

Connections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM GIRL SCOUTS IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA


girl scouts
 in the heart
 of pennsylvania



Leadership Update

Dear Friends,

In the Carriage Room of our headquarters in Harrisburg, there is a beautiful, old, framed poster of a Girl Scout with the caption: 25th Anniversary: Girl Scouts Today – Leaders of Tomorrow. That caption is a quick and simple reminder of what we are all about: Leadership.

Now, 74 years later and in the midst of planning our 100th anniversary celebrations, we’ve taken a moment to ask ourselves, “are we truly producing leaders as we go about our Girl Scouting activities?”

There are times when we know we are because of specific incidents where a girl’s leadership suddenly jumps out, but we don’t always have dramatic incidents to prove it. This is exactly why we introduced the Girl Scout Voices survey this past November as a way to measure

the leadership development of the girls throughout our council. When we first shared our plan with you last issue, we had no idea what kind of results we would be able to produce, but today we are proud to share with you the measurable impact that Girl Scouts is having on our girls relative to the following three outcomes:

- 70% of girls credit their experience with Girl Scouts as helping them make healthier choices.
- 82% of girls credit their experience with Girl Scouts as helping them to develop positive communication and relationship-building skills.
- 66% of girls credit their experience with Girl Scouts as having helped them to learn how to develop and implement a plan.

These survey results help confirm the amazing impact that Girl Scouts continues to have on girls in grades K – 12, while also helping us to continue to improve upon what we offer for girls moving forward. As a semi-annual survey, we’ll be able to compare results while also tracking our progress and growth. More importantly, the survey helps confirm to our supporters, like you, that every dollar you give is having both a quantitative and qualitative impact on the girls we serve – not that you ever had any doubt!

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

P2 How Girl Scouts helped a Cadette in Hershey set and reach her goals for Olympic Gold in U.S. Figure Skating!

P4 Hundreds of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania lead breast cancer survivors to victory with the Penn State Lady Lions.



Join us on our new Facebook page to stay connected with other donors, volunteers, girls, alumnae and council staff! Visit www.facebook.com/gshpa.

Council Girl Captures National Gold in Junior Ice Skating Competition

From Girl Scout Cookies to Olympic Gold—those are the aspirations of 12 year-old Julia Biechler, a Cadette from Hershey, PA. In December, 2010, Julia and her skating partner Alexander Petrov won the Juvenile Ice Dancing championships at the US Figure Skating Junior Nationals in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Julia, a member of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania (GSHPA) Troop 11039, has been skating since she was only two years old and a Girl Scout since she was a Daisy.

Though skating is her true passion, Julia says her experience as a Girl Scout has played an important role in her success on the ice.

“Girl Scouts has really helped me learn how important it is to set goals and push myself to achieve them,” Julia said.

Julia competes in Freestyle skating and Ice Dancing, and she enjoys

both. “I love Dance because it forces me to push myself to do harder routines, and I love being lifted and floating across the ice,” Julia added. “I also love Freestyle because it allows me to put more of myself into the routine.”

She has set a new goal for herself for next year to make it to Junior Nationals as a contestant in both categories of competition.

Being a Girl Scout has helped Julia to become more prepared for traveling across the country and meeting new people at national skating competitions. “It has just helped me to become a more well-rounded person, and to realize that I don’t have to be shy or afraid to talk to new people when I meet them.”

It seems like there is no challenge



too big for Julia, and she even hopes to someday represent the United States as a Gold medal hopeful in the Olympics like her favorite Freestyle skater, Rachael Flatt and her favorite Ice Dancing team, Charlie White and Meryl Davis. But for now, her sights are set on her next goal of making it to the 2012 Junior National competition in California.

2011 Sleep Away Camp is Taking Girls Back to Basics

Whether it’s a traditional camping experience or a week on the range learning to ride and care for horses, this year, GSHPA is helping girls in our council rediscover Girl Scout Camp and celebrate it the way it was meant to be.

This year, we are taking the Girl Scout Camping experience back to its roots and helping campers gain confidence by allowing them to choose their own week-long adventures. They will also use their imaginations as they explore and enjoy the wonders of nature, all while living by the Girl Scout

Promise and Law.

By getting back to basics at camp, our goal is to help girls gain independence, tailor a camping experience that is truly unique to them and make every day at camp a new adventure while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information about this year’s Sleep Away Camp Experience, log onto www.gshpa.org.



Planned Giving

Did you know there are creative ways to support GSHPA? Ways in which GSHPA, you and your loved ones can all benefit at the same time?

Such giving techniques are called “planned gifts,” because with thoughtful planning, you create win-win solutions for you and GSHPA. For example:

- You can make a gift that costs nothing during your lifetime.
- You can give stock and realize larger tax savings.
- You can donate your house, continue to live there, and get a tax break all at the same time.

Including GSHPA in your will is just one way you can help Girl Scouts continue to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Watch for more tips on planned giving in future editions of Connections.

Interested in learning more about making a planned gift to Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania? Call 1.800.692.7816 or visit www.gshpa.org today.



Save the Date!

Save the date for the 2010 Girl Scout Gold Award Ceremony.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Watch your email inbox in the next few weeks for your invitation with complete details about the day's festivities.



Circle of Friends Members

By joining the Circle of Friends, individuals who make annual gifts totaling \$1000 or more become a part of a select group of leadership donors who are deeply committed to helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders. We thank the following members of the Circle of Friends for their generosity.

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Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania
350 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104
800.692.7816
www.gshpa.org | general@gshpa.org

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Girl Scouts Go Pink with the Penn State Lady Lions



More than 500 Girl Scouts and adult volunteers from across the GSHPA 30-county service area attended the Penn State Pink Zone 2011 basketball game on Sunday, February 27, 2011. The Pink Zone game is part of a PSU initiative to raise funds for breast cancer awareness, research and education.

As part of the day’s festivities, the Girl Scouts color guard participated in the game’s opening flag ceremony, led survivors onto the court as they were honored at half-time, toured the Penn State campus, met the Lady Lions after the game and attended a special presentation by the Penn State Campus Girl Scouts.

“We were very excited to take the girls from all corners of our council to the Pink Zone game,” said GSHPA Executive Vice President, Ann Goropoulos. “It was a great opportunity for them to attend an athletic event at the University and to help raise awareness of a wonderful cause.”

Cookie College Produces New Set of CEOs (Cookie Entrepreneur Officers)

Newly minted CEOs graduated from the second annual Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania “Cookie College” at Penn State Harrisburg in January.

More than 200 Girl Scouts in grades 6 through 12 signed up for the event. Girls attended three interactive workshops focusing on goal setting, social media and marketing tactics. They were encouraged to launch their own cookie business to help them understand skills they will use as young women entering the business world.

Thanks to a sponsorship from Susquehanna Bank, girls were able to kick off this year’s cookie season with the right tools to build a strong foundation for success.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is one of the largest girl-led businesses in the nation. All of the proceeds remain within council to help troops raise money as well as subsidize the cost of providing the Girl Scout program in the local area.

