

May, 2011



**girl scouts**  
in the heart  
of pennsylvania

## Be Connected

### Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

#### Dear GSHPA Volunteers,

On April 30th Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania held our fourth annual meeting by videoconference from six sites across our council's footprint, with 107 delegates in attendance and representation from 81 Service Units, constituting a quorum for the business meeting. For those who were not in attendance, we would like to share the highlights of the meeting.



*Pictured above are attendees at the Penn State Harrisburg Campus, which was where the Videoconference was broadcasted.*

Two videotaped greetings – one from Kathy Cloninger, the CEO of GSUSA and the other from Susan Corbett, First Lady of Pennsylvania – served as “bookends” to the business meeting. Cloninger praised our financial turn-around and our Forever Green initiative, while Corbett shared how excited she is to be Pennsylvania’s Honorary Chair for the celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouting.

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A date has been set to honor this year's Gold Award Winners!

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Find out about the new procedure for reservations.

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See what's happening throughout GSHPA.

We heard from Treasurer Paul Lewis that GSHPA continues to move in a financially positive direction. We elected Board members, Board officers, Board Development Committee members, National Delegates and National Delegate Alternates.

We discussed the Strategic Learning process that GSHPA has in progress. This is a planning process to develop a customer focus and strategies to help the council use its resources wisely to get the best return on investment for current and future girls. Board, staff, parents, volunteers and community leaders are on the Strategic Learning team which is shaping our future strategies.

We announced that thirty-two Service Units will be receiving Forever Green initiative grants and that more than 1,200 girls will be in attendance at the kick-off of the new initiative. We urged Service Units and troop leaders to engage girls in the Forever Green initiative by using the It's Your Planet: Love It! Journey book. Forever Green is a chance for GSHPA girls, working locally, to have an impact on a significant global issue, and to show our local communities the importance of Girl Scouting.

Finally, we reviewed our exciting plans for the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting. All Service Units will have the opportunity to apply for 100th anniversary mini-grants to use for celebrations in their neighborhoods. In addition to participating in Forever Green, in 2012 girls will have the opportunity to attend the national sing-along in Washington, DC, and a council-wide camporee. Working with the other two Girl Scout councils in Pennsylvania, we will launch "Troop Pennsylvania," an honorary troop of all of our women state legislatures. In addition, we are building a statewide honorary committee with First Lady Susan Corbett as Honorary Chair.

Following the business meeting, the Volunteer Recognitions Committee conferred awards upon volunteers from every region and in every role around the council. Please [click here](#) for the committee's pamphlet with awardee lists and bios.



*Pictured above at the far right is Cris Christ, from Annville, who was honored with the GSUSA Honor Pin for her outstanding volunteer efforts.*

In short, we are looking forward to a very exciting year!

Many thanks to Members 1st Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the 2011 GSHPA Annual Meeting. This was their second year of supporting GSHPA's annual meeting.



Yours in Girl Scouting,

Kate Crowley  
Board Chair

Jane Ransom  
President & CEO

## **GSHPA Spotlight**

### **Troop Adventure Camp a Huge Success**

More than 55 girls and troop leaders attended the Earth Connections Troop Adventure Camp (TAC) at Camp Small Valley from Friday, April 8 - Sunday, April 10 and the TAC results were overwhelmingly positive. Girls and troop leaders alike who attended had a fantastic time and couldn't wait to let camp facilitators know how much fun they had!



*Pictured above are a few of the girls who attended Earth Connections, taking part in the Soil Sampling Exercise.*

By attending TAC, girls and troop leaders had the opportunity take part in the Girl Scout Camp experience packed into a 3-day overnight stay. Another advantage that troop leaders were excited about was the fact that the TAC facilitators were there to plan and run the activities and had already received all the necessary training, which allowed them to be more relaxed and enjoy the experience with their girls. "We really appreciate the dedication of the volunteers," added one troop leader as she turned in her evaluation of the weekend's events.

Earth Connections was an environmentally-themed TAC which offered various activities for girls and troop leaders including, oil spills, planting trees, a Relationships with Eco Systems workshop, soil sampling and much more. "I tried something new. I learned that all grasses are edible and tried some. I was learning about eco systems in school. Now thanks to you guys, I might just ace my test. Thanks," said Emily, a Junior from troop #80975 in Shippensburg.

