

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:

The school year is coming to an end but that doesn't mean that troops can't continue to meet through the summer and take part in some great summer time activities. If you spring registered your troop, plan a trip out to camp, either a day trip or an overnight. [Click here for a link to camp information.](#)

Your Regional Membership Manager will be working with you over the summer to make plans for our 100th Year of Girl Scouting. We can't wait to brainstorm ideas with you on how to make next year a great one for troop leaders and girls alike. When your scheduling your meeting, bring other members to the table that can help us plan, get inspired and think outside the box. Girl Scouting looks different today than it did in 1912 and it can continue to take a different shape to meet our girls needs.

In August, we will be holding a number of "kick offs" for service team members. The purpose of these will be to share with you information on the coming year and to recognize you for all you do for Girl Scouts. If you are interested in helping to host one in your region, please contact me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org.

Thanks to all of you that submitted a story for our 100th anniversary book. There are so many wonderful people that have helped inspire and guide our organization through the years and we want to make sure we recognize them. If you haven't submitted something but have a story to tell, email it to NancyR@GSEIWI.org.

Summer camp registration is in full swing. Encourage your troop leaders to talk to parents about resident camp and troop camping. Camp is a safe, nurturing, and a fun learning experience that girls will carry with them all of their lives. At a recent property chat, I got to hear first hand from some girl campers who are now camp staff about the difference camp made in their lives. They learned new skills, learned to enjoy the great outdoors, and made lifelong friends – all in a safe, non threatening environment. Where can you go these days to find that? Please encourage parents to check out [our website](#) to learn more about the great opportunities available to the girls this summer.

As you read through this edition of Team Connections, think of things your service unit and troops have done that we need to celebrate, and share those at your next service unit meeting. Are they newsworthy? Is there someone on your team who is a link to the local paper? How can we share with the public all the great things Girl Scouts are doing in their troops and for the community? If you have some ideas, email me at BrendaL@GSEIWI.org.

Congratulations and thank you to all of you service team members for the time you spend planning and conducting meetings, giving advice, passing along information, planning events for girls, holding recruitments, and giving every girl the opportunity to be a part of Girl Scouts. YOU ROCK!

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Leadership Summit is 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.

Service Unit Director

Hot topics for May:

- Spring Registration – Deadline for getting in spring registration is May 31. Service units can receive \$100 if they have 100% participation.
- President's Award – the deadline has been extended to July 31 and you can submit for both last year and this year. Your RMM will help you with the paperwork.
- Save the date – October 8 for a leadership summit coming to each region. This will be for all Girl Scout volunteers.

Registrar

The 2012 membership forms are now available online:

- [2012 Dues Summary](#)
- [2012 Girl Registration Form](#)
- [2012 Adult Registration Form](#)

Registration for next year is in full swing! Please remind leaders that all registrations are due by May 31, 2011. Reregister online and set up your troop management hub. [Click here for eBiz](#).

Follow these easy [step by step instructions](#) to create a username and password.

School Organizers

It's time to celebrate our schools and especially those that reached Gold Star status. Regional Membership Managers are working on certificates for all bronze, silver and gold star schools and will be delivering them to the schools. If you would like to help with this process at your school, please let your RMM know.

Leader Mentor

The school year is coming to a close and troops will be thinking about award celebrations. Our website has information on holding a [court of awards](#). We also have [videos](#) for holding a court of awards ceremony.

We also have some [ideas for keeping troops active](#) over the summer. Be sure to check those out!

Be prepared to answer questions regarding the [Leader Review](#) and the [Troop Finance Report](#). Your new leaders will probably have questions as they work through the Spring Registration information.

The website also has a new online learning course on [Troop Finances](#). Be sure to check it out so that you can recommend it to your leaders.

As you meet with your Service Team this summer, be sure to talk about how your service unit matches new leaders with Leader Mentors. Having that process in place will make things run much smoother this fall.

Treasurer

With Spring Registration wrapping up, now is the time to encourage the troop leaders to fill out the [troop financial report](#). Talk to them about suggested ways to spend some of that hard earned cookie money over the summer on activities with the girls. There are lots of great Day Camps happening!

Mobile Market Coordinator

New! Shop News - A newsletter announcing summer hours, Saturday hours, closing dates and Shop Specials! [Click here to view](#). Plus:

- [Great Starter Kits for Girls and Volunteers](#)
- [2011 Camper Care Kits](#)

We are always looking for more mobile market coordinators. Troop leaders have told us they value this service. If you or someone on your team is willing to be a mobile market coordinator, please contact Linda at LindaH@GSEIWI.org.

Outdoor Program Coordinator

Camp Rallies- if your team is interested in hosting one please let us know! Each girl who attends your rally gets a \$5 coupon towards a summer camp experience. For a Rally Packet, patches or coupons please contact HaileyW@GSEIWI.org or call 319-752-3639.

Troop & Service Unit Camping- with the new summer camp structure comes lots of great opportunities for troops & service units to rent and use camp for meetings, events or just for fun during the summer. Contact the appropriate camp ranger for availability and to make a reservation.

