

TEAM CONNECTIONS

September 2009



Welcome to the September service unit meetings. As you kick off your Girl Scout year, be sure to include time on your agenda for planning. You will also want to check out the new combined [Volunteer Resource Guide](#) and [Program Resource Guide](#) (VRG/PRG). It's filled with great information. School recruitments are happening all over the council! Now is the time to give every girl the opportunity to join Girl Scouts.

This issue of "TEAM Connections" is being distributed to all members of the service unit via e-mail or regular mail. If you have recruited new service team members in the last month, please be sure and give their name and title to your Regional Membership Manager. This newsletter is also available online at www.GSEIWI.org/ST/serviceteam.asp. Please allow time at your service unit meeting for each service team member to deliver the information. If you don't have a position filled, please delegate or share the information yourself. You will find attached a "distribution sheet" along with all attachments. Your Regional Membership Manager will bring these the night of your service unit meeting. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Membership Manager.

It Takes Teamwork

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest group of people in the world, but if they don't play together, the organization won't be worth a dime!

Service Unit Director

September is girl recruitment time! Your school organizers and regional membership managers are working hard to make sure that every girl has the opportunity to join. Spend some time at your service unit meeting sharing success stories and talking about areas that still need work.

If you have leaders that don't attend the service unit meeting, please work with your regional membership manager to follow up with them to let them know they were missed and that they receive the information. You can track this by using a troop roster at check in for leaders.

All service unit directors should have received a SUD packet in the mail. Included in this packet was a new service unit plan of work. The highlighted items are those required to earn the President's Award. Check with your service team to see if this is something your service unit would want to attain.

Please remind leaders and volunteers to sign up to receive council publications via email by logging onto www.GSEIWI.org. Click on pink box in the upper left hand corner and add your email address.

School Organizer

Please work with the leaders at your school to hold the "[perfect recruitment](#)" night. Attached are samples of what that might look like along with the new "[troop team committee](#)" piece and "[Families Make It Happen](#)." Make these pieces available at your service unit meeting for all leaders and talk about how to use these with the parents in their troops. Work with your Regional Membership Manager to borrow "recruitment tubs" complete with everything you need. Ask leaders if they want a yard sign—also available from your Regional Membership Manager. If you have not had School Organizer training, contact your Regional Membership Manager.

Treasurer

Remind all returning leaders that they must turn in their End of Year evaluation along with a copy of their last bank statement. Have troop bank cards available at the service unit meeting for existing leaders to fill out. New leaders will submit the Bank Information Sheet from their Getting Started packet.

Registrar

As troops are returning in the fall, you can register them a couple of different ways. If troops did NOT spring register, they can use the roster to register in the fall. They can also use the pre-printed forms. If you need additional forms, please contact your local council registrar or go on-line and get a copy of the registrar supply order form. New troop packets are also available from your regional membership manager.

If you are having difficulty accessing E-Council, please contact [Kim Kirby](#) at 309-788-0833. E-Council is a great way to track which girls have registered by troop, as well as to run reports and print labels. If you need additional training, please let Kim Kirby know.

Event Coordinator

New this year! If your town, service unit or county would like specific events in your area, program managers are available to help you plan and put on programs in your area! Handouts explaining "[Programs By Request](#)" are available online and at SU meetings.

Be sure to spend time at your service unit meeting planning great events for girls. Also, be sure and share the great information that's included in the VRG/PRG. The VRG/PRG is being distributed one per troop.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Outdoor Skill/Event Information

If you are working on planning a service unit (or troop) camping trip and need ideas, visit [our Web site](#). Here you will find local resources, outdoor skill instructions and even do-it-yourself events!

Day Camp

If you are planning on holding a day camp in 2010, you must request a Day Camp Manual and fill-out and submit a Day Camp Information Form. If you want your day camp to be included in the 2010 camp guide, you must submit this form no later than October 20, 2009. To request a manual or form, or to voice questions or concerns please contact [Jacci Rivard](#), Director of Outdoor Program, at 309-788-0833.

Product Manager

You all should have received information about the fall sale program manager training dates—if you have not, they are listed on the back of this newsletter. Please be sure to announce at your service unit meeting the date, location and time of your troop level fall sale program training. Also attached is a [Talking Points](#) sheet with information for you to deliver to your leaders about the upcoming Fall Sale Program. Remind leaders that the 2008-2009 cookie program credit expires September 20, 2009.

