

Help the Hungry

Girls in grades K-12 are invited to help support the 2008 council service theme of Help the Hungry. This flier will provide you with suggestions on how your girls can get involved and help your community.

Help the Hungry Council Patch Program

This council-sponsored patch program is located in the Fall 2008-Spring 2009 Event Guide on page 36. Girls in all grades are welcome to work with this program. Troops are on their honor for completing the program and patches can be bought at any Girl Scout Shop. For more information, please contact your Program Manager.

Make A Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is a national day of service that happens in October of each year. The theme for this year's service event was making birthday boxes for food pantries, head starts, and homeless shelters. If you are interested in duplicating the idea in your area, contact your Program Manager for more information.

Local Food Drives

Many areas of the council already host food drives in their communities. It's important to keep those traditions going. If there are already food drives happening in your area, consider combining efforts to support the traditions already present, or start your own Girl Scout Food Drive as a town/school/service area effort. Food drives can be organized in many ways. They range from the simple to day long events. Some suggestions for simple ways to collect food are listed below.

- ◆ Have food collection barrels at schools and ask that students bring cans of food for a time period and then have Girl Scout troops collect the barrels and deliver the food to the food pantry. Remember to ask your school what would work for them.
- ◆ Have girls bring a can of food to each troop meeting. Keep track of how many pounds of food your group alone has collected.
- ◆ Consider attaching service to any of your planned Girl Scout events by having part of the admission "fee" be food items to be donated.

Meals on Wheels Programs

See if your community offers meals to senior citizens. Many troops have made table/tray favors for the recipients of these meals. Make this a rotating service project for the troops in an area as meals happen throughout the year. Ornaments, cards and other small items that help the elderly know that they are appreciated and thought of.

Meals for people in need

See if your local churches, community halls or civic groups provide meals for families in need. Many do offer meals throughout the year and need extra volunteers to help set up, cook, serve and cleanup. Make it a community-wide Girl Scout effort and put your troops on rotation to assist. This might be a good way to bring Girl Scouting to girls by not only helping with the meal but by also providing programming for the children who attend these meals.

Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day happens April 24-26. Your group can pick any service project that they would find rewarding and hold it during that time. Spring is a time when many food pantries need their stock replenished. Food drives during this time would be greatly appreciated.

And Finally....

Contact your local food pantries, homeless shelters, head start programs, etc. and ask them what their needs are. Have your girls brainstorm on how they can help meet those needs. Remember that Girl Scouts are prohibited from raising money for another organization. Guidance for this is available from your Program Manager and your Volunteer Resource Guide.

Track your service hours by using the Scoops For Service council-sponsored patch program, listed on page 45 of the Fall 2008-Spring 2009 Event Guide.



Girl Scout Days

Special Days in Girl Scouting—All Year Long!

- ◆ **Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, or Founder's Day, October 31**, marks the 1860 birth of Girl Scouts of the USA founder Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia. Juliette started the organization in 1912.
- ◆ **World Thinking Day, February 22**, celebrates the birthdays of Girl Guide/Girl Scout founder Robert, Lord Baden-Powell (1857-1941) and World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell (1889-1977). To learn about this year's World Thinking Day focus, visit www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day In the United States, Girl Scouting grew out of the friendship between Juliette Gordon Low and Lord Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, who began Girl Guiding. World Thinking Day celebrates that friendship and the sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the globe. This day is also a time to donate funds to the **Juliette Low World Friendship Fund**.
- ◆ **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, Georgia.
- ◆ **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 Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath** give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout. If a place of worship is the group sponsor, girls may perform a service, such as greeting, ushering or hosting a flag ceremony. These days can also be a time when girls explore other faiths.
- ◆ **Girl Scout Leader's Day, April 22**, honors all the volunteers who work as leaders and mentors in partnership with girls. Girls, their families and communities should find a special way to thank their adult Girl Scout volunteers.



Girl Scouts[®]
Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois