



WHAT'S NEW IN GSSJC

February 2010

A newsletter for service unit administrators, volunteers and troop leaders Volume 8, Issue 2

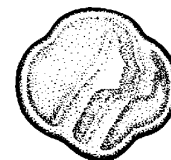
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Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program



The Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program has helped thousands of girls finance their troop activities, practice marketing and presentation skills, learn sound money management practices, demonstrate responsibility, work as a team, and increase their self-confidence. The GSSJC Cookie Sale helps pay for camps that are safe, well maintained and equipped for memorable camping experiences. Funds raised from the sale also help train adult volunteers, provide financial assistance to members in need, keep our event and camp fees low, and help provide quality Girl Scout programs to all girls across our Council.

If your troop is participating in the sale, thank you for supporting this time-honored tradition! We hope your girls have a terrific time and, in the process, develop skills that will last a lifetime. If you haven't started planning, it is not too late! You can still participate by taking orders or participating in cookie booths. Your troop cookie manager can pick up cookies from cookie cupboards located throughout GSSJC. Contact your service unit cookie manager for more details. The cookie sale continues through March

The success of the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program depends upon caring Girl Scout volunteers like you. Thank you again for your support. If you need help getting started, please contact you're the Product Sales Department at 713-292-0300.

Service Unit and Troop Financial Audits

GSSJC's external auditors and the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors recommend that random audits of Troop and Service Unit financial reports be made on an annual basis. The Membership Administrative Team, a committee of volunteers and staff, will perform audits from the 2008-2009 membership year during the month of February. Twenty service units and twenty troops were randomly selected for these audits. Financial reports, supporting documents (receipts, etc.) and bank statements will be reviewed. Each service unit and troop will receive a written evaluation of their financial records. Anonymous results and recommendations will be posted in *The Golden Link* as well as 'What's New in GSSJC'.

Important Info When Creating an 'Account' Online

Please note: The member ID# found on leader appointment letters mailed prior to January 1, 2010 is NOT the same member ID# to be used to create an account in the training and event registration system (Personify). We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. All adult members should be cautioned about this to avoid establishing duplicate accounts. If you are encountering problems establishing a personal account when registering for trainings or events, contact the GSSJC Help Desk at 713-292-0310.

Save These Dates

March 27

Crazy Quilt Training Event

April 17

**Adult Recognition Event
AND**

Annual Council Meeting

April 30

Urban Campout

May 2

**Senior/Ambassador Recognition Event
AND
Lemonade Day**

New Training Opportunity

The Volunteer Development Department is preparing to launch its newest "training" option on **Tuesday, February 16**. This will be the launch of a teleconferencing option open to all adults and especially leaders. Teleconferences of this type will be offered monthly during the troop (school) meeting year. Each session will be conducted in a format similar to the GSSJC Regional Meeting teleconferencing event with a power point presentation and an opportunity for questions afterward. The topic of the first teleconference will be "Troop Financials". Specifics about how to connect and the time of the session will be posted on the CIN in early February.

ON MY HONOR (Celebrating GS Week)

The GSSJC Membership Department's Faith Based Initiatives Team (FBI) is encouraging all troops, groups, and individual members to *get out, be visible, and do something to honor our organization's birthday week, **March 7 – 13, 2010***. Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout. Troops and groups are asked to plan early and to obtain permission to participate in the church service. Many other creative and unique ways to celebrate Girl Scout Week/Sunday/Sabbath are shared in "*Observing ON MY HONOR*". This information can be found in the February CIN.

A new complimentary patch has been designed for 2010 for troops that celebrate Girl Scout Week. The information packet will provide details on how to obtain the patch. In addition, ten troops celebrating ON MY HONOR 2010 will be selected (by draw) to receive a \$25 gift certificate for a troop/group pizza party. All participating troops will be recognized in an upcoming issue of *The Golden Link*. Details about On MY HONOR 2009 are also being shared at service unit meetings and on the Council Information Network (CIN). For more information, contact: Kim Ferrell, kferrell@sjgs.org, 281-212-2933.

In years past, "Go Green!" was the rally cry to ignite enthusiasm for Girl Scout Week, particularly for Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath. In 2009 the name of this campaign was changed to "ON MY HONOR" to eliminate any confusion with the Girl Scout 'Go Green' environmental program and the Go Green 2006 commemorative patch was retired.

Girl Scouts and Girl Guides Think 'Service'

Girls throughout the Council are giving back to their communities and meeting local needs in many creative ways. The month of February brings special opportunities to think beyond our communities with World Thinking Day on February 22 and with the additional world view of the winter Olympics. It's a natural fit! Find out more about World Thinking Day by visiting these Web sites:

www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/en/projects/GAT>

Reporting Service Projects

Please take a moment to complete the simple Service Project Report form, F-269, after the girls have taken action with service. This form is easy to find in the Forms section of the GSSJC Website, under Program: www.gssjc.org/forms/F-269.pdf. Consider designating a girl member or parent to keep these completed on an on-going basis. Make an extra copy to save in your troop scrapbook or file folder of memories.

FYI: Two docents for the Goodykoontz Museum of Girl Scout History keep a record of the information you share and the GSSJC Communications Department gathers information from the service reports to use in Council publications. Thank you for sharing your service!

SPECIAL DAYS in February

- FEBRUARY 1**
Nat'l Freedom Day
- FEBRUARY 2**
Ground Hog Day
- FEBRUARY 3**
Nat'l Girls & Women
in Sports Day
- FEBRUARY 4**
Rosa Park's Birthday
- FEBRUARY 8**
Boy Scout
Anniversary
(Happy 100th, BSA!)
- FEBRUARY 11**
Nat'l Inventors Day
Nat'l Shut-In
Visitation Day
- FEBRUARY 12**
Abraham Lincoln's
Birthday
- FEBRUARY 14**
Valentines Day
Chinese New Year
Nat'l Donor Day
- FEBRUARY 15**
President's Day
Susan B Anthony's
Birthday
- FEBRUARY 18**
Introduce A Girl to
Engineering Day
- FEBRUARY 22**
World Thinking Day
Geo. Washington's
Birthday
- FEBRUARY 25**
Nat'l Chili Day

Have You Ever Wondered?

We all know that the \$12 membership fee that every girl and adult pays at the start of the membership year goes straight to GSUSA. Not a penny of that stays in our Council. And we know that it take a lot of work and money to provide the excellent camp experiences, program events, adult training, service unit and troop support. Where does GSSJC get that money?

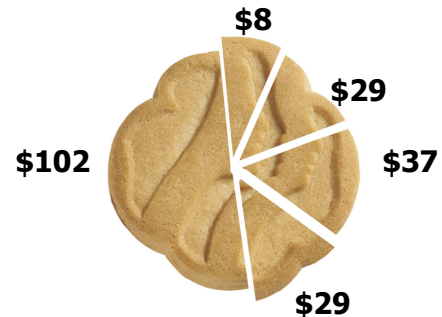
The answer is through our product sales efforts (fall products and the cookie program), the United Way, Council events/programs (i.e. The Promise Event, Urban Campout, Leadership for a Lifetime), grants and individual and corporate donations. GSSJC functions because people care about the girls of our Council area and give accordingly. And, when one segment of the finance world is hurting, we depend on the other contributors to take up the slack in order to keep the same opportunities for the girls. That's why product sales are so very important to the Council as a whole, not just the troops!

We know how much you value your daughter's Girl Scout experience. You can help us continue providing the quality programs, training, and camp experiences by participating in the family portion of the Leadership for a Lifetime annual giving opportunity. Troop leaders and service unit managers will be receiving the annual giving brochures in April. Please consider making a gift in support of the girls of our Council.

GSSJC is responsible and held accountable for the wise use of the monies that come from the various sources. The Council Finance Committee provides documentation of the Council's financial health on a regular basis. The financial books are audited on an annual basis.

One of the ways of examining the cost of Girl Scouting is looking at the overall expenses and the number of girls that we serve. Here is a visual and an explanation of where the money goes.

It costs \$205
per girl to make
Girl Scouting a
reality at GSSJC.



\$29 Maintains, updates and expands the use of all 10 camp properties, eight service centers, GSSJC Headquarters and Program Place for Girls.

\$102 Provides Council-wide programs and activities at all levels that enhance troop participation and al low girls the opportunity to build new skills. It also provides the opportunity for girls to participate in activities beyond the traditional troop setting, such as Girl Scouting in the School Day and Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, a program that enables girls to meet with their incarcerated mothers in a troop setting.

\$37 Develops and imparts the very best training, materials and curriculum for adult volunteers, ensuring the needs of each Girl Scout are met.

\$29 Supports membership development, including recruitment and registration of volunteers and girls, staff support to volunteers, and financial assistance available to all members.

\$8 Enhances the visibility and affirms the successes of Girl Scouting as the premier organization for girls through press releases, media coverage, *The Golden Link*, the Council Information Network and www.gssjc.org.

