

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 2011 membership year.

Dear Service Teams:

I don't know about all of you, but I for one am glad to see the end to February. I thought March was to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, not February! Since it is March, there are a lot of important things coming up in Girl Scouts, the most important is that March hosts Girl Scout Week! Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12. Girl Scout Birthday, March 12, commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 girl members in Savannah, Ga. Take the time at your next Girl Scout meeting to celebrate where we've come from and where we are going. We have almost a hundred years of traditions to celebrate. None of that would be possible without the countless hours that volunteers give every month to make this the premier organization for girls. In addition to Girl Scout week, we also have a number of other items to focus on this month:

1. Spring registration – why spring register? There are many reasons. Troops get off to a quicker start in the fall, there are great incentives, and now that troops have funds from the cookie sale, they can use these funds to spring register the girls. Also new this year, troop leaders can do their spring registrations online! Step-by-step instructions are being included in the packet as well as a link under the service unit director section. Don't forget to have your troop leaders go online and fill out the end of year troop leader review, we want to hear from all of them!
2. March 1 begins our camp registration. Staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard to put together a camp program that is fun, action packed, and will inspire your girls and leaders to embrace new outdoor opportunities. Check us out online on [our camp web page](#).
3. Cookie booths – we had an incredible cookie sale so far and the second part is just getting started. Girls continue to earn incentives, and troops continue to earn troop profit by holding a cookie booth. Check out [our cookie booth locator](#).
4. Property Chats will be happening in each of our five regions for the purpose of gaining your feedback and giving you more information regarding the long-range property plan. The volunteers working on this process have done some incredible work and can't wait to share their findings with you. Locations, dates and times are listed in the For Your Information section of Team Connections. For more information, please contact your area Leadership Center.
5. Having trouble getting into the Journeys? JOURNEY JUMP STARTS are coming to your March or April service unit meetings. Activities from the Journeys will be available for leaders to try "hands on." Each series will be highlighted with a fun activity to show just how great the Journeys can be for girls. There are team activities to help girls work together, and then individual crafts to take home and use. Leaders will get great ideas and examples they can take back to your troop, and see what the next level might look like for girls. Discover the Journeys, Connect with other leaders and take the information back to your troop to Take Action and start your Journey in the fall!

Please remind troop leaders who earned an overnight camp certificate for last year's spring registration to redeem the certificate by May 15. They can book an overnight camp at one of our four Girl Scout camps by contacting the camp ranger. This information is found on the back of their camp certificates.

#### 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.

In addition to the above, we are beginning to plan for our upcoming fall. This coming year marks the 100th year in Girl Scouting and we want to make it the best yet. With your help and input, we can create a fall plan that will help service teams, returning troop leaders, and new troop leaders have a successful beginning to this monumental occasion. To be part of the planning, please email me at [BrendaL@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaL@GSEIWI.org).

Have a great month and we'll see you at a service unit meeting soon.

Brenda Lloyd, VP of Membership

## Service Unit Director

Please remind all troops and leaders of the importance of spring registration. There are many benefits to registering their troops in the spring. They can register online thru eBiz and avoid all that paper work. Troop leaders also can make any necessary changes to their troops' personal information, girls get a cool patch, leaders will have continued access to eBiz, and troops also will receive a camp certificate to use at any of our Girl Scout camps. Not to mention, if all troops in your SU participate in spring registration, your SU will get \$100! Please encourage ALL troops to fill out the leader review either online or on paper and turn it in to the council along with their yearly financial information.

With online registration available for Spring Registration, troops might have some questions. Please refer to these resources.

- [How to create a user name and password for Ebiz](#)
- [How to register your troop online via Ebiz](#)

Are your service unit meetings meeting the needs of your troop leaders? Are they all feeling welcome and a part of things? Take a few minutes at your March meeting to ask a few questions:

1. Are these meetings meeting your needs as a troop leader?
2. What could we do better to meet your needs?
3. Do you have items you would like to see on the agenda every month?

If you are in tune to your leaders' needs, they probably will be around longer and might even show some interest in future service team positions.

