



What's New in GSSJC

January 2010

A newsletter for service unit administrators, volunteers and troop leaders Volume 8, Issue 1

In This Issue

- 2010 Administrative Summit News
- Cookie News
- 2010 GSSJC Annual Meeting & Adult Recognitions Event
- Program Place Reservations
- Adult Recognitions
- Interest Project Day
- Carousel: Celebrate World Thinking Day
- Backpacking Orientation
- Martin Luther King Day
- GSSJC Recognizes Pluralism
- GSSJC Form Changes
- Continue Your Visits After the Holidays
- GSSJC Welcomes Dr. Greg Mortenson

Plus...

- Save These Dates
- Outstanding! Service Units
- January's Special Days
- Troop Financial Tips

2010 Administrative Summit News "Putting the Pieces Together"

The 2010 Administrative Summit date is changing! Due to difficulties in securing a suitable site for the event in January, it is necessary to move the date to early March. As of this writing, specific information for a new date is not available. Event information and a registration process will be in place soon after the holidays. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Questions? Please e-mail BJ Bonner, bjbonner@sjgs.org or Sandee Williams Stewart, sstewart@sjgs.org



Cookie News

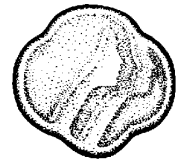
Don't miss out on this program opportunity!

If your troop is just beginning or you haven't had a chance to take Troop Cookie Manager training, it's not too late. You can sign up to take one of the remaining classroom trainings at

<http://gsusa.ebiz.uapps.net/vp/Default.aspx?pid=2> You can also take the 2010 Troop Cookie Manager training on-line at <http://etraining.gssjc.org>.

If your girls miss the order-taking portion of the cookie sale, don't worry. They can still participate in the booth sales. Cookie booths begin on February 19. For more information about cookie booths see the Troop Cookie Manager 2010 Guide provided with your training. Questions? E-mail cookies@sjgs.org or call 713-292-0300.

Dates: Initial Order taking	Jan. 9 – 29	Cookie Booths	Feb. 19 – Mar. 28
Cookie Deliveries	Feb. 6 – 16	Sale Ends	Mar. 28



2010 GSSJC Annual Meeting & Adult Recognitions Event

The 2010 Adult Recognitions Event and Annual Council Meeting will take place on the same day and at the same location, **Saturday, April 17 at Camp Agnes Arnold**. Volunteers are welcome to attend either event or both events on that day. Registration for the Adult Recognitions Event is required and will begin in March. As always, the Annual Council Meeting is open to everyone. Watch the CIN for more information.

Program Place Reservations

Beginning Monday, November 30, 2009, GSSJC's Administrative Services Department assumed the room reservations responsibility for the Program Place. If a room request is needed for the Program Place call 713-292-0300 and the operator will transfer the call to the Administrative Services Department.

Save These Dates

January 10
Winter Gold Award Ceremony

March 27
Crazy Quilt Training Event

April 17
Adult Recognition Event
AND
Annual Council Meeting



PLEASE NOTE:

GSSJC offices and shops will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2010 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

Adult Recognitions

Where can you find information about Adult Recognitions?

Check out the September/October issue of *The Golden Link* (it's on the GSSJC Web site under Publications, if you've recycled your magazine). You will find pictures of the awards and a brief description of the criteria for the recognition. An explanation of the approval process for National and Council awards can also be located there along with what it takes to complete a nomination packet.



Where can you find the forms to complete and submit? The forms are available on the GSSJC Web site (Forms section in the Helpful Links box on the home page). Many of the forms are editable - you can download them to your computer, complete and then submit them in an e-mail to Judy Syring at jsyring@sjgs.org.

January 15 is the deadline if the award is to be presented at the Spring Council Recognition Event on April 17. **February 15** is the deadline if the award is to be presented at a spring service unit/area event. **March 15** is the deadline for turning in the order forms for the Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Volunteer, Membership Numerals and Years of Service award pins. For information regarding who has previously received awards in your service unit, please contact Judy Syring.

Interest Project Day

The Voice has a terrific Saturday planned for you! You will have the opportunity to earn the Travel Interest Project Award OR the Cashin' In Studio 2B Focus Book Charm. Travel activities include: learning greetings in different languages, investigating careers in the travel industry, a service project and the chance to explore the world before leaving home. Cashin' In activities include: learning what really matters in high school (prom? college? a car?) and how to afford it, how to start off in "The Real World" with good credit, and how to balance your finances to create a happy you!



