



# What's New in GSSJC

March 2010

A newsletter for service unit administrators, volunteers and troop leaders Volume 8, Issue 3

## In This Issue

- 2010 Administrative Summit News
- GSSJC Blood Drive
- Local Volunteer Recognition News
- 2010 GSSJC Annual Meeting & Adult Recognitions Event
- Room Reservations
- Update Contact Info w/GSSJC
- Change in Camp Draw Deadline
- 2010 Adult Recognition Event
- Religious Inserts Available
- Staying Connected through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

## Plus...

- Save These Dates
- Outstanding! Service Units

### ATTENTION!

**ALL** Council Delegates (Service Unit delegates and Delegates-at-Large) **MUST** be currently registered Girl Scouts.

## 2010 Administrative Summit News

The 2010 Administrative Summit has been cancelled due to our inability to find an available and suitable location for the 250+ expected participants. We have missed our window of opportunity for 2010; however, we have scheduled the event for January 2011 which will set a pattern for the event to occur every other year. Suggestions and assistance to secure a site for the 2011 Summit would be greatly appreciated.

Suggestions or questions? Please e-mail BJ Bonner, [bjbonner@sjgs.org](mailto:bjbonner@sjgs.org) or Sandee Williams Stewart, [sstewart@sjgs.org](mailto:sstewart@sjgs.org).

## GSSJC Blood Drive - March 12, 2010

### Celebrate the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouts by saving lives!

Help us save lives by donating blood at the second annual Girl Scouts 'Bleed Green' Blood Drive. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us! All donors will receive a Girl Scouts "Bleed Green" bracelet and can celebrate the birthday of Girl Scouting with a tasty treat!



10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Program Place for Girls

3000 Southwest Freeway

>> Contact Diana Taub at 713-292-0358 or [dtaub@sjgs.org](mailto:dtaub@sjgs.org) to sign up.

## Local Volunteer Recognition News

Outstanding Leader, Outstanding Volunteer, Membership Numeral, and Years of Service orders are due **March 15**. Please remember that the Adult Recognition Committee wants **only** the order forms. Service units should keep a copy of the order forms for Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer attached to the nomination forms for the service unit's records. The nominations you receive on these outstanding volunteers may be used to tell a little about why this volunteer is receiving this recognition.

If you have any questions, contact Judy Syring at 713-292-0254 or [jsyring@sjgs.org](mailto:jsyring@sjgs.org).

## 2010 Adult Recognition Event & Annual Council Meeting

The 2010 Adult Recognition Event and Annual Council Meeting will both take place on **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 (which includes brunch) is required. As always, the Annual Council Meeting is open to everyone. Watch the March CIN for more information about the day's opportunities and schedule.

## Room Reservations

To reserve a meeting room at the Houston Girl Scout Center or the Program Place for Girls (3110 & 3000 SW Freeway, respectively), contact [rooms@sjgs.org](mailto:rooms@sjgs.org) or call 713-292-0300. An administrative services staff member will follow up with your request.

## Save These Dates

**March 12**  
GSSJC Blood Drive

**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

## Update Your Contact Info w/GSSJC

Staying connected with GSSJC is very important. Volunteers and friends expect to be kept up-to-date with news, updates, and last minute changes due to weather. Troops and individuals require confirmation of their participation in events, activities, trainings and programs. It is very important that we have the most up-to-date and accurate E-mail address, mailing address and phone number for every member – whether they are girls, parents, troop leaders, troop committee members, service unit volunteers or Council-level volunteers and friends.

**Notify GSSJC of any changes in your contact information by following these steps:**

Visit the GSSJC Web page ([www.gssjc.org](http://www.gssjc.org)), find and select the '**Contact Us**' option in the top menu. On the next page, under the 'How Can We Help You?' section, find and select the '**Manage Contact Information**' option. This convenient page will allow you to change your contact info. NOTE: If you are currently listed as the SU Contact, SU Team contact or a Council-level volunteer, please mention in the 'Comment' box that the change should also be made on the 'global listing'. Thank you!

## Change in Camp Draw Deadline

Effective immediately, the camp draw deadline for the use of a Council camp for Council or service unit events is **March 1** of each year. The change allows service units more time to plan their future events.

The process remains the same except for the deadline to submit paperwork. The camp season begins in September and runs through the fiscal year (August). Agnes Arnold, Casa Mare, and Misty are reserved in the summer for resident camps, however all other camp properties are available for use. Troops and service units are encouraged to utilize the other Council camps in June, July, and August! The placement process assures those Council-level events and service unit events that have priority are placed before camps are opened up to the rest of our membership. The process for troops remains the same: Troops are placed 3 months prior to their requested reservation.