Don't forget to celebrate Girl Scout Week, 99 years of leadership for girls is something to celebrate! Girl Scout Sabbath and Girl Scout Sunday kick off the week on Saturday March 6. Want to share the great news with your center of faith? We have some great tools to help celebrate. Please check out these links:

<http://www.GSEIWI.org/program/girlscoutweek.asp>  
[http://www.GSEIWI.org/program/girlscoutweek/2011\\_church\\_bulletin\\_order\\_form.pdf](http://www.GSEIWI.org/program/girlscoutweek/2011_church_bulletin_order_form.pdf)

## Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Take Action Project

Earth Hour's goal is to encourage sustainable behavior change, lower CO2 footprints, and save energy and money. This can be done by taking out old light bulbs and replacing them with ENERGY STAR qualified or other energy-efficient light bulbs. On March 26, 2011, turn off the lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. for the worldwide Earth Hour.

To find more information about Girl Scout Forever Green, visit at <http://www.girlscouts.org/geforevergreen/> Don't forget to report back!

For more ideas visit <http://www.GSEIWI.org/program/forevergreen.asp>

## Girl Scout High Awards

Has your troop or individual girl thought about fundraising to pay for High Award Take Action projects?

Our council must give approval for any money earning and gift-in-kind solicitation activities (by adults) associated with the Girl Scout Award project. Girls need to follow national and council guidelines related to fundraising and money earning. Any money earning MUST be reviewed and approved by the council BEFORE it is done. Girls and adults may not do any type of fundraising where another organization will earn a portion of the proceeds, such as selling candy bars.

[http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/money\\_earning/](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.

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

## Mobile Market Coordinator

Girl Scout Week and Girl Scout Sunday are approaching and patches for these are available in

our council shop locations and online.

<http://shop.GSEIWI.org/store>

March is Women's History Month. Select troop activities around council program patches such as American Girl History, Lou Henry Hoover, Laura Ingalls Wilder or Try-Its, Junior Badges and Interest Projects relating to Women's History.

Bridging Kits return this season. Kits include the items that are presented to girls moving to the next grade level of Girl Scouting.

Be sure to visit the online council shop! <http://shop.GSEIWI.org/store> and look for information that is posted to Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/GSEIWI>

In honor of our leaders and volunteers, stop in to the council shops during the month of April and receive 25 percent off the purchase of one item; a coupon is necessary for this promotion and is found in Momentum!

Remember to contact the Shop Associate at your Leadership Center or your regional membership manager if you are interested in being the Mobile Market Coordinator for your Service Unit.

## Outdoor Program Coordinator

### What's so special about March 1?

Camp Registration begins March 1. Please tell troop leaders about troop summer camp, details are on Pages 5-6 of the camp guide and have leaders inform and encourage families about the resident camps and day camps.

### Why is Girl Scout Camp so Special?

It's a time away from the normal, a time outside, a time learning things about nature, yourself, others, community, responsibility and a time to be a girl.

There are opportunities for girls going into first through 12th grades. The camp guide has many types of themed sessions and different lengths to fit into families' busy summer schedule. There is something for every girl within the pages of the camp guide.

Are there any exciting trips this summer?

Older girls have some really cool trips scattered throughout the camp guide. Examples are Adrenaline Rush (camp guide Page 19), Boundary Waters (camp guide Page 29), Explore Minnesota (camp guide Page 7), Iowa Travelers (camp guide Pages 6, 20, 28), Kentucky Horse Country Trip (camp guide Page 23), River Runners (camp guide Page 20), and Wyoming Adventure (camp guide Page 6).

## Grants for Campers

Did you know last year about 400 families received Grants for Campers to help their girl attend

Resident Camp in our council? About \$50,000 was awarded to these families based on their eligibility.

Grants for Campers requests may include one resident camp session or one troop summer camp session and one day-camp session up to \$250 per person, per fiscal/troop year. Grant for campers requests must be sent in with your camp registration. Follow the instructions for the camp to determine where to send your camp registration and grant request. **Independent income verification is required. A copy of the family's most recent federal tax return must be submitted with Grants for Campers request. Social Security and bank routing numbers should be marked out.**

The first round of Grants for Campers will be determined from requests received as of April 1. If funds remain, a second round may be awarded May 1. Remember all camp fees are required to be paid in full by June 1.