This event is for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors on January 23 at the Program Place for Girls with a cost of \$12/girl. For more information, contact Rebecca Tirrell, 713-292-0353, rtirrell@sjgs.org or view the event flyer on the December CIN.

Carousel: Celebrate World Thinking Day

Where in the world are Girl Scouts? Receive your passport and get it stamped while learning about Girl Scouts & Girl Guides in 5 different countries as well as their food, crafts, and games! Come celebrate international friendship and honor our sister Girl Guides & Girl Scouts!



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 Brownies through 6th grade Cadettes at Camp Whispering Pines on February 26-28 for \$15. For more information, contact Rebecca Tirrell, 713-292-0353, rtirrell@sjgs.org or view the event flyer on the December CIN.

SPECIAL DAYS in January

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

JANUARY 3

Fruitcake Toss Day

JANUARY 4

Trivia Day

JANUARY 5

National Bird Day

JANUARY 15

Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday
(celebrated on 1/18/2010)

JANUARY 19

National Popcorn Day

JANUARY 23

National Handwriting Day

JANUARY 24

Compliment Day

JANUARY 25

Opposite Day

JANUARY 27

Chocolate Cake Day

JANUARY 28

National Kazoo Day

JANUARY 29

National Puzzle Day

JANUARY 31

Backward Day

Backpacking Orientation

Backpacking Orientation covers all the basic knowledge required for troops & individuals wishing to go backpacking. Don't worry if you might be the only girl in your troop or a Juliette who might be interested in backpacking. You won't be the only one! You will learn how to pack a backpack, care for a tent, cook on your own personal stove, First Aid essentials, take a short hike and set up camp to prepare you for your first trip. After successfully completing Orientation, participants can join any of the existing Council backpacking groups and have the opportunity to join us on weekend backpacking trips. Get out and join the fun!

Orientation is for Girl Scouts, ages 11 years old through adults at Camp Misty Meadows for \$15 on the weekends of January 30-31 OR February 27-28. For more information, contact Rebecca Tirrell, 713-292-0353, rtirrell@sjgs.org or view the event flyer on the December CIN.

Martin Luther King Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day officially became a national holiday in 1986 and the national Martin Luther King Day of Service was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in August 1994. This federal legislation challenged Americans to transform the King Holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service in honor of Dr. King. It is one of four United States federal holidays to commemorate an individual person. Although his birthday is January 15, the national holiday is set for the 3rd Monday of January -- this year we celebrate on Monday, January 18.



Girl Scouts have been proud to honor Dr. King's legacy by engaging in a wide variety of community service projects, from serving food at homeless shelters to painting murals at community centers. GSSJC continues the tradition of service across the Council and the **2010 Martin Luther King Day of Service** event on **Saturday, January 16**. For information, refer to the event flyer on the November 2009 CIN:

www.gssjc.org/cin/fd/2009/Nov/MLKJrDay2010.pdf

GSSJC Recognizes Pluralism

Pluralism can be defined as the belief that numerous distinct ethnic, religious or cultural groups within a society are desirable or socially beneficial.* This definition represents Girl Scouts of the USA's commitment to every girl in our nation. Our Council mirrors that commitment to every girl in our geographic jurisdiction with a Pluralism Statement. *www.dictionary.com

GSSJC Pluralism Statement

Embracing pluralism is an integral part of every activity and plan of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, not disconnected or separate projects. Only individuals willing to accept and be educated about the tenet that Girl Scouting is for all girls may serve in volunteer leadership or staff positions.

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to pluralism values, has demonstrated a true commitment to the GSSJC Pluralism Statement or has made a contribution to community pluralism that impacts girls and Girl Scouting? If so, then you have found the perfect nominee for GSSJC's Erwin Chew Award! Nominations can be made in three categories:

- a registered Girl Scout in grades 11 or 12,
- a registered Girl Scout volunteer, or
- a member of your community.

The 2010 Ervan Chew Award Nomination Form can be found on the December CIN:

<http://www.gssjc.org/cin/fd/2009/Dec/ervanChewAward2010.pdf>

The deadline for 2010 nominations is **February 1, 2010**.



OUTSTANDING!

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

Galveston
Happy Trails
Heather Meadows
Hummingbird Way
Las Brisas
Magic Forest
Rainbow Stars
Santa Fe
Silver Spur
Sunrise Ridge
Texas City-LaMarque
Texas Treasures
Whispering Trails
W Brazos Bluebonnets

(registrations processed as of 11/31/09)



fantastic work!

