

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 2010 membership year.

Dear Service Teams:

We have a lot to celebrate in the month of April! April 22 is Girl Scout Leader's Day. Our council has more than 4,000 leaders who are committed to providing girls with an incredible Girl Scout experience. Please take a few minutes at your April service unit meeting to thank leaders for all they do!

Some things to think about, how are you recognizing your troop leaders? Are you inviting all parents to attend so they can hear about what their daughter is gaining from her Girl Scout experience? Let's take time to celebrate in April for all the great things that have happened so far.

Spring registration is under way. New this year is the opportunity for troop leaders to register and manage their troops online. For more information, [follow this link](#). In addition, please ask troop leaders to complete the end-of-year leader review that was included in the spring registration packet, or they can [fill it out online](#). Please help spring registration be successful and make sure all your leaders understand the benefits.

If you didn't have an opportunity to share your story, it's not too late. The 100th anniversary book still needs your stories. Think of the people who helped shape your Girl Scout experience. Would you like to see them spotlighted in our book? [Click here](#) to submit your story.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT! Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, at five locations to be announced. All adults will be invited to help kick off our 100th Anniversary troop year! Join us for a day of learning, camaraderie and fun! There also will be enrichment classes and an opportunity to meet some of our new program partners. More details and registration information will be coming in August.

I hope your service unit meetings go great and if you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org. Your input and ideas are welcome!

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.

Happy Leader's Day

Pause and Reflect...

- **Slip a string on your finger to remind you of how much you are secretly admired.**
- **Tuck a Band-Aid in your purse to remind you of the girl who came to you wounded and in need of healing through caring and respect.**
- **Rub a rock in your hands and know that you are gently smoothing its rough places, just as you help girls smooth out the rough spots in their lives.**
- **Put a great big star where you can always see it to remind yourself that YOU are the most important link between the girls and our wonderful organization.**

**Thanks for all you do for our girls! We truly couldn't do it
WITHOUT YOU!**

Service Unit Director

Leader's Day is April 22! Take the time to say "Thank You" to the leaders in your school, either with a nice note, an e-mail, or a phone call to say "thanks" for all they have done for the girls in their school.

End-of-Year Leader Review - Encourage leaders to complete this so that we can help serve them better for the next year. This document is incredibly important for leaders; it helps get their voices heard.

President's Award Update - We want to ensure our volunteers get the honors they so deserve, and are extending the deadline for the President's Award to July 31, 2011. The award can go to service units that achieved the criteria last year and for the current year. Please contact your Regional Membership Manager for help with the criteria.

Registrar

Registration for next year is in full swing! Please remind leaders that all registrations are due by May 31, 2011. Encourage them to reregister online and set up their troop management hub. The step-by-step instructions were included in their registration packet and also are online. This will be a great tool for them to update troop information in the fall or as needed. They also can register in paper form. All instructions are listed in the cover letter that came in their packet.

Three frequently asked questions are: 1) What grade do I list? This is the grade the girls will be in the fall. 2) What if I don't have a troop debit/credit card? Remind troop leaders that they can use a prepaid Visa card from their local bank. Many banks only charge a minimal fee, and some don't charge anything as long as they have an active account. 3) Who do I list with O1 status? Anyone with a O1 (troop leader) status will be able to have access to the troop management hub. The troop should decide as a group who wants and needs to be listed as an O1.

School Organizers

Spring is upon us so please make sure you follow up with all of the troops at your school on the following:

Petal Power - Make sure you share this awesome program with your incoming kindergartners and current kindergarten girls at your school.

End-of-Year Celebrations - Make sure you help troops get information on how to celebrate all that they have accomplished through the year. You even may want to have something for all of the troops and troop families at your school.

Changing Troop Leadership - Many troops are looking to the next year and some might even be looking at changing leaders. Please take the time to follow up with every troop at your school to see what they are planning for next year. If you find a leader is not returning, please make sure you ask them if anyone else is the troop is taking over or if they need help hosting a parents meeting to make sure the troop can continue next year. Remember if 100 percent of troops spring register, the SU gets \$100! Every troop's participation matters!