If you know of a Girl Scout that may need assistance to attend camp, you can find the form on our website at

[http://www.GSEIWI.org/newforms/grants/Grant\\_for\\_Campers\\_Form\\_1-11.pdf](http://www.GSEIWI.org/newforms/grants/Grant_for_Campers_Form_1-11.pdf)

Where to register?

When registering for camp by mail, to prevent delays, please mail to the following leadership centers:

Camp Conestoga – West Burlington  
Camp Little Cloud – Cedar Rapids  
Camp L-Kee-Ta – Quad Cities  
Camp Tahigwa – Quad Cities

Addresses are on Page 47 of the camp guide.

You may also register online at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org).

## Staff

The amazing people who think, wonder and dream of camp are busy planning for the summer. We are planning zany all-camps, turning some traditional camp experiences into a new unexpected camp experience, new places to explore, which crafts to do, how many marshmallows to purchase, and which recipes to use for the cookouts. And the list goes on and on.

## Camp Positions

If you know someone who is an amazing person, caring, fun, loves to hang with girls and teach them silly songs, or someone with lifeguarding or cooking skills who wants to be there supporting camp fun, please encourage them to apply by sending them to the website [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org) and click on "careers."

## Support our council camps

Please support our council camps by encouraging girls to attend camp this summer. Tell families to register and register early so we can hire the

amazing staff before they find other summer positions.

## How else can you help our camps?

Help spread the word about Girl Scout camps. Girls do not need to be current Girl Scouts to have this great outdoor experience. Fliers are being made that can be posted on community boards. We need volunteers willing to ask for permission to post fliers in your community. E-mail Kim at [KimB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimB@GSEIWI.org) with the number of fliers you would like mailed to you with your mailing address.

## Have we forgotten something?

If you have any questions about camp, please call Kim at 563-210-0729 or 800-798-0833 or e-mail [KimB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimB@GSEIWI.org).

Summer is just around the corner and with it holds many wonderful opportunities for girls to get outdoors and explore our many program options. One of those is volunteer-run day camps happening all over the council. Each camp has its unique traditions and annual theme for a variety of fun activities each day to keep girls engaged and learning outdoor skills as the week progresses. If you're interested in finding a day camp near you, or need help finding the registration form, please visit <http://www.GSEIWI.org/camp/site/volunteerrun/daycamps.html>

Just interested in finding the registration form for these camps? Visit <http://www.GSEIWI.org/newforms/camp/2011-Volunteer-run-day-camp-registration-form.pdf>

## Juliette Coordinator

Does your service unit have a Juliette Coordinator? If not, is there someone who would take on the responsibility of communicating with Juliettes? The Juliette Program is for any girl in grades K-12 who doesn't have time to be a part of a traditional troop, or for those girls that only want to participate in events.

We also have available a Juliette Program Packet that is a quarterly mailing for Juliettes, including council information, council events, crafts, games, service projects ideas, field trips and more. To receive this Juliette Program Packet, please send \$5 to: Attn: Juliette Packet, GSEIWI, 2530 University Ave., Ste 1, Waterloo IA 50701. The \$5 will help pay for shipping and handling of packet and cover the cost of supplies for one craft. If you have any questions regarding Juliettes, please contact our council's coordinator, Jamie Swart, at [JamieS@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JamieS@GSEIWI.org) or call 319-232-6601.

In addition, please inform Juliettes of any service unit and council events coming up. Juliettes also can participate in the Cookie Sale Program and attend camp.

TEAM Connections Newsletter

## Community Information Coordinator

March is the perfect time for our Community Information Coordinators to kick into gear and help promote Cookie Booth Sales in their service unit.

By monitoring the Cookie Booth Locator found on our homepage at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org), you can help spread the word to the various media and other venues in your area to support the troops and girls selling cookies.