"We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from the girls and the adults who attended," said GSHPA Outdoor Program Director Kelly Benasutti. "This is an excellent way for us to provide a camp experience for some of these girls and their troop leaders who may not be able to commit to a full week of camp in the summer, and we're glad they enjoyed it!"

Three additional TACs, are scheduled for this fall and include:

- Autumn Festival Camp Louise, Grades 6-12, October 7-9
- Fall Fun Camp Happy Valley, Grades 2-5, October 21-23

- Fall Festival Camp Echo Trail, Grades 6-12, November 4-6

Click here to log onto E-Council and register for TAC today!

### **52nd Girl Scouts National Convention**

Are you interested in being an Official Visitor at the 52nd Girl Scouts National Convention? Houston is the host city from November 10 to November 13, 2011. Individuals wishing to attend as full-time visitors must pay the convention registration fee and register to attend through GSHPA. Registrations and payments received by GSUSA before July 15 are \$225 for girls (ages 14-17) and \$295 for adults (18 and over). After July 15, the cost is \$275 for girls and \$350 for adults. All travel, lodging and eating expenses would be your responsibility.

All Official Visitors registering to attend, including friends or family members of delegates, must be registered members of GSUSA and be 14 years of age or older at the time of the convention.

At this time, we are inquiring about who is interested; send no paperwork or payment at this time. Please contact Shelly Sprenkle at [ssprenkle@gshpa.org](mailto:ssprenkle@gshpa.org) or 1-800-692-7816.

### **Gold Award Event Returns on June 25**

Honoring those who have achieved the highest award in all of Girl Scouting at the council-wide level continues on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Look for more information in future eblasts and please encourage your Gold Awardee to check her mailbox for her personal invitation to the event. This year, more than 75 girls have earned the award that best represents everything that's great about Girl Scouting.

### **Camp Open Houses Set for May**

All volunteers are reminded to encourage any girl who may be interested in attending one of our Summer Camps and her parents to join us to find out more about camp at one of our open houses set for the following dates and locations:

- **Saturday, May 14** from 1 to 4 pm  
Camp Furnace Hills in Denver, PA
- **Saturday, May 21** from 1 to 4 pm

## Camp Archbald in Kingsley, PA

Girl Scout Summer Camp offers a wide variety of fun, exciting and enriching activities for girls to choose from so they can make each day at camp their own new adventure and create memories that will last a lifetime. By attending the Summer Camp Open House, girls and their parents can learn all about activities planned for this year's campers, which include:

- Horseback riding
- Singing by the campfire
- Archery
- Boating and canoeing
- Arts and crafts
- Wildlife observation
- Swimming
- Off-site trips to local attractions
- Hiking
- And much more!

Please also remind the girls that camp is open to all girls in grades 2-10, not just Girl Scouts, and if any of them have a friend who is thinking about coming to Girl Scout Camp, the open houses are a perfect opportunity for them to learn all they need to know about this exciting camping experience!

To register to attend or for more information, girls should call 1.800.692.7816, or email [camp@gshpa.org](mailto:camp@gshpa.org).

## Six Months Later – How Have Our Outcomes Changed?

Back in December 2011, we asked girls from throughout our council to participate in an online outcomes survey to help better assess the kinds of impact our work has had on them. Not to be confused with a satisfaction survey, this online survey was developed by the Girl Scout Research Institute to evaluate the impact of our collective efforts. The survey measured what girl members of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania gained from their experience in Girl Scouts and how those results measure up relative to the 15 outcomes that have been linked to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Thanks to your encouragement, our council had the top level of girl participation in this survey compared with other councils across the country! Now, six months later, we're reaching out to you to you and



asking, once again, that you encourage as many of your girls as possible to log back on and tell us if anything's changed.

On Thursday, May 26th, every girl and/or their parents for whom we have email addresses will receive an electronic invitation to participate in this same girl survey. Regardless of whether or not they participated back in December, please encourage every girl to use her voice to tell us whether or not we're making a difference in her life. By participating, each girl will earn either the original participation patch or a Spring 2011 rocker. Follow this link to find out more information about the outcomes associated with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

[http://www.gshpa.org/images/gsle\\_15\\_outcomes.pdf](http://www.gshpa.org/images/gsle_15_outcomes.pdf)

### **New Girls Guide to Girl Scouting Arrives this Fall**

In an effort to consolidate resources and align the materials that support the Girl Scout Leadership Experience at the troop level and the other five pathways, Girl Scouts of the USA will unveil the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting later this Fall. But don't panic, we have until the September 30, 2012 to make the full transition to the new materials.