Mobile Marketer Coordinator

Fall is an exciting time in the Girl Scout Shops. Stop in to make your troop start-up purchases of sashes, vests, tunics, etc. Enjoy the 20% apparel discount through October 15 on regularly priced girl and teen apparel when purchasing two or more pieces. The New Journey books and merchandise have arrived for the "It's Your Planet—Love It!" series; also available are books and merchandise for the "It's Your World—Change It!" Journey series, as well as traditional resource materials.

Your troop can earn a merchandise rebate equal to 5% off all purchases made at the Girl Scout shops between September 2—October 30, 2009. Purchases may be made by troop leaders, girls, parents/guardians, friends and extended family. Purchases made in the shops, by mail, or by phone are eligible.

Holiday merchandise will begin to arrive, but only available in limited quantities. Be sure to order early.

If you're interested in having a mobile market at an upcoming service unit meeting or event, contact [Linda Heil](#), Retail Sales Manager, at 309-788-0833.

Fall/Winter hours resume: M—F 8 a.m.—5 p.m. and 1st Saturday of each month 9 a.m.—1 p.m. (will be open September 12 due to Labor Day holiday)

Recognition Coordinator

As the new troop year begins, now is the time to start a recognition plan for the whole year. Here are a few ideas: fun things to do at each service unit meeting, providing information on [volunteer](#) and [girl awards](#), ceremonies and seasonal celebrations. Look in your Adult Recognitions in Girl Scouting book for ideas on on-going recognition for your Service Unit.

With service units just beginning to meet, this is a good time to talk with your service unit team on how you all can build the [President's Award criteria](#) into your plan of work. As you may know, the President's Award is presented in the spring for criteria met the previous membership year. Criteria met this year will be awarded in the spring of 2011.

Safety Zone

The new Girl Scout year is fast approaching. Please make sure to remind everyone that they need at least two leaders for their troop. Check the new *Safety-Wise* for the most current information.

Revisions for girl/adult ratios changed last year for troop meetings and trips. Check our [Web site](#) for updates.

Emergency Information Cards—please make sure that all leaders receive one of these and that they carry it with them at all times when with girls.

Adult Learning Coordinator

Keep up to date on the current [adult learning schedule](#) so you can advise new leaders about learning opportunities in your area. Be sure to talk about the [Super Saturday dates as well as the "It's Your Call" sessions](#) that are scheduled. Start the conversations with leaders in your Service Unit about their training needs. If you have more than five people that need a specific training, contact [Claudia Reich](#) at 309-788-0833 to set one up.

How about having an Investiture/Rededication ceremony as part of your October service unit meeting? Check out our Web site for [Investiture/Rededication ceremony ideas for each grade level](#). What a great way for leaders to start off the New Year. If they see how easy it is, they might take it back to their own troop to do. Regional Membership Managers will have a few copies at the Service Unit meeting.

Fund Development Coordinator

Looking for ways to earn money for your troop? In addition to participating in the Fall Sale Program and Cookie Sale Program, your troop can do other money earning opportunities. [Click here to see how](#).

Please be sure and check with a fund development staff person prior to asking an organization for a donation or gift in kind.

Community Information Coordinator

We're still looking for [Community Information Coordinators](#) in each service unit who can help get information out to your local newspapers and radio stations. We give you the tools to help spread the word about Girl Scouts on the local level. Interested? Contact [Chuck Gysi](#), Vice President of Marketing and Communications, at 563-260-9366.

The fall is a great time to get out the message in school PTA/PTO newsletters and on school Web sites about the value of Girl Scouts – only \$1 a month. We are the premier leadership program for girls.

Juliette Coordinator

All Girl Scout Juliettes will be receiving a post card offering them the opportunity to participate in a brand new program. Juliettes will have the opportunity to sign up to receive quarterly program packets full of ideas for crafts, swaps, service projects, event information and much more. The cost is \$5. These packets are also 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](#), at 319-232-6601.

Forever Green

We hope every troop and individual girl will participate in a Forever Green environmental Take Action project! GSEIWI is joining 20 other Girl Scout councils to pilot this program. There are many benefits to participating in Forever Green, including \$2 off the fee for every girl attending Girls Go Global in 2010. Log on to the [Forever Green Web page](#) to learn more!

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 award! Other requirements still apply – contact [Angela Grunder](#) at 563-583-9169 for details.