Most media properties have online calendars where you can add events. This is the perfect place to make mention of booth sales. Go in and add the information on websites for newspapers, radio stations and TV stations. For instance, many radio stations use the information submitted for online calendars on the air.

If you know of other community websites and local Facebook pages, post the information there, too. This allows community members to know when booth sales are taking place so they can stock up on more Girl Scout Cookies!

Feel free to submit booth information to weekly newspapers and smaller daily newspapers as a news release using the template provided to you when you started as a CIC.

If you have questions, or you want to serve as a CIC for your service unit, please contact Chuck Gysi, director of marketing and communications, at 309.283-2359 or [ChuckG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ChuckG@GSEIWI.org).

## Safety Zone

We are seeing warmer temperatures and dreaming about going out to camp this spring and summer. It is always fun to invite parents to come along and join in the activities. Some things to remember when parents come along:

- Make sure they know what your expectations are of them. Are they to guide the girls in their activities or do it for them?
- Do they light the fires and do the cooking or do the girls? As the girls get older, they should be the ones lighting the camp fires and doing the cooking. Yes, we need adults close by to watch and help if needed, but not to take over. Remember: Let the girls burn the muffins!
- What about sleeping arrangements? It is better for girls to sleep together in one tent and adults to share a separate tent. The girls learn to rely on each other and not on their moms in the dark of the night.
- What if dads want to go? Sure, have them come along, but remember they must have separate tents and bathroom facilities.

Check out Safety Activity Checkpoint for group camping by going to: <http://www.GSEIWI.org/newforms/volunteer/ch>

[eckpoints/Group\\_Camping\\_Safety\\_Activity\\_Che ckpoints\\_2010.pdf](#) to learn more.

## Journeys

Some ideas from "It's Your Planet, Love It:"

### Daisy Between Earth & Sky

Create a firefly. Items needed: Clear water bottle, glow stick for each girl, google eyes, fun foam for the wings, and permanent markers to decorate. Have each girl cut out a pair of wings and glue them on their bottle. Have them decorate and add eyes to their bottle as well. When all is done, have them put their glow stick into the bottle, turn out the lights, and see your fireflies glow!!

### Brownie WOW

Make an edible ocean. Ingredients are Jell-O, gummy fish, clear cups. Make the Jell-O according to the soft set recipe. Have the girls fill their cups with the Jell-O. After a few minutes to set, place a few gummy fish in. Go onto a different activity and come back to this after Jell-O is set ... Edible Ocean – enjoy!!!

### Junior Get Moving

Snack idea. With toothpicks, paper towels and chocolate chip cookies, have the girls mine the chips out of the cookies just like you would mine coal from the earth!!!

### Cadette: Breathe

On Pages 50-55 are some great AIRY science experiments to try. One is about seeing and feeling air; another is testing the weight of air in a balloon, another is about air pressure and holding a cup full of water upside down with only an index card to hold the water in. Have the girls choose the ones they want to try and enjoy the results!

### Senior Sow What?

Did you know that the website of the Natural Resources Defense Council has a chart about what fruits and vegetables are in season for your area? Go to <http://www.simplesteps.org/eat-local> to check it out. It also gives you a link to the local farmers markets in your area ... how cool is that?

### Ambassador: Justice

Have an herb-tasting test. Gather a sampling of common herbs, such as basil, mint, chives, tarragon, dill, sage and parsley. Include a few less familiar herbs like lemon verbena, chervil, epazote. Rough chop and set them out. Have on hand some cream cheese and crackers to go with them. Have the girls sample the herbs one by one. Encourage them to sniff them and compare their colors and textures. Have them guess what dishes they are used for.

## School Organizers

It's time again for Petal Power! For those of you who aren't familiar with this program, this is a unique program for incoming kindergarten girls or for those kindergartners who weren't able to join a troop yet this year. When they sign up for Petal Power, they

get monthly packets from May-August mailed to their homes that they can do with their parents/families. With crafts, games, council info, volunteer resources and much more, it's a wonderful opportunity for new families to learn about Girl Scouts and get excited about being a Daisy over the summer. At the end of the summer, girls are invited to an event to learn more about being in a troop.