Check [page 47](#) of the Camp Guide for details on camp workdays and camp open house.

Open house dates are:

- May 1: Camp Little Cloud 1-3 p.m.
- May 15: Camp Tahigwa 1-3 p.m.
- May 22: Camp L-Kee-Ta 1-3 p.m.
- June 12: Camp Conestoga 1-3 p.m.

We are highlighting Troop Summer Camp Staff and activities on the [GSEIWI Facebook page](#) each week.

This summer, we will be offering the families of campers a new experience. At each of our troop camps and summer resident camps, we'll have a staffer who will be recording the girls' activities each day and posting photos and write-ups and maybe even video on a blog individualized to each camp. This is your opportunity to see what the girls are doing every day while they are at camp. Our families have asked for a way to connect with the girls while they are camping and we're excited to hire staff to help us make this happen.

To find the blog for the camp your girls will be attending this summer, visit our [home page](#) this summer. Click on the link on the home page when camp is in session and it will take you to the blog for each camp. We hope you enjoy this feature from our camps this summer.

There is still time to register for camp! Some sessions are full and have waiting lists and others may be cancelled due to not enough registrations. Please register as soon as possible so we can hire staff and prepare for your visit to camp.

Juliette Coordinator

Spring Registration letters and membership forms have been sent out to all Juliettes. Remind them that if their forms are back to the Council by May 31, 2011 they will receive the spring registration patch.

Adult Learning Coordinator

Be sure to direct leaders to our website to get all of the newest information on the newest resources from GSUSA, the [Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting](#). There are videos, PowerPoints and several handouts to give you a peek at what is in store. You will love these newest resources!

With a theme of "Let's Celebrate!" this month, please introduce some great ways troops can celebrate a great year in Girl Scouting. Have a special ceremony or Court of Awards/Bridging Ceremony which includes parents, this a great way to celebrate all of the fun and learning that has gone on. Girls can do skits, have an art show, or talk about what try-its/badges/journeys that they have earned. [Click here](#) to see what a court of awards or bridging ceremony could look like.

If you can get your hands on *Let's Celebrate or Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* from your Leadership Center library, have them on hand to give leaders some suggestions for these ceremonies. But remember the best ceremonies are the ones the girls plan themselves. Use this [link](#) to show them how to plan and it will be uniquely theirs!

Program Event Coordinator

Trips- [Click here](#) for details about all the awesome places Girl Scouts can go this summer and fall!

- **June 25, 2011:** Junior Trip: St Louis, MO
- **June 16-16, 2011:** Cadette Trip: Chicago, IL
- **July 12-19, 2011:** International Trip: Europe
- **November 9-13, 2011:** National Convention: Leadership Institute: Houston, TX

Spaces are still available on these trips (*except the International Trip*) so register today. For more information [contact us](#).

There are a number of programs happening in the next several months, check out our website or follow the link to the [events-at-a-glance](#).

Recognition Coordinator

By now you have hopefully had a chance to meet with your service unit team and arrange for a celebration where you can recognize the volunteers in your service unit who are receiving awards. Think about getting them a fun little trinket, a patch, or a certificate. You don't need to get them anything at all, just have them stand up and say congratulations on their award.

Please don't forget the deadline for the President's Award has been extended to July 31. [Click here](#) for the recognition form. Ask your Regional Membership Manager to help you with the numbers, and have your service unit team help you with the rest. It is a great honor to receive this award, so don't miss out!

Recognition Coordinator adult learning is now online! Go to our [Adult Learning page](#) and click on the online course for Recognition Coordinator. Not only is having the training online a great resource for new Recognition Coordinators, but if you haven't gone through training in a while or you would just like a brush-up, feel free to take it too. Have suggestions for improvement? Contact [Deb Boyd](#).

MAY CHECKLIST

- Have fun at the Service Unit end of the year celebration. Recognize volunteers who have achieved 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.
- Put a plan in place to achieve President's Award criteria for next year.

Product Sales Manager

It's time to celebrate the success of the 2011 Cookie Sale Program! Check out these great numbers:

1. Number of packages sold:
2010 – 1,772,916
2011 – 1,953,168
2. Per Girl Average
2010 – 129.5
2011 – 132.5
3. Girl Participation Percentage
2010 – 82.8%
2011 – 87%
4. 500 Box Sellers
2010 – 180 girls
2011 – 247 girls
5. 100% Service Units
2010 – 21
2011 – 49
6. Cookie Share
2010 – 16,200 packages
2011 – 30,888 packages

We would like to send out a special thank-you to the Service Unit Product Managers and Cookie Cupboard Managers for the extra time and effort they put in to help make this program a huge success. We couldn't have done it without their hard work and dedication to the girls.

Community Information Coordinator

As your service unit is sharing all its accomplishments this year, be thinking about ways to share those in your community. What community service projects did the troop complete? How many girls received high awards? What great events did the service unit host? If you have ideas or need help thinking of some, contact BrendaL@GSEIWI.org.

