



# What's New in GSSJC

Summer 2009

A newsletter for service unit administrators, volunteers and troop leaders

Volume 7, Issue 6

## In This Issue

- GSSJC Fall Open House
- Troop Leader Survey
- Adult Recognition Event Rescheduled
- Good News!
- Summer Recruitment Tips
- Financial Assistance Contributions
- Troop Financials are DUE!
- The Emerald Circle
- Let the Summer Activities Begin!
- SU Contributions to Urban Campout
- ¿Que Pasa?
- LMK Promotional Tool Kit

## Plus...

- Outstanding Work! (Service Units Which Have Met Goal)
- Save These Dates
- June and July Special Dates

## GSSJC Fall Open House

"Discover Girl Scouts" is the theme of the GSSJC Fall Open House, scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 10 am to 3 pm. The event will include hands-on activities for girls of all ages and their families via *girl-run* booths (outdoor and indoor) across the Houston GS Center/Program Place for Girls facility. Plans are underway for many of GSSJC's special interest groups to participate, allowing girls to 'discover the treasures' of staying in Girl Scouts. Registration and re-registration opportunities will be available for troops and individuals. Volunteer information will be available about training, finding info on the GSSJC Web site, learning about the fall product sale opportunities, and much more. Girls and adults are encouraged to bring a friend and take a tour of the Goodykoontz Museum of Girl Scout History, visit the Council shop or library, and enjoy a s'more at the outdoor fire pit while they are at the event. Save the date on your calendar and watch for more information in the August and September issues of "What's New in GSSJC."



## Troop Leader Survey

The end of year leader survey is now available! The Council's Web site home page provides a link to the survey for easy access. Please encourage all troop leaders in your service unit to take a few minutes to complete it and provide paper copies of the survey to those who do not have Internet access. Contact Sally Swanson if multiple copies are needed ([sswanson@sjgs.org](mailto:sswanson@sjgs.org) or 713-292-0279).

The annual leader survey is an important tool, which provides valuable feedback. The responses help improve internal Council processes and operations. Council uses the collected responses as outcome measurements for United Way and other funders. This year, the survey has been modified to include questions on computer access and Internet usage, customer service support, and the Leadership Experience.

## News Flash!

## Adult Recognition Event Rescheduled



The 2009 Adult Recognition Event has been rescheduled for **Saturday, August 29, 2009** at the Agnes Arnold Lodge. Those who purchased tickets for the previous date have been notified. We will welcome new attendees (those not previously registered) on a first come, first serve basis up to capacity limits. The GSSJC Recognitions Committee has been gracious enough to continue to accept paperwork for 2008-09 awards that will be given at the Event. The deadline for submission of new awards is Friday, July 24.

Please assist us in communicating this information to our membership and write in the event for August 29 on your calendars!



## OUTSTANDING WORK!

35 service units have met their membership goals for the 08-09 year! Congratulations!

Bay Breeze  
Bending Bayous  
Bluebonnet Meadows  
Bluebonnet Way  
Braes Link  
Buffalo  
Canal Vista  
Cane Island  
Compass Rose  
Dogwood Blossoms  
Dogwood Hills  
Dream Catchers  
Eastern Rise  
Eastern Shore  
Edgewood  
Happy Trails  
Heart of the Brazos  
Heather Meadows  
Hummingbird Way  
Matagorda  
Meadowbrook  
Morning Dew  
Museum Oaks  
North Star  
Pine Branch  
Pine Creek  
Rainbow Springs  
Rainbow Stars  
Silver Spur  
Smile S'more  
Southern Stars  
Tall Pines Hill  
Tannybo  
Topnocs  
Westmoreland

(registrations processed as of 4/30/09)

## Good News!

On June 1, service unit administrators will be able to access the newly revised **Service Unit Plan of Action for 2009-2010** and the **Administrative Planning Guide for 2009-2010** on the Council Web site in the Leader Resources/SU Admin folder. These tools will help each service unit plan and prepare for the new 2009-2010 membership year.



The Service Unit Support form (GSSJC F-15), used to list the many volunteers and their specific roles in the service unit structure, has been revised and is available in the Forms section of the GSSJC Web site in an editable format! This is a great form to use when providing new (and returning) troop leaders with this important information. The on-line form has the option to highlight the editable fields, making it easy to use, and is able to be saved on your own computer for future use. Try it out!

## Summer Recruitment Tips

- ◆ Don't forget to reach out to homeschoolers. They do not have access to fall recruitment flyers and sometimes think that Girl Scouting is only for public school students. Circulate Girl Scout information to libraries, school supply stores and bookstores where homeschoolers visit. Homeschooling families already registered in Girl Scouting are great recruitment resources. Ask them to spread the word at support group meetings and post Girl Scout information to their e-mail group lists.
- ◆ Neighborhood newsletters offer a great forum to promote Girl Scouting. This is an excellent project for press corps reps during the summer. An article depicting Girl Scouting in general, all of the neat things that San Jacinto Council has to offer girls and what to expect at a Girl Scout rally in the fall is an excellent way to educate parents in advance! Surely, they will be thrilled to discover that their daughter is joining the premier organization for all girls, building character, values and skills for a lifetime. And from such an article, parents will better understand the rally process: that an appeal will be made for volunteer leaders at the event and that a troop with a trained, appointed leader probably will not be awaiting them! (FYI: please submit any written copy to your membership manager to proof in advance of publication.)
- ◆ Usually in July, schools hold registrations for new students who have recently moved into the area. As always, seek permission to distribute flyers to parents of these girls.
- ◆ Sitting around the neighborhood pool? Waiting for your daughter to finish her swim team practice? Talk about Girl Scouting with others! Invite other moms and dads to get involved in their daughter's life and become a Girl Scout volunteer! Sometimes, it just takes someone to ask!



## Financial Assistance Contributions

Thank you to the following service units for making a donation to the Council for financial assistance granted to girls and adults in their membership areas. Through their generosity, many more girls and adults were able to enjoy the benefits of Girl Scouting.

Area 4, Spindletop	Area 14, Spring Creek
Area 6, Goose Creek	Area 20, Buffalo
Area 11, Woodland Forest	Area 25, Bending Bayous
Area 13, Sunshine Meadows	Area 28, Yellow Rose



## Save These Dates

**July 26**

Take Note Choir  
sings the National  
Anthem @ the  
Houston Astros  
Game!

**August 29**

Adult Recognition  
Event

**September 12**

Fall Open House  
@ GS Center/  
Program Place

## Summer Training Events

**June 13**

Teen Advisor Day

**July 11**

Junior Leadership  
Day

**July 25**

Daisy/Brownie  
Leadership Day

**August 7-9**

Aquatics, Health  
and Safety  
Weekend

**August 15**

Focus on Success  
Adult Training

## Troop Financials are DUE!

Have you missed your service unit's May meeting and still haven't turned in your troop's financial report? There is still time! Check with your service unit treasurer to see if she/he has turned in any troop financial reports to their membership manager. If not, add your troop's report to the stack yet to be submitted. If the service unit has already given the troop financial reports to the membership manager, you should make a copy of your troop's report to give to the service unit treasurer and send the original (or a copy) to:

Membership Department/Administrative Assistant  
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council  
3110 Southwest Freeway  
Houston, TX 77098

*Every* troop in Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council is responsible to report the financial status of their troop each year. This is done by submitting the following items:

- \_\_\_ Troop Financial Report (GSSJC F-31), summary page only – ***not*** worksheets or receipts
- \_\_\_ A copy of your most RECENT troop bank account statement(s)

When possible, service units should review and record which troops have submitted their financial report and turn them in to their membership manager.

**Important Note:** Troop leaders must retain a copy of the Troop Financial Report (GSSJC F-31), including the supporting detailed worksheets AND copies of all receipts in the troop records for *3 years*.

## The Emerald Circle

Have you ever heard of **The Emerald Circle**? The Emerald Circle (TEC) is a group of Council volunteers who support, fund and administrate GSSJC's Gold Award Scholarship Program. In fact, their mission statement reads: "The Emerald Circle's mission is to provide scholarships and program support, inspiring girls to aim for excellence while becoming the leaders of tomorrow."

In today's economic times, raising funds for anything is a challenge. Despite everyone's 'tight purses', TEC is determined and dedicated to provide as many Gold Award scholarships as possible to qualified Girl Scout Ambassadors.

That is where service units can help. Do you know of anyone (company or individual) in your service unit's geographic area that would consider it a privilege to support a scholarship program of this sort? Would your service unit administrative team consider donating some of its remaining funds from the 2008/2009 membership year to the Gold Award Scholarship Fund? Do you have any Girl Scout Ambassador troops graduating from high school with funds remaining in their troop bank account that could be encouraged to donate to the scholarship fund? If you answered yes, here is how you can help:

- 1) Pass TEC's contact information to anyone you think would like to get involved in TEC's mission of awarding merit scholarships to these deserving and exceptional young women. Jennifer Ashley, staff advisor, [jashley@sjgs.org](mailto:jashley@sjgs.org)
- 2) Ask your service unit administrative team to consider making a donation to the scholarship program. Any amount would be appreciated. Think about the girls in your service unit at that level and how appreciative they would be in receiving financial support of any kind.
- 3) Pass this message on to graduating Senior/Ambassador troops for their consideration of making a donation to this worthy program. It's a great way to spend any remaining troop funds after the last trip, outing, or service project has been completed. It's a great way to give back to Girl Scouting, but an even better way to 'Pay It Forward.'



## JUNE & JULY SPECIAL DATES

**JUNE 6**

National Trails Day

**JUNE 14**

Flag Day

**JUNE 18**

Go Fishing Day

**JUNE 19**

Juneteenth

**JUNE 21**

Father's Day AND  
Finally Summer Day

**JUNE 28**

America's Kids Day

**JUNE 30**

Meteor Watch Day

**JULY 1**

Canada Day

**JULY 4**

Independence Day

**JULY 7**

Chocolate Day AND  
A Penumbral Lunar  
Eclipse is visible in  
North America today!

**JULY 19**

National Ice Cream  
Day

**JULY 24**

Amelia Earhart Day  
AND  
Tell An Old Joke Day

**JULY 26**

Parents' Day

**JULY 27**

Walk on Stilts Day

## Let the Summer Activities Begin!

By Jo Anna D. Harris

After the bridging ceremonies are done and you've distributed all of the girls' recognitions, you finally have time for yourself. No more Girl Scouts until August or September. WHEW! Now you can breathe again. But does Girl Scouts really have to end?

Some parents, girls, and leaders welcome the break from the Girl Scout schedule but you can keep Girl Scouts alive in the summer by hosting monthly troop activities. Check out these fun activities for leaders and girls.



### *June - Summer Scoops!*

Yes, it can be an ice cream party, but it's mostly a fun monthly meeting with your Girl Scout troop/group. You don't need to focus on badge-work, just have fun with summer flair! You can make cool treats, beaded or shell jewelry or simply have a summer luau and talk about sun safety. These two meetings in June and July can be all that's needed to keep the girls' interest in Girl Scouting.

### *July - Party by the Pool!*

This summer pool party idea will make a splash with the troops in your service unit. This event can be held as a celebration for troops after achieving service unit membership goal or just as a summer get-together retention tool for the girls. After locating a lifeguard and meeting all safety concerns, invite your service unit and have a great time!

### *August - Leader Appreciation Afternoon!*

The service unit administrative team can plan an afternoon event just for leaders and co-leaders, expressing appreciation for all of the hard work given throughout the membership year. Have a mini-spa event or simply an afternoon tea to just hang out and talk. Invite leaders to invite their friends who are interested in Girl Scouting. At a later date, follow up with these individuals...you may just gain a few more Girl Scout troop leaders.