Leader Mentor

The last [SOS](#) for the year is being emailed in early April. Be sure to look it over carefully so that you can help your new leaders tie up all the loose ends and make plans for a fun summer of Girl Scouts.

I am sure that you are receiving questions regarding Spring Registration and what that is all about. Help new leaders to understand that Spring Registration is the best way to prepare for the coming year. By getting this out of the way now, they will be able to hit the ground running next fall. Besides, there are a couple of great incentives for participating as well as helping your service unit earn \$100!

New this year – leaders are able to complete spring registrations online using eBiz. There is a great help sheet in the Spring Reg packet to help you become more familiar with eBiz. It also is very important to remind them about completing their Leader Review and Year-End Troop Financial Reports (after [clicking here](#), go to the finance forms tab). These are fillable forms online!! New leaders probably will have questions about those forms. If you need help, just give your Regional Membership Manager a call.

Encourage new leaders to continue being active with their troop this summer. A family picnic and an outing in the park will help keep both girls and families connected to Girl Scouts.

Volunteer Leadership Development Manager Deb Boyd is calling Leader Mentors to get a feel for how the year went and what kinds of things we might look to improve on in the coming year. If you don't get a call, but would like to give your input, just contact [Deb Boyd](#).

Have you had a chance lately to check out the resources that are available on our website for new and existing leaders? You will want to look at it again and check back often for additions. There is information on bridging, finances, starting a new troop, and even videos of songs, games and ceremonies. Pass this link on to your new leaders:

<http://www.GSEIWI.org/resources/leaderresources.asp>

Treasurer

Reminder: Every service unit that has 100 percent of its troops reregister by May 31, 2011, earns \$100. This is a great way to earn extra money for things like hosting a camp rally or day camp.

Troop finance reports are due by Aug. 1, 2011. Talk to your leaders about the benefits of getting this done the same time they do their leader review in the spring.

Mobile Market Coordinator

Year-end events and ceremonies are approaching. This is an excellent time to contact the Linda Heil, retail sales manager, at LindaH@GSEIWI.org or a Shop Associate to become a Mobile Market Coordinator. Have the shop at your year-end events and ceremonies; this gives parents a first-hand look at the materials the girls are using and the opportunity to purchase on site.

Continue to be a frequent shopper in our council shops and receive a stamp for each \$25 spent; when cards are full; submit them at the next purchase for a 15 percent discount.

Volunteer and Leader Appreciation takes place in April, so stop in at a council shop and receive a 25 percent discount off the purchase of one item in honor of your service to Girl Scouting.

The highest awards in Girl Scouting – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards – are accented by a number of gift selections in our council shops for the girls earning the award and also the proud parent! Visit a council shop for more details.

Bridging Kits will be available at all locations beginning mid-March through the middle of June. For large quantities, please call ahead to your nearby council shop to place an order. The cost for all age levels of bridging kits will be \$4. Items also may be purchased separately.

Great Start Kits again will be available at all locations! They include all of the essential items needed to begin The Girl Scout Journey! There is a free gift with their purchase; offer valid while supplies last. Look for these items in April and early May.

Camp Care Packages will be offered for resident camp at Camp Conestoga and Camp Little Cloud. All orders for Camp Care Packages will be processed through the Waterloo Area Leadership Center. For information, send e-mail to LindaH@GSEIWI.org or ErinG@GSEIWI.org. Care Package orders must be paid separately from camp payments and purchase must be made at least two weeks prior to your girl attending camp.

What's new in Girl Scouting? The transition of materials! Coming in the fall of 2011 is the new "The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting." With the new program materials there will be new updated badges for all age levels. What does this mean? Try-Its, Junior Badges, and Interest Projects patches are being retired; as well as the program materials associated with them. "Retirement of stock" does not necessarily mean all inventory has been sold out, rather that inventory will be available while supplies last.

Place your year-end merchandise orders early! Orders may be placed online at <http://shop.GSEIWI.org/store>, by phone, or e-mail. Phone: 800.798.0833

West Burlington Shop: BridgetteB@GSEIWI.org

Cedar Rapids Shop: SusanB@GSEIWI.org

Waterloo Shop: ErinG@GSEIWI.org

Dubuque Shop: JoeyF@GSEIWI.org

Rock Island Shop: BethJ@GSEIWI.org

Or the Retail Sales Manager LindaH@GSEIWI.org

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Please remind the troop leaders to encourage their families to send girls to camp.

