

TEAM CONNECTIONS

*Welcome to the October 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.*

October service unit meetings are coming up soon. As you prepare your agendas, please be thinking about events that girls can help plan. One of the great things about Girl Scouts is that its program is enhanced by girl planning and progression. Don't have anything for older girls? Consider working with your regional team manager to host a Girls Night Out. Event coordinators are encouraged to explore opportunities for finding new and different programs for girls. Don't forget, the Fall Sale Program is coming in November. This is a great program for troops to earn additional funds.

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

Fact: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

Lesson Learned: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the strength of one another.

Service Unit Director

- Great job service unit directors on your September service unit meetings! Thank you for making your meetings pertinent and informative for leaders and for making new leaders feel welcome.
- Please take some time to visit with your service team members about the information in this newsletter and the value of working as a team. We would also encourage you to work with your team and/or Membership Manager about ensuring that all leaders receive this information.
- **Retraction – we are still excited about the year long permission slip, but we need to make a few revisions.** The form that you received in the first document should NOT be used at this time. We are hoping to have the final version ready for distribution in the November issue of the Service Team Connections. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- If you have not received a Troop Calendar, please [follow this link](#) or ask your Regional Membership Manager for one.
- Mark your calendar for the council's **Annual Meeting on Nov. 19, 2009**, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Davenport, Iowa. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost for dinner will be \$10. Service Units that reserve a table of eight will pay only \$50. Service Units that met their membership goal last year will be honored at the meeting and may have up to eight people attend free, along with a reserved table. All registered adults and girls age 14 and older will receive an invitation to the event. Service Unit Directors will receive a separate invitation to sign up Service Units.

School Organizer

- Thanks to all school organizers for their hard work in September to give every girl the opportunity to join. Let's make sure we work with leaders in October to place all the girls that want to be in Girl Scouts, as well as looking at gaps in where we are serving girls. Find out from troop leaders if they want to add additional girls to their troops so as we get more interest from girls, we know where they can be placed. Ask your Regional Membership Manager about updated school potential reports so we can track our progress and celebrate our successes.

Leader Mentor

- Keep updating your checklist for each new leader in your care. It might be a good time to have a conversation with your Service Team to confirm the process for getting the names and phone numbers of all new leaders to you so that we can ensure a successful year for new leaders.
- [Here is a link](#) to a great piece that introduces the newest Journey.
- Don't forget to check out the Leader Mentor site for new resources:
<http://www.gseiwi.org/ST/serviceteam.asp>

Registrar

- Please tell troop leaders who spring registered that the deadline for using the free overnight camp certificate has been extended to April 15, 2010. Because of an overwhelming response to use camps, we hope this extended deadline will give all troops the opportunity to visit any of our four camps.
- Share at your service unit meeting the progress made on the school potential reports. Ask your Regional Membership Manager for your new laminated school potential reports so you can track gold star schools and celebrate successes with your service unit.
- Remind troop leaders to get all their girls registered prior to the Fall Sale Program. Troops will want to take advantage of this exciting program and a chance to earn some troop funds earlier in the year.

Event Coordinator

What's a Take Action project? Take Action projects pick up where short-term community service projects leave off. Take Action projects differ from community service projects in two key ways:

1. **Measureable:** The success of the project can be determined based on numbers. (How many people are helped, number of community needs met, etc.)
2. **Sustainable:** The project creates long-lasting change. It is not a one-time event or happening.

Here's an example:

Short Term: Hold a food and toy drive for the Humane Society.

Take Action: Create marketing (fliers, PSAs, posters, etc.) for an annual drive for the Humane Society. Run the drive the first year and give all the marketing materials to the society for the following years.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Day Camp

If you are planning on holding a day camp in 2010, you must request a Day Camp Manual and submit a Day Camp Information Form. For your day camp to be included in the 2010 camp guide, you must submit this form no later than Oct. 20, 2009. To request a manual or form, or for questions or concerns, please contact Jacci Rivard, Director of Outdoor Program, at 309-788-0833 or JacciR@GSEIWI.org.