You can help us advertise this program to incoming kindergartners in your school. Find out when your school is holding Kindergarten Round-Up and let your RMM know. You could set up a booth during "Meet Your Teacher Night," put fliers in take-home packets or leave them where parents can see them on informational tables. Help us spread the word! Click on this link for the flier. For questions about this program, contact Laura Hahlen at [LauraH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:LauraH@GSEIWI.org) or 319-363-8335.

## World Thinking Day 2011

World Thinking Day 2011 was a great event with more than 1,100 girls and 400 adults attending. This year there were 26 country booths presented by troops from across the council. Eight community groups hosted booths as well, including Kids Against Hunger, World Relief, the Philippine-American Association, Family of Native Spirits, African American Museum of Iowa, Quad Cities Libraries, and international students from Scott Community College and Black Hawk College.

There were five performances throughout the day, including a troop-led flag ceremony and pinning ceremony and dance performances by community groups. Girls also were able to make a SWAP of their own, meet "Juliette Gordon Low," and learn about camp and international travel opportunities. World Thinking Day 2012 will be the kickoff for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouts and we already have 23 troops signed up to host country booths! For more information on the new country signup procedure for 2012, please check out [2012 registration information](#) and contact [StephanieW@GSEIWI.org](mailto:StephanieW@GSEIWI.org) before March 30, 2011.

## Leader Mentor

This is your time to really encourage new leaders to spring register! Remind them of the benefits such as: registering online thru eBiz will cut down on paper work and handling all that money, leaders can make any necessary changes to their troops' personal information right online, girls receive a cool patch, leaders will have continued access to eBiz, and troops will also receive a camp certificate to use at any of our Girl Scouts camps. You will want to be sure to show them the process for paper

registration as well. Grants for membership assistance cannot be done online. Those registrations will need to be turned into the SUR or Council Registrar.

**Resident camp registration is in full swing!** Be sure to talk to new leaders about the benefits of camp for the girls in their troop. Camp is such a great experience, and by spending time at your troop meeting looking through the camp guide, leaders can get girls excited about camp and encourage them to attend a summer session. If you have questions about camp, be sure to talk to the Leadership Experience Manager for your area ~ she will be sure to answer your questions.

**Cookie Delivery** is also going hot and heavy right now. PLEASE be sure to talk to your new leaders about the best ways to handle cookie payments. Most important tip: Be sure that you ALWAYS count cash and checks in front of the parent when they are turning in cookie money and give them a receipt. If you are \$50 short of what they say they have given you and you didn't count it in front of them, who makes up the difference?

This is also a great time to visit with new leaders about troop money. It is important for girls to have the opportunity to spend the money they have earned through product sales on events and activities during the year they earned it. Of course, if they are saving for a bigger trip, that is fine, but leaders should understand that the girls should get the benefit of their hard work. There have been lots of questions about how much money troops can carry over to the next year. Troops are NOT required to have a \$0 balance – it is good to carry some funds over for next fall's activities. Most importantly, be sure that you have a plan for your finances.

Remind leaders of how important it is to keep parents informed about troop money. They should be sure to give parents an accounting of the money earned and spent. A copy of the troop year-end financial report can be given to parents or at the very least be available at a court of awards or cookie incentives party. Parents who are kept informed are much more likely to be parents who participate, because they truly feel like they are a part of the troop.

## Registrar

Online spring registration is here. Many troops will have questions about utilizing this great tool. We have some great tools for you to utilize when answering questions [Click here](#) for spring registration information

To qualify for the Spring Registration incentives and 100 for \$100, troops must be registered (either to the SUR or online) by May 31, 2011. Service units

then have until June 10, 2011 to get materials back to the Leadership Center nearest them.

## Troop Leader Tips

Want some great ways to get your girls excited about spring reg?

Have a ceremony celebrating what you did for the year. Make sure to invite all the parents. This is a great time to talk about the next fall and gain some support.

Celebrate the year with a family campout or picnic. Go over the accomplishments for the year, how you spent your money and your plans for the upcoming year.

Get your girls together and ask what they want to do next year.

Borrow some of the resources (books and kits) from your Leadership Center library so girls might explore what they can do next.