KUDOS KÖRNER

Kudos to all that attended this summer's Service Unit Team Leadership Conferences. Your commitment to a strong service unit showed in your attendance and participation. For those that were unable to attend, make sure you get the training that was offered for you to be successful.

Local Kudos: Be sure you take time at your service unit meetings to give special kudos to those who do wonderful things for girls in your area. Ask volunteers who helped with day camps to stand and thank them for their work.

VRG/PRG

(Volunteer Resource Guide/Program Resource Guide)

The VRG/PRG has a new look, with lots of great new information! Distribute one per troop.

New this year: Looking for an easy troop activity? We have program kits already stocked with most of the supplies you need! Each kit includes supplies for 15 girls; for a small fee your meeting is ready! Check out page 26 of the PRG section for details!

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.

Mindy Stark is the service unit director for SU836 in Muscatine. The Muscatine service team has had its ups and downs but through it all has persevered thanks to some GREAT volunteers. Here's what Mindy had to share about their service unit.

We strive to continue to be active in the community. This past May, we worked with the American Legion placing flags on veteran's graves in our city cemetery. We also attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and helped past out programs at Greenwood Cemetery. In June, we had an event at our local art center: the girls made shirts to wear in the Fourth of July Parade. We marched in the parade with a float that we decorated and handed out Girl Scout Bookmarks highlighting upcoming events. In the month of August, we had a Wonderful World of Wildlife (Iowa Style) recruitment event at our County Discovery Center. Our Daisies are growing in number and we had several participate in the "Daisy Petal Power Program" this past summer ending with a Summer Tea Party last week. In September, we will have a lock-in recruitment event at our community Y focusing on recycling. In October, we will have a Harvest Fun event, and December has traditionally been our Mother/Daughter Holiday Tea. For the first time in a long time, Muscatine will host a council wide event in January with a Cookie Rally at the Muscatine Mall on January 9, 2010. In February, we will have our annual Father/Daughter Dance, focusing on "Wear Red for Healthy Hearts." We also have a week-long day camp during the summer as well as supporting the Fall Sale and Cookie Sale Programs.

This past year, our Service Unit purchased gently used white shirts and khaki pants/skirts along with Girl Scout Brownie and Junior sashes to start our "Lend A Uniform Closet." Our local economy has been hit hard by a local lockout at an area business and we wanted to make sure that any Girl Scout that wanted to participate in an "official" Girl Scout event was not hindered by lack of uniform. One of our leaders coordinates the closet and girls/leaders may check out items for use with notice.

Our leaders are "pearls." I could not function as the Service Unit Director without their diverse knowledge, experience, dedication and guidance. Their commitment to Girl Scouts is what drives our program. It does not matter if you are a seasoned veteran of Girl Scouting or a brand spanking new one, there is much to share and have offered at our unit meetings. We strive to continue to grow, become more active, be seen in our communities and host local events that meet the girls' needs.

Thanks to Mindy and the volunteers of Service Unit 836 for being there for each other and for the girls in the community.

Program at a Glance

Look for your Program at a Glance sheet at each SU meeting. This flier will list all upcoming events three months in advance for the entire council area. Please hand this out one per leader.

Leader Mentor

It's the start of a brand new year, and you will want to help get your new leaders off to a great start. Be sure to give them a call and offer to bring them to the first service unit meeting. Do they need help finding a place to meet? Or getting their troop registered? Have they registered for training? Be sure to look at the Leader Mentor Contact Sheet that you received at leader mentor training to help you with your calls. Here is a sheet that you can give to your new leaders to help them get organized—[Next Steps](#). Talk to all leaders about getting their troop off to a fun start with the "[Starting the New Year](#)" handout.

FYI (For Your Information)

Save the Date—

Dream Event (Middle School Girls) will be held October 17 in Dubuque, IA.

GSEIWI Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19 in the Quad Cities area. We will provide transportation, if needed.

Girl and Adult Recognition Event will be Saturday, April 10 in the Cedar Rapids area.

Fall Sale Program SUPM training dates:

Sept. 15: West Burlington (Comfort Suites)

Sept. 16: Waterloo Area (Holiday Inn, Cedar Falls)

Sept. 17: Dubuque Area (Best Western Midway)

Sept. 21: Cedar Rapids Area (Quality Inn, Iowa City)

Sept. 22: Quad Cities Area (Jumer's Hotel)