Product Manager

November SUPM Cookie Training Dates:

Nov. 2 — West Burlington

Nov. 3 — Dubuque

Nov. 4 — Quad Cities

Nov. 10 — Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Nov. 11 — Cedar Rapids/Coralville

RSVP: KirkW@GSEIWI.org or 319-363-8335

Mobile Marketer Coordinator

- The council shops are in full "back-to-troop" mode with all of the essential items available at all council shop locations.
- Council patches are an exciting program opportunity for the girls. Look at working on the Juliette Low World Friendship Day patch in honor of our founder's birthday. Stop in the last week of October and pull a candle from our birthday cake and receive a discount as marked on the candle.
- Holiday merchandise (in limited quantities) will begin arriving at the council shops in early October.
 - **November ~ Turkey Pull** Pull a feather from our turkey and receive the discount noted on the feather.
 - **Nov. 7-Dec. 23 ~ Snowball Sale!** Draw a snowball from the snowball bucket and receive the discount noted for your shop purchase.
- Our shops will begin carrying re-usable shopping bags at a cost of \$5.00 per bag. These re-usable bags can be brought to your local council shop on the 1st Saturday of each month to receive a discount of 10% on your purchases. (Look for these bags to arrive mid October)
- Volunteers can order a GSEIWI volunteer name badge at a cost of \$8. See your Regional Membership Manager for an order form or download the [volunteer name badge order form](#).

Treasurer

Please remind troops to turn in a troop bank card if they are a returning troop or a troop bank account form if they are a new troop. If you need a bank card, please ask your Regional Membership Manager for one. Look on Page 23 of the Volunteer Resource Guide for additional information on troop finances and disbanded troops.

Recognition Coordinator

- Recognizing volunteers is more than just a yearly event and awards. Every day, our volunteers do wonderful things that nobody sees or hears about, yet are so worthy of our thanks. Take a look at the [Recognition Tips](#) newsletter for an idea on how to put together a "brag book" for your service unit that you can use to say thanks each month. Recognition Tips will be available each month with ideas on how you can recognize your service unit volunteers. Have an idea you would like to share? Send it to DebB@GSEIWI.org.
- Be looking in your mail for a Recognition Coordinator packet with a letter inviting you to attend Recognition Coordinator training. Whether you are a new Recognition Coordinator or someone who has done it for years, you will want to take training to get familiar with the updated award forms.

Safety Zone

As the weather gets cooler, our minds think of hayrides and fall parades. Please check *Safety-Wise* Pages 131-132. There is great information on what kind of a hayrack you can go on, and things to consider when walking in a parade or sitting on a float.

Community Information Coordinator

- Now's a good time to make sure you know where all the online community and media calendars are on the Web for your area so you can add events throughout the year for your SU. You will be able to add info on the upcoming Fall Sale and Cookie Sale Programs. Can you add information about Girl Scouts on your local schools' Web sites, too? Now is a good time to find all these Web sites so you can keep them up to date all year long.
- We still need CICs in most Service Units. If you can help out, contact Chuck Gysi, VP of marketing and communications, at 563-260-9366 or e-mail to ChuckG@GSEIWI.org.

Juliette Coordinator

- It is not too late for any Girl Scout Juliette to participate in a brand new Juliette program and receive quarterly program packets full of ideas for crafts, SWAPS, service projects, event information and much more. The cost is \$5 for the entire year. These packets also are a great way for parents to get involved.
- Don't forget that all Juliettes can participate in the Fall Program Sale. If you have any questions regarding our Juliette Program, contact our council's Juliette Coordinator, [Jamie Harrington](mailto:Jamie.Harrington@GSEIWI.org), at 319-232-6601.

Adult Learning Coordinator

- Don't forget about the Rededication Ceremony that was suggested in last month's Team Connection.
- Now would be a good time to brainstorm with your service unit to find out what types of additional adult learning would be beneficial to them. Do they want songs, games or ceremonies? Or maybe advanced outdoor cooking, GS traditions, SWAPS? See the attached form on [Enrichment Workshops](#) to see what we can offer. Then set some dates and the adult learning department will do their best to make it happen.
- Remind everyone about the call-ins for October: "The How and Why of Participating in Council-Sponsored Sales," Sunday, Oct. 25 at 4 p.m. or Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

Fund Development Coordinator

Upcoming Girl Scouts events:

Dec. 3, 2009

Night on Broadway Holiday Show in Davenport

Jan. 31, 2010

Girl Scout Day at the Iowa Women's Basketball Game in Iowa City

Feb. 26, 2010

Love to Laugh event in Dubuque.

Call Nancy at 309-788-0833 or e-mail

NancyR@GSEIWI.org with any questions that you might have.

Forever Green

• A Take Action Project for girls in grades K-12!

This is your chance to make a difference! Help get more green spaces at your school, reduce emissions by enacting a "no-idle" zone outside your school and create an edible garden in your community to help feed hungry families. There are many benefits to participating in Forever Green, including \$2 off the fee for every girl attending Girls Go Global in 2010.

Visit the [Forever Green Web page](#) to learn more and download the application or how to guide.

- Girls interested in earning one of the three highest awards in Girl Scouts – the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award – can use the Forever Green program to complete the Take Action project requirement for any of the awards. Other requirements still apply; contact [Angela Grunder](mailto:Angela.Grunder@GSEIWI.org) at 563-583-9169 for details.