Use your cookie profits to register the girls and adults for the coming membership year.

Remember this is a monumental year for Girl Scouts – we turn 100! Participating by spring registering ensures your girls are ready to take on the coming year and all of the fun planned.

## Treasurer

Let troop leaders know that it is OK to ask families to support the troop financially. Cookie sales are not always enough to fund the activities a troop participates in. Consider recommending a letter to families asking for support, hosting a planning meeting, have a ceremony and ask families to help financially support the troop with troop dues. As always, remember that transparency in how troops spend money will help gain support when families and girls know what is happening within the troop.

## Council Patch of the Month

### Local Heroes

This program is designed to help girls explore careers in human services. For each field of service, arrange for someone in the field to speak to your troop about their job. Learn about the history of the profession, education requirements, the impact of technology, women's involvement in the profession and the challenges and rewards for female professionals.

For more information on the Local Heroes patch and all the requirements, check out our website at <http://shop.gseiwi.org/store/product/7725/Local-Heroes/>. To order patches with the 15 percent

discount, visit one of our council shops or shop online at <http://shop.GSEIWI.org/store/>.

## Adult Learning Coordinator

With spring fast approaching and the incentive of a night at camp for spring registration, there may be leaders who have not had training and would like to have it so they can take their girls out for a night at camp. If you have enough interest, offer Overnight/Troop Readiness in your Service Unit to get them started.

There are many outdoor trainers (check to see whether there is one in your service unit) who would come and give that session for you. This will give them the skills to take the girls to a lodge at one of the camps. Next, have them sign up for Camp Skills at one of our camps.

The training is being offered in a variety of locations this spring. Check out the Adult Learning Calendar for upcoming dates. There also will be an opportunity to get trained if the troop goes to either Camp L-Kee-Ta's or Camp Tahigwa's Troop Camping this summer. All troop summer camp sessions include meals, snacks and staff-led programming and adults do not have to be completely trained to go. They will get their training while attending these sessions with the girls. Encourage all your leaders to review the new camp guide that recently was sent out to all families and is also available on our website – a link is on the home page at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org) and will link you to all the camp information. Review it yourself to help them with any questions they may have.

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

Plans for our celebration of the 100th anniversary are moving right along. Our newest addition is a 100th Anniversary song contest! We are asking for girls and adults to write us a song to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. It's a contest! The song can be simple or intricate – one melody or harmonious parts – funny or serious. The theme is Girl Scouts and the 100th Anniversary. Our winner will have the honor of having their song performed at the girl kickoff event and receive a \$25 iTunes gift card.

We are still looking for volunteers for a few positions (camporee committee, girls chorus leaders, service unit event planners, etc) All of these are listed on the [100th Anniversary webpage](#), so check that out.

## National Convention 2011

Be sure to check the website for the latest updates on the [convention](#). There is an Interest Indicator form for volunteers who would be interested in attending the convention as an official visitor. We have a committee that is planning this trip, and it will

include some tourist options! Keep watching the website. Also on the website are two additional interest indicators for some volunteer positions at the convention – for convention Tellers and Parliamentary Aides.

The Leadership Experience Department is planning to take a girl contingent to the [Girl Scout Leadership Institute](#) as a part of the National Convention. Girls who are interested in attending can contact [Hailey Workman](#).

## Program Event Coordinator

Check out your [Events-At-A-Glance](#) for all the fun coming your way!

Keep your eyes open this month for the Girl Trip to the National Convention. We can take only 10 young women ages 13-18 to the Girl Scout Leadership Institute at the convention. It will surely be an awesome and unique opportunity for those involved. Check the Girl Scout Leadership Institute information on our website for more information as it becomes available. Girls who are interested in attending can contact [Hailey Workman](#).