Girl Scout High Awards

May- Requirements for Finishing

There are time limits that girls have to submit their High Award Final Report, make sure to plan accordingly so you do not miss the cut off:

- The Girl Scout Bronze Award: Juniors can submit until September 30 of their 6th grade

year, but cannot have bridged up to Cadettes before submitting.

- The Girl Scout Silver Award: Cadettes can submit final reports until September 30 of their 9th grade year, but cannot have bridged up to Seniors before submitting.
- The Girl Scout Gold Award: High School girls have until September 30 after their 12th grade year, but they cannot have started college and waiting this long is NOT recommended.

[Click here](#) for more High Awards information.

Safety Zone

There are a lot of activities that girls can do as the weather gets warmer. It is important to always check the [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for any activity that you do. For this month, theme parks will be the feature, since starting now and through the summer many troops will be hitting the road and going to a theme park.

- History: Roller coasters have come a long way since the first coaster—built as a means of transporting coal down a Pennsylvania mountain—was invented in 1872. Much like architects who try to win the “world’s tallest building” recognition, roller-coaster designers and theme parks try to outdo records for largest, fastest, and tallest amusement-park ride.
- Safety: To ensure a safe theme-park experience, it's important to communicate with girls about ride and crowd safety, and to encourage girls to act responsibly. Search for U.S. theme parks by state at About.com. Remember that some theme parks have height restrictions for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies.

****Caution:** Girls are not allowed to operate motorized vehicles, such as go-carts, without council permission.

For more information on [Theme Parks](#) go to the Safety Activity Checkpoints on our website.

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. Also notice that there are 2 volunteer opportunities at the convention for those interested.

Don't forget about the girls! There are ten spots available to attend the girl Leadership Institute at the National Convention. For trip costs and more information [contact us](#).

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.

We are also happy to announce that the kick off to the 100th Girl Scout Birthday celebration will be held along with World Thinking Day at the River Center in Davenport, Iowa! This event promises to be amazing! We will have everything that makes World Thinking Day great plus everything that makes Girl Scouts the world's foremost leadership experience for girls.

This will be an event to travel for, with an increased attendance capacity, so "save the date" for Saturday, March 10, 2012! Let everyone know this event should not be missed. It only happens once every 100 years! If you are interested in volunteering, hosting a troop booth, or have questions please contact StephanieW@GSEIWI.org.

Service Units Reach 2010-2011 Girl Membership Goal

Congrats to Service Unit 618 Chickasaw for meeting your membership goal!

Want to see your Service Unit listed here? There is plenty of time for girls to join Girl Scouts. We have so many great things happening this summer girls won't want to miss out (and neither will her parents!) We want you to be added to the list of service units that have hit their goal, need some ideas to get there? Make sure you talk to your RMM and below are some extra ideas to get you going!

- Petal Power! This is a great way to introduce girls to Girl Scouts and to help reach your goal (INSERT LINK)
- Invite a friend to an event
- Camp Rallies that invite ALL girls in your area.
- Having a day camp? Invite new girls to attend!
- Host a fun day at the pool (following the Safety Check points of course)

Whatever you do, remember that Girl Scouting strives to provide all girls an experience that will help her become a girl of courage, confidence, and character that makes the world a better place. We can do that by continuing to invite girls to join. Thank you for all of your hard work and I hope we can add some more service units to the next issue.

Kudos Korner

We had a record number of volunteer recognition nominations this year. First, thank you to everyone who took the time to turn in nominations and letters on behalf of well-deserving volunteers. Second, a huge thank you to the **recognition committee** who spent many hours looking over all the council and girl scholarship submissions to ensure volunteers got the recognition they deserve.

- SU616- Decorah area Winneshiek – this SU is great at hosting events to continually provide not only the girls they serve but also the Parents. From a Juliette Low Birthday Party in October where they girls got to learn all about living in 1912 to a Mother Daughter Tea in March, these ladies know how to keep it fun and lively.
- Thank you to Michelle Rolling for over ten years of Girl Scouting experience! Michelle is the service unit director and product sales manager for service unit/volunteer team 841. Anyone who knows Michelle can tell you she is extremely crafty and always has a funny story to share. Thank you Michelle for all of the leadership and support you provide to your volunteers!
- SU 836 – Kudos to Mindy Stark for providing leadership to a team of incredibly talented and caring troop leaders. At a recent service unit meeting the team held their own dessert throw down using Girl Scout cookies, with community members as judges. Mindy one first prize with her Caramel deLites Cheesecake.
- KUDOS to the entire volunteer Trail Leader and Ranch Hand staff. They run the horseback riding program through cold, wet, heat without a complaint. I can always count on them to come for their workdays and often in between if the program has a need. This very popular program could not happen without their constant efforts. Thanks equestrian staff, the girls and I really appreciate you. -Jo Dumar

Journey ideas

Using the Journeys out of doors!
The weather is warming up and it's always fun to do activities out of doors. Here are some suggestions for some variations on the journey themes that can be done outdoors. [Click here](#) for more details!

For Your Information

Do you love horses? [Click here](#) to learn all about opportunities with our Equestrian Program!