

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 2012 membership year.

## Dear Service Teams:

### Welcome to 2012 – the Year of the Girl, and Girl Scouts 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

I hope all of you had a restful and blessed holiday and are ready for another exciting year in Girl Scouts.

In December we shared with service unit directors the new 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary service unit event funding program. Be sure and send in your submissions by Feb. 1 to receive funding for an event that ties to one of the leadership experience program focus areas: leadership, financial literacy, healthy living, environment or science, technology, engineering and math. If you have any questions, please contact your leadership experience manager.

Offered again this year is our Petal Power Program for girls ages 4 and 5. Information regarding the program will be distributed beginning in January.

Thanks to all of you for again hosting a cookie rally to get your girls excited, leaders trained and parents informed. This is especially important this year as we launch into our first-ever direct cookie sale. Please contact new leaders and make sure they are aware of the cookie rally and planning to attend.

Also, thank you to all the cookie sale product managers who attended one of the cookie trainings offered. Your help with this new sale is going to be imperative and is greatly appreciated!

Have a great month and I hope to see many of you at a service unit meeting!

Sincerely,

Brenda Lloyd, VP of Membership

#### 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.

## Service Unit Director

Welcome to the new year! We've got incredible things coming up for 2012! Please make sure to cover the following items at your meetings:

- The Direct Cookie Sale! RMMs and product managers have had a lot of training, so please direct questions to either person. We are very excited for this sale, and sharing our excitement only helps our girls have a successful sale!
- Mark your calendars for the SUD meeting on Jan. 30 from 6-8 p.m. This meeting will be video conferenced from the five council leadership centers. If you have something you want to add to the agenda, please email [BrendaL@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaL@GSEIWI.org). A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP to your RMM.

During the winter months we know that the Midwest presents some interesting and dangerous weather. Please plan for inclement weather and let your service unit know what to expect in the event of a cancellation due to the weather.

## Registrar

Please remind all leaders that troops need to ensure that every girl who sells cookies needs a permission slip and to be registered for the 2011-2012 membership year. If you need rosters, please contact your council registrar or your RMM and they will work with you to get accurate rosters.

Please work with your SU team to contact your lapsed girls and invite them to your cookie rally, upcoming events and to participate in the cookie sale. There are a lot of great things for girls to do, even if they are too busy to be in troop. If you need a roster for lapsed girls please contact your RMM.

## School Organizers

During the winter months we can have a lot of snow and ice. Please remind your troops that we have a form available to send to their families [regarding cancelation of meetings](#).

With the upcoming cookie sale we want you to encourage inviting registered girls as well as non-registered girls to attend a local cookie rally. This is a great way to help your school achieve gold star status, and a great way to give girls in your school the chance to participate in our largest program! For more information regarding the cookie rally nearest you, contact your SU product manager for further details. If your service unit isn't hosting a cookie rally be sure to speak to your RMM about how you can help provide that for girls in your area.

The Petal Power Program will be offered again this year. Information will be distributed beginning in January at kindergarten round-ups, Head Start preschool programs, etc. Please check with your RMM to see how we can share this program with all eligible 4- and 5-year-old girls and their parents.

## Leader Mentor

Now would be a great time to check in with your new troops and see how their troop finances are going. Did they get their start-up funds? Are they saving their receipts? Do they have one person writing the checks or using the debit card and the other person getting the bank statements? Find information on "managing group finances" on page 49 of your [Volunteer Essentials](#).

Ask new leaders if they have any questions about working with the Journeys and incorporating the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. As their leader mentor, your feedback will set the tone for how the Journeys work for their troop. Remember that all troops are not the same and how they work the Journeys and badges may not be same as other troops. Listen to what the leaders say about how their troop functions. Ask questions about what the girls enjoy. Give guidance and examples on how the Journeys might work best for the girls in their troop.

TEAM Connections Newsletter

As a leader mentor, you know how important it is to have resources new leaders need their first year. We are always looking for ways to find out this information, and the best way is to ask new leaders directly. To do this, we are coming up with a short survey to 75 random new leaders. We could use your help with this survey and the great part is you can do it from your home. Please contact [Deb Boyd](#) if you can help.

## Treasurer

Treasurers please remind troops to turn in their ACH forms prior to the cookie sale.

## Mobile Market Coordinator

What is a Mobile Market Coordinator? This is a service team volunteer position that brings the 'shop' to your events! It gives volunteers a look at new merchandise within the council shops. Training can be done in person or over the phone. Shops require two weeks minimum notice to create and have a mobile market ready for pick-up by volunteers. Schedule training with your local shop or by contacting Linda Heil, retail sales manager at [LindaH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:LindaH@GSEIWI.org).

See what's new in the shops by reading the [Shop News](#). Shop News now includes a monthly feature with badge and patch ideas.

## Outdoor Program Coordinator

Did you know that each of our camps have great activities you can do, even in the winter? Each camp has something special for the winter which may include sledding, ice skating and snow shoeing. Call the camp ranger at the camp you are interested in visiting to find out all the fun you can have at camp this winter!