## SU and Troop Contributions to Urban Campout

**A BIG Thank you** to nineteen service units and one troop who donated baskets for the silent auction at GSSJC's Urban Campout in April. The baskets generated over \$3,500 to the overall success of the event. Thank you for your generous gifts – and for the contribution they made to the event. The silent auction section was AWESOME because of you!

*Thank you to:*

Bending Bayous Service Unit  
Cane Island Service Unit  
Clear Springs Service Unit  
Colony Creek Service Unit  
Compass Rose Service Unit  
Country Meadows Service Unit  
Country Roads Service Unit  
Deer Forest Service Unit  
Enchanted Pines Service Unit  
Girl Scout Cadette Troop 12480

Goose Creek Service Unit  
Gulf Breeze Service Unit  
Museum Oaks Service Unit  
Rainbow Springs Service Unit  
Rainbow Stars Service Unit  
Silver Spur Service Unit  
Texas Treasures Service Unit  
Western Horizon Service Unit  
White Oak Service Unit  
Yellow Rose Service Unit

## ¿Que Pasa?

Cuando primero empecé a trabajar con la comunidad Latina, my estrategia era sencilla... los puedo alcanzar solo con saber el mismo idioma y de esta manera todos los otros obstáculos se superan. Por supuesto que la cosa es más complicada que eso pero mi inexperiencia no me dejo verlo en ese entonces. Ahora que tengo mas experiencia y madurez (bueno por lo menos mas experiencia), me doy cuenta que para ser efectivo en alcanzar a los Latinos, hay que hacer un esfuerzo unido y sincero. Patrick Lencioni lo dice muy bien en su libro, *Silos, Politics, and Turf Wars* cuando habla de la manera en que grupos se pelean entre ellos y pierden su orientación en lo que es verdaderamente importante. Es la responsabilidad del liderazgo de unir el grupo con efectivamente comunicándoles las metas y la importancia de la carga de cada uno.

Ojala hayas reaccionado y contemplado cómo se puede aplicar este concepto a los equipos de servicio, tropas, y equipos administrativos. Entiendo que mientras las Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council tienen su misión muy clara, nada se pierde con escucharlo una vez más.

--Diana Ospina, Directora de Membresía  
[dospina@sjgs.org](mailto:dospina@sjgs.org) o al 713-292-0292

### *And in English...*

When I first began working with the Latino community, my initial thought was that decreasing the language barrier would increase success in all other areas where Latinos typically struggle. Of course, the issue is much more complex than this and I blame my over simplistic solution to sheer inexperience. Now as I have become older and wiser (well, at least older), I realize that one of the basic elements to successfully cultivating the Hispanic community is a group's belief in the importance of this and its united effort. That being said, I leave you with an excerpt from the book, *Silos, Politics, and Turf Wars* by Patrick Lencioni.

*"Silos, and the turf wars they enable, ... cause frustration and disillusionment by forcing employees to fight unwinnable battles with people who should be their teammates. Consider the time and energy that will be saved by providing your team with a unifying sense of purpose, by giving them an understanding of how everyone contributes to that purpose...making it easier for all to row in the same direction."*

This concept is applicable to service units, troops, administrative teams, and multicultural populations too. While Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council usually works in this way, it never hurts to hear it one more time.

--Diana Ospina, Director of Membership  
[dospina@sjgs.org](mailto:dospina@sjgs.org) or 713-292-0292



## LMK Promotional Toolkit

LMK ("let me know") is an online safety campaign created in partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA and Microsoft. The campaign includes an interactive Web site for girls, as well as an e-newsletter and Web site for adults. An LMK toolkit is available to facilitate communications of the Website.

<http://lmk.girlscouts.org> for girls, and  
<http://letmeknow.girlscouts.org> for adults/parents.



<http://lmk.girlscouts.org>