The new Guide will include badges, handbook sections, awards log, accessory pages, and more. Each level will have its own Girl's Guide and it will be presented in a beautiful standard-size binder. The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will feature new badges on many traditional and beloved topics from nature to art to cooking and first aid, as well as new topics based on girl interests. Some of the activities included in the badge offerings will be the same as some of the activities in previous badges and others will be different.

Check out future issues of this e-newsletter for more details.

### **One last stop on the Council Store Tour**

Don't forget that the traveling version of the GSHPA council store will make one final stop on the last leg of its 2011 Tour at the York Service Center at 1213 Carlisle Pike in York on Saturday, May 7 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Need something now? Remember there's no need to wait for the Council Store to travel to your area. The

online store is available 24/7 at  
[www.gshpa.org/shop.html](http://www.gshpa.org/shop.html).

If you visit the traveling store and we don't have what you're looking for on hand, you'll be able to place orders for any items that we carry online and anything you order and pay for in full that same day will be shipped to you at no additional charge. This special free shipping offer only applies to orders placed in person while the traveling store is on location and that payment in full (cash or check preferred) is required at the time your order is placed.

Questions? Please contact the Council Store at 1-877-920-1951 or visit <http://shop.gshpa.org/store/>

### **Register Today for the Final Two Upcoming Volunteer Training Weekends!**

New and more seasoned volunteers can still participate in the final two free Volunteer Training Weekends offered in June. Choose from a variety of outdoor themed required trainings and enrichment classes – all of which will help enhance the quality of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience you can offer for girls throughout our council! Sign up for one class, a full day or the whole weekend at either of the locations listed below. Each weekend offers the following required trainings: Basic Outdoor Skills, Fire Building 101, Ready, Set, Go! and First Aid & CPR\*

*\*Due to the popularity of this course, First Aid & CPR at all five locations does require a \$25 deposit that will be returned upon successful completion of the course.*

Similar to the training weekends that were offered this past Fall, there is no fee\* to attend (including meals and overnight lodging). Pre-registration is required and participants must be current GSHPA volunteers. Space is limited and available on a first come-first serve basis. Click on one of the links below to register today:

- [June 4 – 5, 2011 at Camp Archbald in Susquehanna County](#)
- [June 18 – 19, 2011 at Camp Echo Trail in York County](#)

Or visit [www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org) for more info.

### **New Property Reservation System Set to**



## Launch on May 16

In the March edition of the GSHPA Volunteer E-Newsletter, we informed you that a plan was in place to roll-out an improved camp property reservation system. We are excited to share with you that the updated system is complete and will be ready to use beginning May 16, 2011.

The updates to the reservation system have been made in large part due to the numerous concerns and frustrations volunteers have shared while trying to use the previous online reservations system through ECouncil. This improved system will still allow folks to submit reservation requests via email and/or our website, but will do a better job of confirming a unit(s) availability prior to accepting any reservation fees or security deposits. Please carefully review the steps below which outline the new Procedures for Property Site Rental Reservations:

1. To view property information such as unit details and photos, including unit capacities and pricing go to [www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org) and point to the Camp tab for drop down menu. Select camp name to view details.  
Select the Camp/Facilities for Rent tab to view GSHPA site rental procedures and policies listed in the Property Procedures Manual.
2. After you've picked your location and your date(s), please verify availability by contacting a council registrar at [registrar@gshpa.org](mailto:registrar@gshpa.org) or 1-800-692-7816.
3. Once you've received a confirmation that the location and date(s) are available, please complete a Site Reservation/Equipment Form. The form can be found on our website at [www.gshpa.org](http://www.gshpa.org) under the Forms tab.
4. You can make your reservation by phone, fax, email or US mail. Credit cards may be used for security deposit at time of inquiry or we will hold the unit for 7 business days to allow for payment by check.
5. Site reservations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All reservation requests must include a Site Reservation/Equipment Form and 100% of security deposit.
6. Payment in full must be received 3 weeks prior to your arrival along with a copy of your approved Troop/Group Trip Application, Troop Roster and required certifications.
7. You will receive a packet when your request

has been processed and your reservation has been confirmed.