We have several Winter Carnival events scheduled for January, [click here](#) to visit our online calendar and learn more about the carnivals near you.

## Juliette Coordinator

Please remember that Juliettes can sell cookies and earn their way to great incentives and money to participate in many council events and programs. Work with your SU registrar and RMM to get a list of lapsed girls. We ask that SUs contact girls and let them know all of the amazing things they can do, including the cookie program. Please make sure to invite current Juliettes and lapsed girls to upcoming cookie rallies!

## Adult Learning Coordinator

Each year on February 22, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world celebrate World Thinking Day. It's a day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for the international friendship they find in our movement.

This [Thinking Day ceremony](#) page gives a couple of suggestions of how we can honor this long-time Girl Scout tradition. Pass it on to the leaders in your service unit. Better yet, do one of the ceremonies with them as part of your February service unit meeting.

There is a new award called the World Thinking Day award with requirements for each grade level in Girl Scouting. [Click here](#) for the requirements.

Encourage all troops to attend Journey of the Century on March 10. The event combines World Thinking Day and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a once in a lifetime celebration! To register and learn more, [visit our online event calendar listing](#).

## Program Event Coordinator

**Come Travel with Girl Scouts!** Check out our [Travel Timeline brochure](#) and join us for your trip of a lifetime!

**Brownies:** American Girl, Chicago

**Juniors:** Journey World, Chicago

**Cadette-Senior-Ambassador:** Birthplace Bound, Savannah

**Ages 13-18:** National Trip 2013, East Coast

Visit our [travel page](#) for complete details!

FYI-in our latest edition of Girlfriends on the Trips and Travel page, the first meeting for Birthplace Bound and National Trip was listed incorrectly. The date is changed to **March 4, 2012**, at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew's, 1300 Melrose Ave., Iowa City.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service Unit Event Funding

Now is the time for your service unit to hold an event and apply for funding to help with the cost. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1 so [check out the application](#). Need help? Contact your leadership experience manager for questions. We have ideas for [100<sup>th</sup> anniversary service unit events](#), as well as [tips on how to plan](#) a service unit event.

**Attention leaders:** The leadership experience team is working on programs and events for the 2012-2013 troop year and will be emailing a survey out to all leaders for input. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this survey and let us hear your voice!

## Recognition Coordinator

The March 1 deadline for awards and scholarships is just around the corner. Make sure you are covering the awards and scholarships at your service unit meetings. Remember, some of these awards are going away after this year.

Volunteer years and membership years for volunteers in your service unit are being mailed out, along with the awards volunteers have received over the years. Please look these lists over and contact [Deb Boyd](#) with any discrepancies.

## Product Sales Manager

**Fall Sale Program** – Please remember to take the time to complete your Fall Sale Program evaluation. This information is vital in helping us plan for next year. There are two surveys: one for [TPMs](#) and one for [SUPMs](#).

Any Fall Sale recognition issues (ie. shortages or damages) must be reported to your SUPM by Jan. 27. After this date we will no longer be able to correct any problems.

**Cookie Sale Program** – This is a great time to remind your leaders about your upcoming cookie rally!

**Credit Cards for Cookies?** Troops interested in participating in this pilot program still have time to sign up. Click here for more information on the [Credit Card Program](#).

**ACH forms** – We still have some troops who have not turned in their ACH deposit and withdrawal forms. ACH is the way your cookie bill will be paid so it is extremely important that these are turned in. SUPMs are sent an updated ACH list each week.

**Virtual Cookie Sale** – [www.abcsmartcookies.com](http://www.abcsmartcookies.com) is a great website with tons of information and activities for volunteers, girls and families. It is also the hub of our Virtual Cookie Sale. Get more information on [how it works](#) here. Don't miss out on this opportunity to get a jump start on your sales!

## Community Information Coordinator

The council has several Girl Scout PowerPoint templates available for use by service units and troops for presentations, whether it's for a girl's project, Green and White banquets, cookie rallies, a troop meeting, etc. Interested? Email Ann McGlynn at [AnnM@GSEIWI.org](mailto:AnnM@GSEIWI.org).

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! As Girl Scouts approaches its 100th anniversary, we want to share our excitement with our communities. We hope that every city, town and county within Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois will celebrate with an official proclamation. Interested in learning more about how to help make that happen, while experiencing government first-hand? [Download a sample proclamation and instructions!](#)

## Girl Scout High Awards

Starting in February, all Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be managed by Julia Ricciardi in West Burlington. All paperwork should be mailed to the West Burlington office:

Attn: Julia Ricciardi

1308 Broadway St.

West Burlington, IA 52655.

Please continue to ask your leadership experience manager if you have any questions on any of the awards.