Girl Scout camp is a safe environment for girls to learn more about themselves, work on their social and independence skills while they learn new things and have a great time. The staff who we hired are an amazing group of young people (and young-at-heart people) who are dedicated and passionate about girls. Many are long-time campers who want to give to your daughters the experiences that they had as young campers.

Older girls: There are some wonderful trips offered this summer through the camp programs along with the leadership programs of Lead On! and Counselor In Training and Wrangler in Training.

FYI – the requirement of the physical examination for resident camp has been changed. Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois encourages families to have their camper have a physical examination within 24 months of the end of the camp session. We have chosen not to require the physical examination for most camp sessions because of the expenses incurred to the families and/or additional effort by the parent/guardian to obtain the information from previous examinations. It is the parent/guardian's choice to share the examination results and have a physician sign the form. Those sessions that we will be requiring the physical examination documentation are the high adventure trip sessions and those campers' parents will receive notification.

Here's a troop summer camp change to Page 5 of the Camp Guide mailed in February. We heard that some troop leaders weren't available to take their troops to camp this summer and we wanted to ensure their troops weren't missing out on the fun. As a result, we have decided that an adult volunteer from the troop who gets registered, passes a background check, is willing to get the camp training while at camp, and take on the responsibility of leading the troop during the session can fill this role. Please e-mail or call Kim Blake if you have any questions at KimB@GSEIWI.org or 563.210.0729.

Juliette Coordinator

Juliettes soon will be receiving a letter explaining the spring registration process. Any girls with questions can contact their local regional membership manager for registration information.

Don't forget that there are lots of fun summer options for Juliettes, including our great resident camp program at Camp Conestoga and Camp Little Cloud. Check out the Camp Guide or log on to www.GSEIWI.org to find out all the details and to get a girl signed up today!

Adult Learning Coordinator

GSUSA will be introducing a new handbook/badge book for this fall called The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. There will be one for every grade level. These books will complete the National Program Portfolio that will consist of Journeys, The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, and Skill Building Badge Sets. The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will have a Handbook Section, My Girl Scout Section, along with Awards, Legacy Badges, Financial Literacy Badges, Cookie Business Badges and a Make Your Own badge. [Click here](#) to link to a handout on everything that is in the new book and also some frequently asked questions you and others might have. Please share with all of your volunteers.

Good news: We now are able to offer some training enrichments online! You can let your service unit know about them, or show them as a group! We have started with [Parental Involvement](#) and Troop Finances. More will be following at the same site. Remember: our [leader resource page](#) on our website is filled with helpful hints for all leaders including info on [bridging](#), [ceremonies](#), [moving up to the next grade level](#), [bullying](#), [working through](#)

[conflicts](#), and many more. Again, take time at a SU meeting to open up our website and show the leaders where to go to access these wonderful resources.

Program Event Coordinator

Make sure you [check out](#) all of the great upcoming events!

High Award information can be found at
<http://www.GSEIWI.org/program/awards.asp>

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/money_earning/

The Gold Award is for Girl Scout Seniors and Girl Scout Ambassador in grades 9-12.

The Silver Award is for Girl Scout Cadette girls in grades 6-8.

The Bronze Award is for Girl Scout Junior girls in grades 4-5.

Recognition Coordinator

Great news! Because of your efforts, we had a record number of volunteer awards:

Volunteer Achievement – 26

Leadership Development – 11

Outstanding Volunteer – 51

Outstanding Leader – 35

Appreciation Pin – 22

Honor Pin – 1

Thanks Badge – 1

Thanks II – 1

Girl of Courage, Confidence and Character Scholarship – 25 nominations, with three chosen

We want to ensure our volunteers get the honors they so deserve, and are extending the deadline for the President's Award to July 31, 2011. The award can go to service units that achieved the criteria last year and for the current year. Please contact your Regional Membership Manager for help with the criteria.

