

Team Connections

October 2011

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 2012 membership year.

100 thanks as we begin a great new year!

Thanks to all of you who attended the 100 THANKS events. It was great getting to see so many of you. I hope you found them beneficial, but more importantly, I hope you felt truly appreciated for all you do!

Congratulations to the following service units that won the sets of Girl Guides:

- 912 – Lee County
- 855 – Scott County – Davenport
- 616 – Winneshiek County
- 835 – Cedar County
- 803 – Iowa County
- 771 – West Dubuque – Cascade/Epworth/Peosta.

Congratulations also to Trina Springsteen from MarMac for winning the 100th anniversary pearls!

What a great round of service unit meetings in September! Thanks to all of you for focusing on the 100th anniversary, what's new and especially for sharing information about the upcoming [Leadership Summit](#). We are extremely fortunate to work with great partners to bring you information about programs and opportunities right in your own communities.

During September, we recruited LOTS of new leaders. Please make sure they are invited to your next service unit meeting. Take a few minutes to make introductions and find out how their experience is going. Your knowledge and energy can make all the difference to a new leader.

Will your service unit be one of the first to hit your end-of-year membership goal? Check with your Regional Membership Manager to find out how close your service unit is to reaching your goal and also to find out how many schools are already Gold Star schools.

Do you have any topics for the November issue of Team Connections? Please email me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org. Have a great month and we hope to see ALL of you at a Leadership Summit near you on October 8!

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

Please mark your calendars for the fall SUD Meeting Monday, Oct. 24, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at your local Leadership Center. We will be video conferencing with SUDs throughout the council. Please do not miss this. We want your input!

A few reminders for October:

- Please make sure to invite all new and returning leaders to your meetings. Encourage troops to participate in the fall sale!
- Turn in all registrations for the 2012 year
- If you're holding a fun service unit event, consider inviting new girls and check with your RMM to see how we can advertise your event.

Registrar

Please remind all leaders and volunteers to get their registrations in ASAP. The 2011-2012 year is underway. Any girl participating who is not registered is not covered by insurance.

Find out what help new troop leaders need in getting their girls registered. Let them know about managing their troop online. [Click here](#) for help using the eBiz system.

School Organizers

Thank you for helping at recruitments at almost all of the 427 elementary schools in the month of September. We made great strides in giving every girl the opportunity to join, but we still have some work to do. Beginning October 1, RMMs will be identifying schools and targeting specific grade levels in order to help schools reach Gold Star status. Now is a great time to invite new girls to service unit events as well as to council events found in the [Leadership Experience Guide](#).

A lot of you have also helped by holding "Bring a Friend" Girl Scout recruitments and events. What a great way to bring new girls to our awesome program! Thank you for thinking outside the box.

October is also a great month to check in with new leaders. If you see a new leader at school, ask them how their Girl Scout experience is going and see if they need any ideas or help.

Need help getting girls to join a new troop? [Click here for a special invite to troop meetings!](#)

Leader Mentor

It is still early in the year, and our new leaders are probably still feeling somewhat overwhelmed. Get out your [Leader Mentor Contact Sheet](#) and review the topics under the first six weeks section. These first weeks are so important to getting new leaders off to a good start. Sometimes they don't know the right questions to even ask, so be prepared give guidance on the steps to [starting a successful troop](#). Be sure that you personally go to the [new leader section](#) of our website so that you know first-hand what resources are available to share with your new leaders. Don't miss the Quick Links in the right hand corner. These resources will be invaluable to a new leader.

A few reminders for October:

- [Steps of Support \(SOS\)](#) will be linked and emailed in early October to all first-year leaders and leader mentors. Those without email will receive a mailed copy.
- Remind new leaders to never leave girls alone. Encourage a buddy system; ask families to help by attending troop meetings and field trips.
- Mismanagement of troop accounts remains an issue. Please remind troop leaders that troop funds are for troop use only. This is a serious issue and if funds are mismanaged GSEIWI will contact law enforcement.

Treasurer

With fall product sales right around the corner, you will be hearing about troops needing to fill out an [ACH form](#). Please encourage troop leaders to turn in the completed form to their RMM. If you need a copy, please see our website.

Mobile Market Coordinator

Back to Troop is in full swing! Please see the [latest Shop News](#) for shop information. All council shops have everything in stock to meet your needs.