## Safety Zone

It is cookie sale time of year and we all must review with our leaders and the girls on the safest way to sell. There is an entire page in Volunteer Essentials addressing all of the safety issues. Here is a sampling:

- Parental permission is mandatory to have before the girls sell.
- Girls should wear clothing that identifies them as Girl Scouts – membership pin, official uniform, or other Girl Scout clothing.
- Adult volunteers 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 when selling. Older girls must be supervised (but do not need to be directly accompanied by) an adult. However, they must sell with a buddy.
- Personal customer information should remain private. Customer credit card information should not be collected.
- Girls can market cookies and other products by sending emails to friends, family members and former customers, as long as they use a group email address, the address of a parent/guardian or adult volunteer, a blind email address or online email tools provided by ABC bakers.
- Sales cannot be transacted on the internet. Girls can, however, receive order commitments for cookie sales via email.
- Girls should not give out their physical address, social networking page address, IM name or cell number to anyone outside of their family and friends. Any marketing through social networking must be done with the supervision of a parent or guardian.

Please review all of the safety requirements on page 64 of the Volunteer Essentials and additional information that is available on [our website](#).

## National Convention 2011

The national convention is behind us, but the memories of voting, Girl Scout University sessions, and keynote speeches will last for many years to come. Check out our [GSEIWI blog](#) to hear our delegates' reactions to the convention and check out the [national website](#) reports on the proposals and the voting results. Salt Lake City will host the convention in 2014. Mark your calendar now!

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Have you checked out our website for ideas for events in your service unit to celebration 100 years of Girl Scouting? A promise circle is one event that will be duplicated in all areas of the council. Setting one up in your area will mean girls will not have to travel very far to be with other Girl Scouts on March 12, 2012 – the exact date that Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting. For information for hosting a Promise Circle go to [our 100<sup>th</sup>](#)

[anniversary website](#). Start your planning today so that your service unit won't miss out on all the fun!

Also think about starting a girl chorus for your area to sing some of the great new songs that have been written for this anniversary and also to remember and sing some of the old Girl Scouts favorites. Girl chorus groups from all areas will be invited to perform at the Journey of the Century event, and also think about performing at your own 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary service unit events throughout the celebration year. For more information, [click here](#).

## Service Units Reach 2010-2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congrats to all the service units that have made goal for the 2012 year already! We appreciate all of your hard work in serving girls in your area!

761 – Delaware County - Ed-Co/Starmont

780 - Clayton County

886 – Henry County - Geneseo

890 – Henry County - Alpha

855 – Scott County - Davenport

858 – Scott County - Pleasant Valley

859 – Scott County - North Scott

838 – Cedar County - Durant/Bennett/Wilton

871 – Rock Island County - Andalusia

912 – Lee County - Donnellson

## Kudos Korner

Kudos to Missy Parker and her co-leaders for putting on a great Daisy event, "Busy Bees!" More than 20 girls came, including several new girls!

Kudos to the leaders at Calamus-Wheatland for a great Daisy/Brownie event with Buddy the dog! The girls learned about animal care and did a fun, critter craft.

## For Your Information

Background rechecks are beginning. Every three years our volunteer leaders are asked to submit to a background recheck to ensure the safety of girls. We have great volunteer leaders who have been with us for many years that may say, "Why should I have to do this?" That's a great question, with a very simple answer. We can't discriminate; if we have one person submit a recheck, then everyone must submit a recheck. We are going to make it easier this year and give you some peace of mind by giving leaders the opportunity to directly enter their personal information with the background screening service, thus eliminating the need for us to view that information. This service is also coming for new volunteers.

## Grants for Financial Assistance

Grants for financial assistance now include the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting! Families requesting assistance will pay \$15, just a portion of the cost of this resource. Moving forward, families will need to pick up any merchandise requested through grants for financial assistance at the Girl Scout Leadership Center of their choosing. Once the merchandise assistance request is approved, the shop will contact the family about their request. Families have 30 days to pick it up. If not picked up, the items will be restocked and the family will need to reapply.

The new forms for Grants for Girls and Grants for Adults have a new look to include pick-up at sites and a user-friendly listing of available merchandise for families to request. Check out the new forms [here](#) under the header Grants for Financial Aid forms.

## For Your Information

### Help Us Share Girl Scout History!

We are looking for people to form an archives committee to bring Girl Scout history to upcoming council events, such as the Journey of the Century and the Celebration of the Century. If you are interested, contact Hillary Blevins at [HillaryB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:HillaryB@GSEIWI.org) or 309-788-0833. It's not too late to get involved!

### "Girls Speak Up!" Survey Project Concludes

Thank you to all of the nearly 500 girls who participated in the pilot "Girls Speak Up!" survey project. Findings from their input and feedback will be available in early 2012. Winners of the \$50 VISA gift card drawing are: Alexis C. (Bellevue, IA), Megan K. (Cedar Rapids, IA), Kenna M. (Marengo, IA), Caitlynn P (Cedar Rapids, IA), Danielle T. (Dyersville, IA), and Kaitlyn W. (Davenport, IA).