## **Around the Council**

### **Girls**

- Brownie troop 10512 and Junior troop 10513 from SU 152 in Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland County decided to make origami cranes, the Japanese symbol of hope and support to send to Girl Scout Troops in Japan in response to the recent hurricane and tsunami. The girls made more than 100 origami cranes and learned how to write the words "We Care" on them in Japanese. They also decided to donate \$150 from their cookie sales proceeds to disaster relief efforts. What great ways to show that you understand and carry out the Girl Scout Promise and Law!
- Junior troop 80773 in SU839- Gettys-Trefoil recently completed their Bronze Award Project. The troop sewed Teddy Bears, which will be given to Emergency Personnel to provide comfort to children who have been in traumatic situations. The girls cut out the patterns, embroidered the faces, sewed the bears together using a sewing machine, stuffed the bears, and then stitched the remaining holes by hand. To date, the girls have completed 35 bears and have about 15-20 more in the finishing stages. Materials were supplied by the Ladies Auxiliary Post 172 in Fairfield, PA. Please see the photo below.
- Elizabeth Andrzejewski, a Gold Award Girl Scout and a member for 13 years, has been recognized by the Scranton Times-Tribune as a "Scholastic Superstar." Elizabeth was also recognized by the North Pocono School Board for academic achievement, is a member of the National Honor Society, involved in the Interact Club, the orchestra, a cross-country runner and volunteers as a firefighter with the Elmhurst Roaring Brook Fire Company.
- SU 327 from Pine Grove held an Engineering Day on Saturday, April 16. Girls who attended had the chance design and construct containers that would protect a raw egg as they dropped it from a window at the North End Fire Department where the event was held. The girls demonstrated their creativity and ingenuity by producing devices that ranged

from cushioned boxes, to parachutes, to bagged cereal wrapped around the eggs. Girls also explored other types of engineering, such as constructing an original toy design, taking an x-ray of their hand, building a newspaper tower, playing with Kinex, and talking with professional engineers.

## **Volunteers**

- Tina Kent and Shelly Glock-Diaz, new Daisy leaders in SU223-Shawnee Service Unit, have been instrumental in starting a new Daisy troop at their church. The leaders contacted their membership associate stating they were excited to try and introduce the Journeys into their troop meetings, however, they wanted some help and information about the Journeys—what they are and how they work. The membership associate and leaders agreed to sit down and walk through the Daisy Girl Scout Journeys; they explored the themes and ways to incorporate them into their meetings. The leaders left the session even more excited and are planning to introduce the Between Earth and Sky Journey into their upcoming meetings.
- Volunteers whose troops meet at St. Catherine Laboure School in SU 172 (Dauphin County) recently coordinated an international night and invited all of the troops in their Service Unit to participate. More than 100 girls, ranging from Daisies to Ambassadors, gathered at the St. Catherine Laboure School Gym and participated in two community service activities—collecting toothbrushes for Silence of Mary Home and making cards and cranes for Sister Scouts in Japan. They also visited 10 different stations where they sampled food, made SWAPs and crafts and learned about the culture of different countries. Everyone had a fabulous time traveling around the world and planning has already begun for another event in 2012.
- An adult recruitment was recently held in the Hazleton Service Unit, which has resulted in the inception of at least five new troops! Thanks to Melissa Kramer, a first-year Daisy leader, who served as a terrific spokesperson and spoke with enthusiasm about Girl Scout programming and the support she receives as a volunteer.

## **Save the Date**

- **Wednesday, June 1, 2011** – Registration Deadline for Sleep Away Camp at Camp Furnace Hills and Camp Archbald
- **Saturday, June 25, 2011** – Annual Council-wide Gold Award Event at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg
- **Sunday, July 31, 2011** – Troop Finance Forms are Due
- **Friday, August 5, 2011 – Sunday, August 7, 2011** – Outdoor Odyssey at Camp Small Valley
- **Saturday, August 13, 2011** – Annual Volunteer Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley