guide the sale activities of all grade levels. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors need to have a buddy or parent with them at all times. If older girls are selling as buddies, an adult must know when and where the girls are selling/delivering.

Product Manager

- Don't forget, order taking for the **Fall Sale Program** is **Nov. 1 – 16**. Please remind leaders that all girls must be currently registered in order to participate in the sale.
- **Cookie Rally Kits:** Distribution of rally kits (1 per SU) should be complete by November 11. If you do not receive one at your late October or early November service unit meeting, your kit will be available for pick-up at the November SUPM training sessions. Due date for submitting your Cookie Rally Information Form is November 23, as ABC Bakers

needs a minimum of 6 weeks lead time to process our cookie sample order. Forms submitted after November 23 will not be guaranteed to receive samples. If you are concerned about being able to meet the deadline or have questions, contact Shawna Purdum at: ShawnaP@GSEIWI.org or 800-798-0833.

- **Available by request** (see your Cookie Rally Information Form), a set of "Leap 2 Lead" recognition items will be provided for use and display at your Cookie Rally. Samples will need to be returned to a council office near you.
- [2010 "Leap 2 Lead" Volunteer Merchandise Order Forms](#) are **due by Dec. 1**.

Recognition Coordinator

- **The deadline for receiving nominations for service unit and council awards is February 1, 2010.** That date is only a few months away! Make sure that all volunteers in your service unit have the opportunity to nominate their peers. At your next service unit meeting, go over the forms included in the Recognition Coordinator training packet—both the forms for adults and the girl award nomination forms, too. All the forms have been revised to be easier to fill out, saving time and resources. Even if there are volunteers who have filled out the forms in the past, they will want to become familiar with the new forms. The council awards and girl awards will be honored at the Volunteer Recognition Event on April 10, 2010 – save the date!
- **Be sure to look at this month's [Recognition Tips](#)** for ideas on recognizing volunteers in your service unit all year long. Do you have some ideas you would like to share? Contact Deb Boyd at DebB@GSEIWI.org.

Community Information Coordinator

- **Are you sending calendar items to the news media in your area for Service Unit events?** Many media properties have online calendars. You also should e-mail those calendar items to the media so they print them and use them on the air, too. Often the online calendars are treated separately by the media.
- **Start thinking about which local media properties you can help us with in delivering media kits for cookies in early January.** This is especially helpful if you know editors.
- **We still need more Community Information Coordinators.** Can you help in your Service Unit? Contact Chuck Gysi, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, at 563-260-9366 or ChuckG@GSEIWI.org.
- **Are you looking at our Facebook page** at <http://www.facebook.com/GSEIWI> or our Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/GSEIWI?>



Juliette Coordinator

- **Do you know a Juliette in your area that would like to stay more involved in Girl Scouts?** If so, please help spread the word that it may be November, but it is not too late for any Girl Scout Juliette to sign up for the Juliette Program Packet. Sign up today and send a payment of \$5 to Waterloo Area Girl Scout Service Center, 2530 University Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701 to receive four Program Packets a year that includes council information, council events, games and crafts (with supplies!)
- **Don't forget all Juliettes can participate in the Fall Sale Program, what a great way to start raising money for camp next summer!** If you have any questions regarding our Juliette Program, contact our council's Juliette Coordinator, [Jamie Harrington](mailto:JamieHarrington), at 319-232-6601.

Adult Learning Coordinator

- **If your troop leaders have completed the "It's Your World-Change It!" journey, they may exchange their loaned book for the next in the series, "It's Your Planet-Love It!"** They can return the first series to the local council service center or bring to a service unit meeting. It is important to let the adult learning department know that the book has been returned and which book they would like next. We will get it out to them through their local regional membership manager or Girl Scout service center.
- **If there are leaders in your area that still need training** – Getting Started or Leadership Essentials - please contact your regional membership manager or Claudia at the Quad Cities Area Service Center.
- **Attached** is a [Short & Snappy Training on Traditions](#) that you can use at a service unit meeting. After doing the Short & Snappy, there is a handout on [Girl Scout Traditions](#) for all troops.
- **Next month's "It's Your Call" is Taking Girls on the Road, Ideas and What you Need!** Hear about ideas for trips, required council consent and training needed. **Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4pm and Nov. 24 at 7 pm.** Call 309-788-0833 or e-mail ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org for the call-in number.