Here is what you should be looking at for April and May:

APRIL

- Choose a fun way to recognize the volunteers at the Service Unit meeting(s).
- Recognize leaders for Leader's Day.
- Receive volunteer awards from the council for presenting at service unit celebrations. Include the service unit's purchased awards and year pins.

MAY

- Have fun at the Service Unit end-of-the-year celebration. Hand out all volunteer awards.
- Start a plan for next year's recognition of volunteers in your service unit. Work with your service unit team to get as many volunteers honored as possible.

Product Sales Manager

Thank you, product managers for a successful cookie sale! We couldn't have done it without your help. Also thanks to our cookie cupboard managers for the awesome job they are doing shuffling cookies.

Recognitions are tentatively scheduled to be shipped from ABC the week of April 24. If you do not receive your shipment by the end of the week, e-mail our Product Sales Director at MarilynA@GSEIWI.org.

Juliette Bucks will be mailed directly to the girls with the goal to have them mailed by the end of April.

You will receive the CPC for your service unit via mail before the week of April 24.

Capri certificates have been sent out to troop leaders. If they have any questions about the Capri certificates, please have them contact Marilyn Askelson at MarilynA@GSEIWI.org.

Community Information Coordinator

This month our Community Information Coordinators can help spread the word about the upcoming summer camp season. Online registration opened on March 2 and we want to give as many girls as possible the opportunity to spend time at our great camp facilities.

Each community has a variety of online calendars that allow you to post events on them. The online calendars are on the websites of TV and radio stations, newspapers, schools, community organizations, and even community portals. The more online calendars we post camp information on, the more girls and their families we are exposing our camp message to.

Each calendar has a unique format, so there is no template we can offer you. Feel free to promote the entire summer of events at our camps during June and July, but you also may want to promote our camp open houses coming up: 1-3 p.m. May 1 at Camp Little Cloud, 1-3 p.m. May 15 at Camp Tahigwa, 1-3 p.m. May 22 at Camp L-Kee-Ta and 1-3 p.m. June 12 at Camp Conestoga.

For more information or assistance, contact Chuck Gysi, director of marketing and communications, at 309.283-2359 or ChuckG@GSEIWI.org.

Safety Zone

Will your troop be traveling this spring and summer? Don't forget to check out the whole chapter on travel in [Volunteer Essentials, Pages 66-70](#).

Travel is built on a progression of activities, and [Page 66](#) gives you some examples of places to take girls that are age appropriate. Depending how far you will be traveling, (example: more than 100 miles one way), you will need to fill out an [Event/Trip Information form](#) at least two weeks before going. ([Page 44](#)). If you are using extra drivers, make sure they have a valid driver's license and up-to-date insurance on their car. (make copies and bring with you on your trip). If some are not registered Girl Scouts, make sure you have purchased [the additional insurance](#) to

cover them. Contact DawnV@GSEIWI.org if you have additional questions on the form.

Depending on your activities, check our website for the [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) that might apply. When you return, make sure you have a discussion with the girls about how things went, the good and the bad, so the same mistakes will not be made the next time. But most of all, have fun!

Journeys

Daisies: Between Earth and Sky: Spring is the best time to get outside as the dandelions are going to seed ... Page 35 in the girl's book has an activity about how weeds grow and scatter. What better way to see this than blowing on a dandelion that has gone to seed!

Brownies: WOW is all about water. Check out the girl's book on Page 49 about how in other countries women have to carry water on their heads because they do not have running water. Take the girls outside and have them try carrying water buckets on their heads! Have some rain gear on hand for the spills, too.

Juniors: Get Moving: Check out different ways we can recycle rather than throwing away (Pages 40-43 in girl's book) then make jewelry out of recycled magazine paper (leader guide Page 41). A local newspaper, the Quad-City Times in Davenport, ran an article on this same idea!

Cadettes: Breathe: Have the girls do a Sniff and Search (girl book Page 70). It is a little inventory of what products are in the air around you. You can then follow through with adding some nice scents to what you breathe by making an aromatic bath bag (Leader's Guide Page 44)

Seniors: Sow What: Find out more about local food festivals – are they limited to street fairs or do families have festivals of their own to celebrate each year? Can you go to a fair or create one of your own!!! This is yummy taste testing of different foods (suggestion from Page 39 in girl book).