To request the use of a Council camp for Council events, use GSSJC form O-154. To request the use of a Council camp for a service unit event, use GSSJC form F-126. Both forms are found in the Forms Section on the GSSJC Web site.

For more information, contact the Program Registration Office, 713-292-0370.



## 2010 Adult Recognition Event

**Saturday, April 17, 2010**

**Ann Temple Allen Lodge, Camp Agnes Arnold**

*\$14 per ticket*

*Doors open at 8:30 am, Brunch served at 9:10 am*

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council wishes to extend a personal invitation to members and friends of the Girl Scout family to attend the Annual Recognition Event at the Ann Temple Allen Lodge. Please join us for a memorable day of honoring some of San Jacinto Council's most distinguished volunteers and community leaders who have played a major role in carrying forward the mission of Girl Scouting.

To make a reservation, please find the group and individual reservation forms on the February CIN. For additional assistance or questions, contact Donna Marshall at 713-292-0294 or 1-800-392-4340 ext. 1294 or [dmarshall@sjgs.org](mailto:dmarshall@sjgs.org)



## OUTSTANDING!

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

Alief  
Angleton-Danbury  
Bay Breeze  
Bay Pals  
Bending Bayou  
Brooks Bayou  
Browndale  
Dogwood Hills  
Galveston  
Happy Trails  
Heather Meadows  
Hummingbird Way  
Landsdale  
Las Brisas  
Magic Forest  
Meadowbrook  
Prairie Rose  
Rainbow Stars  
River Rose  
Robin's Nest  
Santa Fe  
Silver Spur  
Sunrise Ridge  
Sunshine  
Tall Pines Hill  
Texas City-La Marque  
Texas Treasures  
Texas Stars  
Westmoreland  
White Oak  
Whispering Trails  
W Brazos Bluebonnets

(registrations processed as of 1/31/10)

## Religious Inserts Available

The Religious Insert is an attractive communication tool offered by the GSSJC Communications Department which describes the core values of Girl Scouting and their connection with faith-based communities. Girl Scout week in March provides a great opportunity to include the colorful ½ page flyer (written in both English and Spanish) in a bulletin or folder at your place of worship. Ask a member of the congregation (i.e. troop leader or parent of a Girl Scout) to obtain approvals and have girls to do the 'stuffing' of inserts.

Service unit volunteers or individuals can obtain the Religious Inserts from the Administrative Services Department at the Girl Scout Center, 3110 Southwest Freeway, any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please pick up a packet to share with your faith community during Girl Scout week. Thank you!

## Staying Connected through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

On September 1, 2009, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council launched a campaign to promote Girl Scouts in a new way...by tapping into the power of social media. With Council-operated accounts on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, GSSJC has been able to reach out to both internal and external audiences in an instant, providing a new level of customer service and communication.

The number of GSSJC's Facebook fans, Twitter followers and YouTube subscribers has grown exponentially since going live in early September. By the end of the first day on Facebook, GSSJC had already gained 101 fans in just under 6 hours! By the end of the first month on Facebook, GSSJC had 1,078 fans.

Five months since we joined the social media world (as of February 5, 2010), we're proud to report that:

- We have 1,752 fans on Facebook.
- We have 189 followers on Twitter.
- Our videos have been viewed 2,318 times on YouTube.
- Our YouTube Channel has 29 subscribers, and has been viewed 994 times.

Our interactions with fans on Facebook have been well received. We've been able to answer questions and get people's thoughts on various topics. Some of our activities include, but are not limited to:

- Thanking volunteers for their hard work
- Sharing personal stories of accomplishment from our Girl members
- Posting photos and videos highlight various Council events
- Updating our fans with the latest Council news
- Reminding our volunteers and members of important registration deadlines, upcoming events, and special holiday hours
- Sending out helpful tips for new troop leaders, and others interested in joining Girl Scouting

With the help of our social media communities, GSSJC has been able to promote the annual Cookie Sale in a new way by creating a series of funny viral videos on YouTube called "Cookie Time." These videos serve as a useful tool for Girl Scouts and their families in reminding their network of friends that the Cookie Sale is here. Those videos alone have been viewed nearly 1,300 times.

If you aren't already following GSSJC online, be sure to visit the links below to receive the latest updates from Council and check out our video resources.

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/GirlScoutsGSSJC>

Facebook Fan Page: [Facebook.com/GSSJC](http://Facebook.com/GSSJC)

YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/girlscoutssanjacinto](http://www.youtube.com/girlscoutssanjacinto)