



Celebrating the 50 year Anniversary of the 1959 Senior Girl Scout Roundup

Written by Flora Poulos with input from the GSHPA group

From 1956 to 1965 more than 40,000 Senior and Adult Girl Scouts traveled to one of four Senior Girl Scout Roundups. They were held every three years in Michigan, Colorado, Vermont, and Idaho, each hosting 10,000 girls and adults in primitive camp settings. Girls came by train, bus, and car from all over the United States and overseas to attend the Roundups and returned home with the energy and passion for Girl Scouting that made each Girl Scout council stronger.

In the years since, these remarkable women have become state governors, CEOs, Council Presidents and Board Members, Council Staff members, bankers, doctors, teachers, nurses, engineers, cancer researchers and much more. Christa McAuliffe, scheduled to be the first teacher in space, and current GSUSA Board Vice President Linda Foreman both attended the 1965 Roundup in Idaho. These Roundup Alumnae have gone on to become strong advocates of the value of Girl Scouting. They are women of courage, confidence and character who truly make the world a better place.

In July 2009, the Roundup Alumnae and Girl Scout friends traveled to Colorado Springs, the site of the 1959 Roundup. Through a week carefully planned to include many of the activities the girls participated in 50 years ago, 150 alumnae, spouses, partners, and friends shared memories of past experiences and made new ones. Housed on the campus of Colorado College, the group ate in the college dining room and traveled in air conditioned buses to sites such as the Olympic Training Center, Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, and Pikes Peak.

Singing at Girl Scout gatherings is usually first on everyone's list of favorite activities. One special moment came when the group sang *America the Beautiful* at the summit of Pike's Peak where Katharine Lee Bates found the inspiration for the song. The instant bond found in the sisterhood of Girl Scouting enabled everyone to enjoy the events of the week even if they had traveled to the reunion alone. Once they reached the college, they had an instant group of friends and new threads were woven into the lifetime quilt that makes being a Girl Scout so special.

The Reunion Committee recently shared some highlights of the event. An auction of items donated by participants raised \$5,900 for the four WAGGGS World Centers. This is an additional indication of the value the participants place on Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world.

Six members of *Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania* traveled to Colorado Springs to reminisce and to connect with others who shared the magic of a Roundup. **Doris White** ('62,'65) and **Flora Poulos** ('59), traveled by air from Lancaster County. Doris and Flora are active volunteers with the Foxfire House program and Doris also works hard on the Archives Committee. **Christine Brubaker** ('62), also from Lancaster County, joined Elaine Hardman, a



Christine Brubaker
Doris White, Flora Poulos, Joan Miller, Diana Weaver, Lynn Bixler

roundup friend from Huntington, WV to make the trip west. They traveled in Elaine's camper and spent time exploring several national forests in Colorado prior to joining the reunion group in Colorado Springs. Chris specializes in training girls for water activities at GSHPA. **Diana Weaver** ('59, '62, '65), **Joan and Bob Miller**, and **Lynn Bixler**, from the Hanover area, traveled cross country in their Jayco camper. Covering a total of 4,969 miles, the group visited many wonderful areas as they made their way to and from Colorado Springs. Since Joan and Lynn were too young to attend a Roundup, they were somewhat envious of those who had the experience but they were very glad to be part of this reunion as it showed them how valuable the Roundups and similar events can be for girls. Diana, Joan, and Lynn are active volunteers in the Hanover area and lead the Camping Connection committee in addition to holding a variety of other positions.

Two other roundup reunion attendees have ties to the Hanover area. **Barbara Peysler (Mohrman)** attended both the '62 and '65 roundups and her sister **Betty Peysler** attended the '65 roundup while both were living in Hanover. Barbara traveled to Colorado Springs from Rochester, NY and is a lifetime member of GSUSA. Betty came from Raleigh, NC.

Diana and Flora also reunited with the members of the patrol that attended the 1959 Roundup from the Hanover Council. On August 29, six members of the Hanover patrol, gathered at the home of Sandy (Sipe) Feeser, their patrol leader. Sharing photos and swaps from 50 years ago brought back many memories of that special time together and the group hopes to meet more often in the coming years. Attending the Hanover reunion were **Sandra (Sipe) Feeser, Roberta (Sternner) Kemmerling, Donna (Lau) Folmer, Ann (Whisler) Baker, Flora (Hostetter) Poulos, and Diana Weaver.**



Flora Poulos, Ann Baker, Diana Weaver, Donna Folmer
Sandy Feeser, Roberta Kemmerling

For photos of the Roundup Reunion, and to receive information about the reunion planned for 2012, log on to the GS Roundup Reunion website: www.girlscoutroundupreunion.com.