Top 11 Tips for Easy Event Registration

1. All event participants, girls and adults, must be a current member of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Register online: www.gssjc.org [Note: This is a separate step from program registration.]
2. Find the event information in *The Golden Link* or on the CIN (Council Information Network) on the Council's Web site. Read the event information thoroughly, looking for important details such as deadlines, event fees, what to bring and the person to contact for more information.
3. Register girls and adults (when applicable) for activities/events online, using the same names on their GSUSA registrations: www.gssjc.org, Program Registration
4. To register a girl for an event independently (for instance, the rest of the troop is not going to the event), it is necessary to open a program registration account for **each girl**.
5. Follow the directions given for parents or troop leaders.
6. Ensure all of the contact information is accurate (including E-mail where confirmations are to be sent)
7. Include the names of all the participants; be sure they are registered with GSUSA (see above)
8. Include all of the information using the same names on their GSUSA registration, zip codes, complete and current E-mails
9. Program Registration Forms can be found in three issues of the Council magazine, *The Golden Link*, each year. This publication is mailed to GSSJC families six times a year and is also found on the GSSJC Website. The Program Registration Form can also be found on the GSSJC Website in the Forms section.
10. Fax the completed Program Registration Form to GSSJC, 713-292-0330 or mail/E-mail the scanned, completed form to the registrar in charge of that program.
11. Call the Program Registrars if you do not receive a confirmation in two days, as the E-mail listed in the account may be incorrect.



OUTSTANDING!

18 service units have met their membership goals for the 2009-2010 year! Congratulations!

Angleton-Danbury
Galveston
Happy Trails
Heather Meadows
Hummingbird Way
Las Brisas
Magic Forest
Meadowbrook
Prairie Rose
Rainbow Stars
Santa Fe
Silver Spur
Sunrise Ridge
Texas City-La Marque
Texas Treasures
Texas Stars
Whispering Trails
W Brazos Bluebonnets

(registrations processed as of 12/31/09)

Calling All Girls in 8 - 10th Grades!

Have you heard?! The 2011 Girl Scout National Convention will be in Houston. The Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI) is a girl event that occurs prior to the triennial Girl Scout National Council Session and Convention. The next GSLI will be held in Houston, Texas in November 2011. Approximately 1000 Girl Scouts from around the country, USA Girl Scouts Overseas and girls from other WAGGGS membership organization will convene for 2-3 days for GSLI. GSSJC is seeking girl representatives for the Girl Planning Team (GPT). ***This is the leadership opportunity of a Girl Scout's lifetime!***

Please find the applicant criteria, application and reference form on the January CIN

<http://www.gssjc.org/cin/fd/2010/Jan/GSLeadership.pdf> or e-mail girlsleadteam@gssjc.org for

details and an editable application. The deadline for submitting applications is **February 22, 2010**. Space is limited, so get started on your application now! Don't miss out on the planning!



Carousel: Island Adventure

Kick off spring break with your fellow Girl Scouts! On this enchanted adventure, let your imagination carry you off to tropical Robinwood Island. The natives of Troop 8233 will teach you new dance moves, how to create beautiful origami, and basic sign language to communicate with your fellow islanders. Come



ready to participate in a luau-style sing-a-long, try for a bulls-eye to please the Tiki Twins watching nearby and search the shady grounds during a treasure laden scavenger-hunt (rain or shine). Watch out for wildlife as you paddle around on our mystical lake and prepare to play some *unusual* outdoor games.

Program is provided, you just show up with your girls, meals for the weekend, and all your camping supplies. This event is for Girl Scout 2nd year Daisies-Juniors at Camp Robinwood on March 12-14 for \$15. For more information, contact Rebecca Tirrell, 713-292-0353, rtirrell@sjgs.org or view the event flyer on the January CIN.

Carousel: Hidden Treasures

Ahoy, Matey! Come and find the 16 different treasure boxes that are hidden at Robinwood! Learn how to find other treasures in our area and in the state by letterboxing! You can make your own personal marker for this activity, make your own treasure box and loot bag. We will have a tree search with Pirate prizes awarded to the group with the best times for the search. The trees will be standing still for this game.



Come dressed in your best Pirate costume for a Pirate Island "style show." Yes, more loot for the winners! Get those scissors cutting and needles stitching! Costumes categories will include Pirates, damsels in distress, best mates, youngest pirates and the best use of Red and Black. Face painting is encouraged!

Program is provided, you just show up with your girls, meals for the weekend, and all your camping supplies. This event is for Girl Scout 3rd grade Brownies-6th Grade Cadettes at Camp Robinwood on March 19-21 for \$15. For more information, contact Rebecca Tirrell, 713-292-0353, rtirrell@sjgs.org or view the event flyer on the January CIN.