PRG

Check out the community resources in your area, and throughout the 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!

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- A huge thank you to everyone on the Service Unit teams for running the Service Unit meetings. You can take pride in knowing 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 note that says "you take the cake" or a gift certificate for a massage.

Service Unit Spotlight

We want to share your Service Unit success stories. If you hold an awesome event for girls, if you have a way of holding meetings that support leaders or if you have some great ideas for how to recruit girls, we want to hear from you! Please send your success stories to Cheryl Noller at CherylN@GSEIWI.org.

SU 857— Bettendorf, Iowa. The Bettendorf Service Unit is blessed to have an exceptional SU Team that is very active. A few years ago, our service unit made a transition from a traditional single Service Unit Director to a Co-SUD committee. We have three Co-SUDs who serve a three-year term, with one person rotating off each year and a new person joining that "committee." Each of the three directors brings different skills and strengths to the team. They work with the rest of the Service Unit team to ensure that all the functions of the team get delegated and taken care of. We have been very fortunate that each of our "retiring" SUDs has chosen to accept another position on the team and is there to help mentor the new person. Our current SUDs are Julie Petersen, Deanna Matthews and Tina Chanez. Julie handles all of our communications, e-mail distributions and sign-ins at SU meetings. Deanna handles the historian/organization/timekeeper role and Tina puts together our meeting agendas and runs the SU meetings. Our past SUDs are Kim Blake, who is our Membership Recruiter; Michelle Bonin, who is our Cookie Manager; and Melissa Laufenberg, who is our Registrar. We have worked very hard to welcome new team members and take the time to train, explain and make sure they are comfortable in their roles. We have a great time together and many of us enjoy going out socially after the team and SU meetings to relax.

Our SU is unique in that we handle all of our own recruitments. This year, we tried something new and invited not only the unregistered girls, but all of the troop leaders, parents and registered girls in each school to a "Girl Scout Night." The purpose of the Girl Scout Night is to have the leaders, Membership Recruiter and School Organizer meet with the parents to explain Girl Scouting, fill out paper work and help form troops while older girl volunteers are there to lead all the girls in songs and games and a craft activity. Our Registrar was there to accept registrations and dues so that we could wrap up the registration process quickly. The girls had a great time, older girls got volunteer/PA hours and the adults got all the information they needed to get the year started off right. We were able to hold all of our recruitments within a two-week period and will be starting off the 2010 year with most of our troops completely registered and our leaders trained and ready to go.

Our SU also hosts a monthly event for girls in grades 6-12 called Rock the House. Rock the House is a completely social event where the girls are able to pretty much do what they want as long as it is safe, doesn't make a mess, and no one's feelings get hurt. Troops take turns hosting the event and all the girls in grades 6-12 are invited. We have music playing, open gym, a craft activity, and snack available for the girls when they choose, with an optional overnight for the girls that are interested. At the end of the night, we gather the girls together and make some announcements about upcoming events and do door prize drawings. In January, we hold a special Rock the House for girls in grade 5 only so that they can see what it is all about without the older girls around. We invite the fifth-graders to join the older girls in the last Rock the House of the year. This is our sixth year hosting this event and the girls really enjoy it – in fact it is one of the reasons we retain so many of our older girls.

Program at-a-Glance

[October 24, 2009—Girl Scout University](#)

University of Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City

Girls will have the opportunity to attend workshops and earn badges from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 2009 Girl Scout University. This exciting event will be hosted by the University of Iowa and include numerous activities such as Museum Discovery, First Aid, Math Wiz/Puzzlers, Creative Composing/Making Music and Let's Pretend/Playing Around the World – just to name a few! The registration fee is \$8 per Girl Scout if postmarked by Sept. 29 and \$15 after that date, with a registration deadline of Oct. 7. The fee covers supplies for all activities and a participation patch.

- [Programs at-a-Glance.pdf](#)

Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Middle or high school girls who have made a difference by volunteering in her community can apply for this award from Prudential. Last year, Jeralyn Westercamp from Cedar Rapids became a State Honoree, earning a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. The deadline to turn in application to the council is Nov. 2. Apply now here: <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

FYI (For Your Information)

Save the Date:

Nov. 19, 2009—Annual Meeting
Dec. 3, 2009—Night on Broadway
Jan. 9, 2010—[Cookie Challenge](#)
Jan. 31, 2010—Girl Scout Day at the Iowa Women's Basketball Game, Iowa City
Feb. 26, 2010—Love to Laugh event, Dubuque
April 24, 2010—Girls Go Global