## For Your Information

Property Chats:

**Dubuque area:** March 8 – 6 to 8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2155 University Ave., Dubuque. Please confirm your attendance by calling 563.583.9169

**Burlington area:** March 21 – 6 to 8 p.m., Burlington Area Girl Scout Leadership Center, 1308 Broadway St., West Burlington. Please confirm your attendance by calling 319.752.3639

**Waterloo area:** March 22 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4000 Hudson Road, Cedar Falls. Please confirm your attendance by calling 319.232.6601

**Quad Cities area:** March 24 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Quad Cities Area Girl Scout Leadership Center, 2011 Second Ave., Rock Island, Ill. Please confirm your attendance by calling 309.788.0833

**Cedar Rapids area:** April 7 – 6 to 8 p.m., Human Services Campus of East Central Iowa, Cedar Rapids Area Girl Scout Leadership Center, 317 Seventh Ave. SE, Second Floor, Cedar Rapids. Please confirm your attendance by calling 319.363.8335

**Decorah area:** April 12 – 6 to 8 p.m., Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago St., Decorah. Please confirm your attendance by calling 563.387.0979

## Recognition Coordinator

### Online Recognition Coordinator Training

Coming soon: Online Recognition Coordinator training. Want an update to your training? Take it online!

### Service Unit Celebrations

Don't know what to do for your Service Unit celebration? Here are some fun ideas to incorporate into your next celebration:

Have a silent auction where volunteers get "Daisy bucks" (Monopoly money) throughout the year to spend on items. They earn "money" by doing things that benefit Girl Scouting. You will need to plan ahead for this and start at the beginning of the year.

Make your celebration a one-stop place to turn in end-of-the-year paper work too. Provide a fun, inexpensive giveaway for each item turned in.

Do a gardening theme and invite a Master Gardener to do a demonstration on container gardening. Use the containers as door prizes at the end of the event.

Throw a birthday party to celebrate everyone's birthday all in one day. Have balloons, cake and ice cream.

Make your recognition celebration into an Oscar Night. Buy little statues and present them with their volunteer awards and pins. Have someone take pictures and give to each recipient. Hand out free movie passes or movie rental coupons. Have a "concession stand" where volunteers can get soda, popcorn, candy, etc.

Do your girls and/or service unit need to complete a community service project? Combine it with your event and have some fun time while helping someone else.

Make your recognition purely about fun. Give out recognitions as the volunteers come in the door and then take a riverboat cruise, go to a comedy club, go to a wine tasting, learn line dancing, have a spa afternoon, go see a movie, hold a chocolate party, have a game night, go to a museum, and on and on.

Have a day at camp without the girls. Go do all the fun things you used to do at camp or with your girls. Don't forget to make s'mores and sing camp songs!

## Leader's Day

Leader's Day (April 22) is just around the corner. We are giving girls lots of ideas on how to send their

leader(s) a message and let her know how awesome she is and thank her for all of the great things she has done for her troop. Girls can take a video of the girls in her troop and send a message of thanks to her leader. Maybe it will be a song, or a skit, or just a creative idea to let her know how much she cares.

Second idea: girls can go to our website and find the Leader Day link. There are several cards that they can personalize and e-mail directly to their leader(s). If girls really want to surprise their leaders, they can plan a surprise party for leaders or make yard signs to post in her yard that say – Best Girl Scout Leader EVER!

If you have girls of your own in another troop, encourage them to do this for their leader. It means so much to them and is a simple way for girls to show how much they appreciate everything their leaders do.

## Product Sales

**Cookie Booths: Did your troop make as much money in the Cookie Sale Program as what you needed for activities throughout the year?**

If not, consider holding a cookie booth. Cookie booths are a quick and easy way to sell 25-40 packages an hour. Cookie booths are fun for the girls while providing lots of great skills that will benefit their program experience. Contact [MarilynA@GSEIWI.org](mailto:MarilynA@GSEIWI.org) or (800) 798-0833 to have your booth listed on the Cookie Booth Locator, online at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org). For more information on cookie booths, consult your Troop Product Manager Guidebook or visit our [website cookie page](#).

## Troop 2 Troop

Last year, Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois gave 15,000 boxes of cookies to Iowa's Bravest and River Bend Troop Support for distribution to soldiers from Iowa and Illinois. That number was up from the 4,400 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies shipped from the region in 2009.