Ambassadors: Justice: How many plastic water bottles do you use in a day? How can we change that so that we are using less or none at all? Do a survey at school or even in your own home on the amount of plastic bottles that are used and how the number can be lowered. (Pages 60-62 in girl book)

National Convention 2011

Be sure to check out the [National Convention page](#) on our website. There is an interest indicator for volunteers interested in going to the convention. We have a committee that is working to plan a great adventure. Also notice that there are two volunteer opportunities at the convention for those interested.

For Your Information

Want to utilize the online registration for Spring Registration, but you aren't sure where to start? Please take a moment to read our step-by-step instructions on [how to set up](#) your user name and password.

Attention horse lovers! You and your mom or other adult female can join us for a great trip to the world famous

Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky. This adventure is for girls entering fourth through sixth grade in the fall of 2011. The trip leaves Camp Conestoga on Friday, Aug. 12 and returns Sunday, Aug. 14. Cost varies according to housing choice and optional horseback riding. For details, see the [equestrian page](#) on the council website or contact Joanne Dumar at JoanneD@GSEIWI.org or call 563.349.6149.

Bring a friend or ride as a family! New horse program offerings are available this spring. Make sure to check out our [equestrian page](#) for more details!

Share Your Voice – Last Call for Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes!

Girls in grades 4-8, we need YOU to tell us about your experiences in Girl Scouting, at school and in the community. This is a SPECIAL INVITATION to participate in an exciting national research project that helps Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois and GSUSA make connections between all parts of girls' lives.

Sign up to participate at www.girlscoutvoices.org. Note: If you are under 13, you will need your parents' permission to sign up. So, be sure to visit the www.girlscoutvoices.org link with one of your parents. If you have questions about this research project, contact Hillary Blevins at HillaryB@GSEIWI.org or call 800.798.0833.

100th Anniversary Celebration

Our 100th anniversary website will be active and ready to roll in August, but until then you can follow all of the fun and exciting things we have planned from our [100th Anniversary webpage](#). We will add new information as it comes along.

We are still looking for original songs for our 100th Anniversary Song contest. Please send us your submission by June 30.

Service Units Reach 2010-2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congratulations to the following service units for achieving their end of year membership goal. Of the 72 service units in our 38-county jurisdiction, so far 24 of them have achieved their goal. Great work, service units!

SU 625 - Bremer County

SU 808 - Center Point, Linn County

SU 940 - Henry County, Iowa

Kudos Korner

SU 842

Mildred Clarkson-Freyer has been a Girl Scout since her sophomore year in high school when the first troop in Preston, Iowa, started. Since then, Mildred has been involved keeping traditions alive in the area.

Mildred has been a volunteer since 1961 and she has seen a lot of changes! Since she has been in Girl Scouts, the promise has changed three times!

Primitive camping is a skill Mildred does well and many of the girls in her troops have had to learn how to dig a latrine in order to have a complete experience. Mildred currently serves as the registrar within the volunteer service team.

SU 856 – Blue Grass, Iowa

Troops from Service Unit 856 celebrated the 99th birthday of Girl Scouting on March 8. Cadettes from Troop 3000 had girls from 6-60 line dancing in the gym and Seniors from Troop 1077 led songs and games. Nearly 100 of the service units' 200 girls joined in the celebration.

Attend your Camp Open House!

Take an afternoon to visit with Camp Staff and get a sneak peek at what camp will look like this summer! Each girl that attends an open house will be put into a drawing for \$25 credit toward her camp fee! Open houses are held at our camp properties from 1:00-3:00pm

Camp Little Cloud	May 1 st
Camp Tahigwa	May 15 th
Camp L-Kee-Ta	May 22 nd
Camp Conestoga	June 12 th

Camp Flier

[Click here](#) to download our Summer Camp flier. Please make copies to distribute at your Service Unit meetings to help us spread the word about all the fun camp opportunities this summer! Make sure each troop gets copies, too. We want every girl to have the opportunity to attend one of our four camps this summer.