To be a Mobile Market Coordinator for your area, contact the council shop nearest you or the council Retail Sales Manager Linda Heil at LindaH@GSEIWI.org.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Check out the new online [Adult Development Calendar](#). Several trainings are scheduled in October and November for the following:

- Overnight Troop Readiness Training for Adults: Includes information on going beyond the meeting place, longer field trips, and overnight experiences, with emphasis on using camp lodges.
- Camp Skills for Adults: This training provides skills and resources to help girls plan an outdoor program, includes fire building, cooking, safety planning and progression. Overnight/Troop Readiness is a prerequisite to this training.

Day Camp Directors - The new Day Camp Resource Guide will be coming soon, in the meantime, think about your dates. The deadline to be in the 2012 Camp Guide is October 24.

There are many great ways for girls to explore Horsemanship! [Click here](#) for more info.

Adult Learning Coordinator

[Getting Started is online](#) and ready to go! We now have two training options for our new volunteers: face-to-face and online. Encourage existing leaders in your service unit to check it out as well. You never know what you may learn, and it is a great refresher! It will be a help to those that are mentoring new leaders to see the latest forms and GSEIWI policies.

Check out [the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting](#) and the new Financial Literacy badges. Every grade level of Girl Scouts has a Financial Literacy badge that they can earn. With Fall Products approaching, it might be a great time to start working on it. You will find

two badges on Financial Literacy in each book (three for Cadettes) so the girls can earn one each year.

Getting Started Facilitators

Thank you to all who met this summer to review the new Getting Started outline. We appreciate your willingness to facilitate Getting Started with our new leaders.

Many of our new leaders will be taking the [online version of Getting Started](#), which will lessen your load. However, it will still be important for you to follow up with these leaders to see if there are any lingering questions that need answered. We will be letting the RMMs know when someone completes the online session and they will let the Service Unit Directors as well as the Leader Mentors and Getting Started Facilitators know. Please take some time to click on the link above and take the online Getting Started so that you can support those new leaders who are taking the course online.

Your enthusiasm and encouragement continues to make a huge difference to those new leaders. Thank you for making them feel welcomed and supported. If you need additional supplies, please contact me at ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org or 1-800-798-0833.

Program Event Coordinator

Please announce the following edits to the Leadership Experience Guide to all leaders at your service unit meeting. If there are leaders who did not receive the guide please have them contact their council office or Regional Membership Manager, or [find it online](#).

Girl Scouts are going places! Don't be left behind. Attend Adventure 101 (Grades 5-12) for some big trips coming up in 2012 and 2013. We have some great trips next summer for our younger girls as well! Information about all of the trips can be [found on our website](#).

- Brownie Trip - [American Girl She & Me](#)
- Junior Trip - [Inventing Solutions Overnight](#)
- Cadette-Ambassador - [Birthplace Bound 2012](#)
- Senior-Ambassador - [National Trip 2013](#)

Planning events for your service unit? Check out the [Event Planning packet](#) for some great resources to help you along the way. Don't forget to enlist others to help. Two heads are always better than one.

The Journey of the Century is on the calendar! Mark down Saturday, March 10, 2012, in Davenport as the kick-off for the 100th Anniversary for girls with World Thinking Day on one side of the River Center and a celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouts on the other. [Click here](#) for detailed information.

Questions or interested in getting involved with planning? Email Molli Hermiston, Leadership Experience Manager, at MolliH@GSEIWI.org.

Recognition Coordinator

Check out the [Recognition Coordinator checklist](#) for a monthly list of what you can do to recognize volunteers all year long.

Changes are coming from GSUSA awards and criteria. We hope to have all the information on the changes sometime in October. Look in the upcoming issues of Team Connections for more information.

This will be a pivotal year for submitting volunteers for recognition awards. Wouldn't it be great to recognize volunteers for higher awards (Honor, Thanks, Thanks II and Presidents) in 2012 at our Celebration of the Century event in April? Start encouraging volunteers to nominate each other with awards now instead of waiting months down the road. We will take award submissions any time.

Product Sales Manager

Fall Sale Program – Troop trainings should happen in October, preferably before the 18th, as this is the day girls may begin the Online Magazine portion of the sale.

Dates to remember:

- Oct. 18 – Online magazine sales begin.
- Nov. 1 – In-person magazine and nut/candy sales begin.
- Nov. 14 – All sales end.
- Nov. 16 – Troop orders due in NutE.
- Nov. 17 – In-person magazine order forms due to SUPM.
- By Nov. 21 – FedEx SU magazine orders to QSP.

Cookie Sale Program – This is a good time to start talking to your leaders about the benefits of the new direct sale. In these days of high gas prices and busy schedules, a more streamlined process just makes good sense. Please [visit our Direct Sale FAQs](#) for up-to-date information about the sale.