Service Unit Spotlight

Congratulations to the following service units for being at 100% of their membership goal for 2010!

- **SU 619 – Howard County** has started this fall with a bang! With the leadership of Service Unit Director Sue Russell, the team has successfully met 110% of their goal and is still going strong. This service unit has struggled over the last several years to find ways to get and keep girls involved in the Girl Scout Program. By canvassing the area with recruitments at each elementary school this August and September, inviting lapsed girls to troop meetings, and simply getting the word out that they are there and are looking to enrich the lives of any and all girls, they have made an impact in each of the communities they represent. By holding a service unit summer camp out at Camp Tahigwa and planning a service unit Winter Carnival, they are not only teaching girls about the great outdoors, but showing them the benefits of teamwork and lifetime friendship. Meeting monthly, using the meetings as round table discussions, planning time for events, and getting articles in local newspapers they have really come together as a team.
- **SU 809 – Linn County**, service unit director is Stephanie Hamer who is new this year. Stephanie started the year off by bringing team members together and encouraged them to have a good time, showed them that a little sense of humor can go a long way, and encouraged them to work as a team. With a strong team in place, leaders have been better supported and are also taking an active role in recruiting and retaining girls. The service unit had a strong spring registration campaign and moved forward with some new ideas for events and fun activities for the girls. Overall this service unit is on its way to having a great year for the girls!
- **SU 890 – Henry County**, service unit director is Kelli Hand. This service unit covers 3 school districts and very rural. The main reason for their early success is due to the 3 school organizers fulfilling their responsibilities as school organizers and taking the lead on recruitments and following through with getting the new troops started and providing great

support to the new leaders. We have good relationships with each school district and they are very welcoming to Girl Scouts. The school organizers have also been instrumental in the second round recruitment planning. Going back to the monthly service unit meetings has been very beneficial, as well.

- **SU 871 – Rock Island County**. Parents in service unit 871 were very excited to get their Girl Scout year started right away. Craft nights were held at each one of the elementary schools. The girls decorated light switch plates for their bedrooms. These were a big hit! Before doing the craft/parent nights Girl Talks were done at each one of the schools. This was a huge success because it got the girls excited about Girl Scouts. They learned about the different things Girl Scouts get to do throughout the year and were able to ask questions. Another reason SU 871 has been successful this year was the parents coming together. At the craft/parent nights parents learned about the new Troop Team Committee concept. This was a huge hit knowing that it takes more than just two people to do a troop. Every parent can contribute in some shape, way or form.
- Some of you are probably asking, **“What is our service unit goal?”** Goals are put in place as a unit of measurement for the regional membership managers. What’s truly important is that we are giving every girl the opportunity to join. In the past, when a service unit hit their “goal,” they were “done” recruiting and would not open up events to new girls. In the “Girl Scout spirit” of things, the emphasis was taken off of meeting a number or goal, and focusing on being a sister to every Girl Scout and giving them a great program opportunity. However, since we do still have a “number” for the purpose of measurement, we will be sharing those successes!

Program At-a-Glance

- To be distributed one per troop.

SAVE THE DATE!

- Girl Scout Day with the University of Iowa Hawkeyes—Women’s Basketball on January 31.

KUDOS KORNERS

A huge thank-you to everyone on the service unit teams for running the service unit meetings. Your efforts provide the volunteers in your area with information they need to be successful.

On a local level, now is a great time to thank your Product Managers for everything they do to make the Fall Sale and Cookie Sale Programs a success. Thanks to them, girls have learned great skills and troops have funds. Find a fun way to say thanks, such as a cupcake with a “You take the cake!” note or gift certificate for a massage.

Program Resource Guide (PRG)

Check out the community resources in your area, and through out our council, for great field trip ideas for your troop or individual girl! Pages 29-37 have a variety of resources on many different types of activities!

Have you ever received a flier for a program, but the registration form was for an individual girl and you wanted to register your whole troop? Check out page 41 of the PRG! You can use the event registration form for groups for almost all Girl Scout-led programs!