This year we are proud to announce that our council will donate more than **31,000** packages to Iowa's Bravest and Riverbend Troop Support!

## Important Cookie Sale Program Dates:

Cookie Cupboards and Cookie Booths will be available **Feb. 26-April 23**.

Troop cookie sale checks are due to the SUPM **no later than March 23**.

Troop recognition orders should be committed **no later than 11 p.m. CST on March 23**.

Service Units Reach 2010/2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congratulations to the following service units that hit their end-of-year membership goal in the month of February:

SU 615 Dunkerton

SU 622 Buchanan

SU 821 Washington

SU 806 NW Cedar Rapids

SU 809 SE Cedar Rapids

SU 810 SW Cedar Rapids

SU 890 Alpha

SU 897 Knox

SU 858 Pleasant Valley

### Kudos Korner

Kudos to UNI Cheer and Dance Clinic that was held on Feb. 5, which was a great success. With more than 165 girls in attendance, the girls learned a cheer from the Cheer Team and a dance routine from the Dance Team. They also received a surprise visit from UNI's mascot, T.C. the panther. Later in the afternoon, the girls were able to put what they learned to the test and performed for more than 200 people parents and guardians the different routines that they learned. The girls were smiling ear to ear and had so much enthusiasm and confidence when performing for their parents.

Kudos to Sherry Bierman, the new Service Unit Director (SUD) for Service Unit 847 in the DeWitt area! Sherry has been involved with Girl Scouts for four years with her daughter, Emily. Sherry loves volunteering with Girl Scouts because she can help girls become involved with their community through service projects and other crafty activities. As the new SUD, Sherry plans to grow Girl Scouting within their community with the help of her other volunteers and bring in more activities and opportunities for their girls to become strong and confident leaders!

Kudos to Angela Wright, the Service Unit Registrar of SU 810 in Cedar Rapids. Prior to cookie sales, Angela spent hours going thru her SU and following up with troops to make sure that they were all registered and ready for the Cookie Sale. She was also determined to make sure that the SU had 100 percent participating in the cookie sale. Way to go, Angela, and thanks for all your hard work!

Kudos to our Recognition Coordinators! They have planned fun activities for service unit meetings, made sure the volunteer nominations and girl scholarships were submitted by the deadline, and recently helped the organizers of the Green and White celebrations to honor volunteers at pilot schools. We are so fortunate to have these fun

volunteers who enjoy saying thanks to all of you. Take a minute at your next service unit meeting to say "thanks" to them. They deserve it!

### Girl Scout Voices Survey

Calling all Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes!

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](http://www.girlscoutvoices.org) by March 21 and get your chance to win one of 10 gift cards worth \$100 each.

[Note: If you are under 13, you will need your parents' permission to sign up. So, be sure to visit the [www.girlscoutvoices.org](http://www.girlscoutvoices.org) link with one of your parents.] If you have questions about this research project, please contact Hillary Blevins at [HillaryB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:HillaryB@GSEIWI.org) or 800-798-0833.

### Tell Us Your Story

In 100 years, Girl Scouts have produced many girls of courage, confidence and character. Every woman who has been a Girl Scout has a story.

In 2012, Girl Scouts of the USA will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois has planned a number of ways to help observe this momentous milestone. One of these ways we plan to celebrate will be the publishing of a limited-edition book that tells your stories of Girl Scouts.

We're currently collecting during March stories of 250 words or less from anyone – past and current Girl Scouts, young or old – who have had anything to do with Girl Scouts, as a girl or as a volunteer. Your story can be about you, your friends, your daughter, your mother, or any memories you care to share with us to help celebrate Girl Scouts' centennial. We know Girl Scouts has made a difference in the lives of many women and girls and those are the stories we want to hear. Has attending a Girl Scout event launched you into a successful science career? Were you able as a Girl Scout to help make the world a better place? Have you as a volunteer seen a girl grow because of her Girl Scout experience? These are the stories we want to hear about.

Additional information can be found on the home page of our website at <http://www.GSEIWI.org> and click on the The 100 Year Anniversary Book Project item. Questions? Call your local Girl Scout Leadership Center or 800.798.0833.