Cookie Rally Kits will be in the mail soon. Look for yours in October. Forms and some resources are available now on the website under [forms](#).

Community Information Coordinator

Please encourage troop leaders to share their story! MarComm would love to talk about the activities and events troops are doing, and help share with the news media. Contact Ann McGlynn, director of marketing and communications, at AnnM@GSEIWI.org or (800) 798-0833 to talk about story ideas and get help with creating a news release. The more we share, the more people will know about the value of Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Higher Awards

[Check out the list](#) of all upcoming Higher Award trainings, for girls in grades 4-12 and parent volunteers. It is HIGHLY recommended that any girl interested in earning her Girl Scout Gold Award attend this training to ensure she has the correct requirements.

Safety Zone

Fall Product sales will soon be upon us. Make sure everyone has reviewed the safety guidelines for selling Girl Scout Cookies and other products on page 64 of the [Volunteer Essentials](#). Safety Activity Checkpoints also have information on [Cookie Sales/Product Sales](#) to review with the girls.

Also, remind everyone about being safe if going on trips with the girls to pumpkin patches and/or apple farms. Many of these places have some form of hayrides to get you out to where the fruits are located. There are safety guidelines for rides such as this. Click [here](#) to learn more.

National Convention 2011

National Convention is just around the corner. We have a great contingent of 40 delegates, volunteers and staff traveling to Houston, Texas, for the National Convention. At this convention, delegates will discuss and vote on three proposals. You can read all about the proposals on our [National Convention webpage](#). National Delegates will be a part of the SUD meeting on Oct. 24 to discuss the proposals. This convention will also be the national kick-off to the 100th Anniversary Celebration! We can't wait to share the stories and excitement when we return.

100th Anniversary Celebration

Have you checked out all of the great opportunities on the [100th Anniversary website](#) yet? There are tons of activities for both troops and service units.

October is Juliette Low's birthday and the perfect time to plan an event or activity for your service unit. Check out the ideas in the [SU packet](#) to plan a fun event.

Be sure to check out the [Community Service Project](#) page. October is "Make New Friends" month, and you will find some great programs on anti-bullying and friendship for all grade levels.

Information on earning candles for [the 100th Anniversary Cake Patch](#) is on the website along with pictures of the patch.

Service Units Reach 2011-2012 Girl Membership Goal

Will your service unit be the first? Check with your RMM to see how close your service unit is to reaching their end of year goal for 2012.

Kudos Korner

Kudos to Karen Brietbach of Maquoketa! Thank you Karen for securing a new, very nice service unit meeting location at the Chamber office and recruiting a volunteer to implement a series for Juniors in town! Thank you for going above and beyond!

Kudos to Service Unit 847 in Clinton County! This is the first year this service unit has run their own recruitments. Twenty-two new girls joined and a new Daisy troop started in DeWitt with plenty of parent help. Congrats!

Kudos to Service Unit 816 in Johnson County for hosting a fabulous August Service Unit Kick Off! Service Unit Directors Corie Williams and Heidi Parker engaged

participants by incorporating traditions, songs, games, and food (all while sitting on the floor in a circle). Leaders loved this so much that this is going to be a continuing portion of future service unit meetings. Keep it up Service Unit 816!

Traditions

The birthday of the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low, falls on the popular American holiday of Halloween. Juliette was born on October 31, 1860, in Savannah, Georgia. Her home in Savannah is now owned by GSUSA and is often called “the birthplace.” Some suggestions for acknowledging Juliette’s birthday: bring in a birthday cake or cupcakes, have a full-fledged birthday party complete with gifts that could be given to a local children’s hospital or charity, sing a song about Juliette or play some games that she may have done. For older girls, find a copy of “The Golden Eaglet” to watch.

Check out [the Interactive timeline](#) of Juliette’s life. This is a great way for girls and adults to learn and share in the history of our founder.

For Your Information

Calling all Facebookers! GSEIWI is building its presence on Facebook, and needs your likes! Visit www.facebook.com/GSEIWI and “like” us, then encourage your fellow service unit members, troop leaders, parents and girls to do the same. We will post all of our latest, up-to-date information there as we work to involve 19,000 girls for our 100th anniversary year.

Girl Scouts recognizes the need for supplemental troop funds, therefore the [Group Money Earning Project application](#) has been added to the website as a fillable form with a fast one-week turnaround time for online submittals only. For group money earning ideas and/or guidelines, refer to the [Volunteer Essentials](#) guide or contact your [local leadership center](#).

Annual meeting reminder: The annual meeting will not be held in Dubuque in November. It will be held on April 28 in Coralville at our day-long 100th anniversary celebration.