3 service units have successfully collected and turned in 100% of their troop financials for the 08/09 membership year!

THANK YOU!

Friendwood
Prairie Rose*
Spring Flowers*

(* also turned in the service unit financial report for 08/09)

GSSJC Form Changes

The following camp reservation forms have been revised and are effective immediately:

F-126 Service Unit/Area/Multiple Service Unit Camp Reservations

F-127 Troop/Group Camp Reservations

These forms are located in the forms section of our Council Web site.

O-154 Request for use of Council Camp For Council Events

This form will be printed and maintained by the Administrative Services Department.

Continuing Your Visits After the Holidays

Visiting with friends and family is a part of the holiday season, and this is especially true for individuals living in long-term care facilities. When the season for frequent volunteer visits and events begins to taper off, it is not uncommon for residents living in long-term care settings to feel more isolated. You can help create a happy new year by making a commitment to return to the facility for senior citizens after the holidays. Your continued visits help residents stay connected to their community and accomplish your New Year's resolution at the same time. Here are a few quick reminders to help plan meaningful volunteer visits with residents living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and state supported living centers:

>> Create the opportunity to capture a most memorable moment or life story during visits this year. Take the opportunity to record the most memorable moment of a resident who lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility or a state supported living center. Leave your written or taped record with the resident or a family member.

StoryCorps, an independent nonprofit project, is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind. For ideas and tips on gathering memories and life stories, visit www.storycorps.org.

>> Incorporate both fun and fitness in your visits. Design a visit theme to start the new year off in a healthy way.

Consider hosting 'Fit for the Health of It!' sessions on each visit. This is a multi-week program from Texercise (www.texercise.com). This is a statewide health program of the Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS) that encourages individuals and communities to adopt healthy lifestyle habits such as regular physical activities and healthy nutrition.

When you think you've finished your visitation plan, schedule one more visit. You'll be blessed more than you ever expected.

For more information, contact DADS Silver Lining Team, 1-800-889-8595, www.silverliningatdads.org

Troop Financial Tips

>> Save your receipts for all troop expenses! Keep your receipts in a large envelope for safe keeping. Make a copy of any receipts that are on the paper that fades over time. Break out personal items (with tax) purchased on the same receipt and note that amount on the receipt.

>> Keep a copy of every cookie deposit slip. You must turn these in with the final cookie paperwork to verify deposits made and to avoid the Council debt list.

>> Don't wait until May to begin the troop financial report.

>> Be prepared to share the troop financial information with the girls and their parents.

>> Product sale profits are not to be divided up in girl accounts – the profit goes into the Troop treasury for all the girls to enjoy.

>> *Remember:* The Troop's money belongs to all the girls in the troop, not just a few.

GSSJC welcomes Dr. Greg Mortenson

Dr. Greg Mortenson is coming to visit us on **February 7, 2010!** Have you hear about him?

Greg Mortenson is the *NY Times* best selling co-author of Three Cups of Tea, Listen to the Wind and his most recent, Stones into Schools. He is also a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. He was featured in Parade Magazine's 11/22/2009 issue

(www.parade.com/news/2009/11/22-fighting-terrorism-with-schools.html)

He has been a guest on National Public Radio's "Tell Me More" program with Michel Martin. To get a glimpse of his story, you can search the internet for his name:

>> www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=101780727

>> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greg_Mortenson

Encourage Girl Scouts (girls and adult volunteers) in your service unit and troops to take advantage of this rare opportunity (ONLY for *our Girl Scouts*) to hear from someone who has been around the world and has dedicated himself to providing schools for girls where they are usually denied education. This is a one-of-a-kind occasion to be inspired to make a difference and to 'Take Action' in our own communities.

Date: Sunday afternoon, February 7, 2010 -- Save this date on your calendars!

Location: Awty International School, Houston

Troops and their volunteers will be able to register for this event using the on-line program registration process through the council Web site. Keep watch on January's CIN for up-to-date information: www.gssjc.org/cin/.

Special Offer!

Every service unit can receive two free tickets by sending one interested Girl Scout and adult volunteer who agree to:

- Attend the entire event
- Take back the message and information to the service unit
- Encourage and facilitate a 'Take Action' project

To register your service unit representatives for these two free tickets, e-mail Melinda Gaskill, Program Manager directly by **Monday, January 4, 2010** with "Free Tickets" in the subject line and identify the name of the service unit and the names of the two attendees. (mgaskill@sjgs.org)



