

Connections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM GIRL SCOUTS IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA



More than 80 of GSHPA's Finest Honored at 2011 Gold Award Event

Congratulations to 83 girls from our council who were recognized on Saturday, June 25, 2011 for earning the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award.

of earning the Gold Award," said GSHPA President and CEO, Jane Ransom. "This event serves as a great reminder of what Girl Scouts is all about: helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders." To see photos from the event, visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/GSHPA.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can attain. It demonstrates a Girl Scout's special commitment to excellence in herself, her community and her future. Recipients must complete several activities covering career exploration, leadership skills, community service and specialized interest projects, followed by a comprehensive project selected and designed by the recipient based on her skills and interests.

Special thanks to PNC, our Gold Sponsor for the 2011 Girl Scout Gold Award Event, for helping to make this special day possible for the girls.



2010-2011 Gold Award Recipients

Adams County

Heidi Benner
BreAnna Bretzman
Marissa Caldwell
Karah Fissel
Corrine Helwig
Breanne Robinson
Natasha Stark

Centre County

Brittany Etters
Alyse Fong
Andrea Krohe
Anna Moyer
Courtney Mundt

Columbia County

Megan Gallagher

Cumberland County

Ashley Logar
Amanda Peters
Kaitlyn Spinella
Cara Uhrich
Sarah Walsh

Dauphin County

Jamie Bohenic
Rosemary Bucher

Olivia Curcillo

Alexandra DiSanto
Kayla Krenitsky
Gabrielle Reed
Leah Robinson
Anne Skrabak
Clariece Swan
Abigail Wilson

Franklin County

Jessica Whitmore

Lackawanna County

Elizabeth Andrzejewski

Lancaster County

Meredith Bush
Jacqueline DiSanto
Danielle Knauer
Katelyn Macbeth
Anna Payonk
Sarah Priga
Amanda Rowe

Luzerne County

Andrea Carr
Victoria Rendina
Dana Williams
Amy Zalewski

Lycoming County

Alexandria Brown
Mersadies Burch
Paige Robinson
Danielle Yakup

Monroe County

Rebecca Argot
Tracey Chopek
Sarah Henry
Margaret Joy
Corey Leight

Pike County

Jacqueline Hoerst
Kaitlin Mottle
Jennifer Pike

Schuylkill County

Rachel Brown
Valerie Glunz
Erin Schaeffer
Emily Stemmler
Audrey-Marie Winn

Snyder County

Jennifer Balinski

Susquehanna County

Maura Warner

Union County

Kelsey Belenko
Amanda Berger
Kristin Berger
Elise Buffinton
Julia Buffinton
Laura Faux

Wyoming County

Lindsey Stammer

York County

Julianne Berg
Kyra Buleza
Chelsea Gemmill
Colleen Karl
Heather Miller
Morgan Miller
Nichole Mills
Nicole Nicholson
Elizabeth Otterbein
Ashley Pander
Johanna Sites
Elizabeth Steed
Rachel Stermer
Erin Thomas

P2 Exploring your Planned Giving: do you know your options when it comes to helping GSHPA continue to serve our mission?

P3 The new troop year is right around the corner. GSHPA is gearing up for the launch our new Signature Programming initiative.

P4 Pledge to be Forever Green. Find out how we kicked off our environmental initiative with a bang!



Exploring Your Planned Giving Opportunities

Many of you are aware that you can provide gifts by including Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania (GSHPA) in your will, but did you know there are several options you can choose from when considering a planned gift?

By making a gift to GSHPA in your will or revocable trust you are proclaiming your confidence that we will continue to serve our mission and make a difference in the lives of future generations. Planned giving:

- Is easy to arrange.
- Will not alter your current lifestyle in any way.
- Can be easily modified to address your changing needs.

Below are some examples of the types of planned gifts you can make and the language you can use in your will to see that the option that best meets your circumstances is carried out:

Residual Gift Language

A residual bequest comes to us after your estate expenses and specific bequests are paid:

I give to GSHPA all (or state a percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Specific Gift Language

Naming GSHPA as a beneficiary of a specific amount from your estate is easy:

I give to GSHPA the sum of \$_____ to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Contingent Gift Language

GSHPA can be named as a contingent beneficiary in your will or personal trust if one or more of your specific bequests cannot be fulfilled:

If (insert name) is not living at the time of my demise, I give to GSHPA the sum of \$_____ (or all or a percentage of the residue of my estate) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Retirement Plan Beneficiary Language

You may name GSHPA as a beneficiary of your IRA or other qualified retirement benefits. Donors should consult with their tax advisor regarding the tax benefits of such gifts.

Naming GSHPA as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan asset such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, Keogh or profit sharing pension plan will accomplish a charitable goal while realizing significant tax savings. It can be costly to pass such assets on to heirs because of heavy tax consequences. By naming GSHPA as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, the donor maintains complete control over the asset while living, but at the donor's death the plan passes to support our council free of both estate and income taxes.

Making a charitable gift from your retirement plan is easy. Simply request a change of beneficiary form from your plan administrator. When you are done, please return the form to your plan administrator and notify GSHPA.

Customized Language

If you or your attorney would like GSHPA to provide you with customized beneficiary language that is specific to your goal and interest, please contact Chuck Cunningham at 1.800.692.7816, extension 1050 or via email at ccunningham@gshpa.org.

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer a matching gifts program for employees who contribute to a charitable organization. In most cases companies which offer the program will match an employee's gift dollar for dollar. Some companies will even double or triple the donation match.

To find out if your company offers a matching gifts program, contact your company's human resources or community affairs office or contact Chuck Cunningham at ccunningham@gshpa.org.

Leadership Update

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to tell you about *Forever Green*, the signature program this year for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. We kicked off this environmental campaign in May at a gathering of 1,400 girls who took a pledge to reduce their ecological footprint. As troop leaders register their troops to take part in this campaign, GSHPA is giving them free age-appropriate leader guides from the national Girl Scout environmental curriculum, *It's Your Planet: Love It!* GSHPA will be conducting training on the curriculum and providing support to leaders who take up the *Forever Green* initiative.

GSHPA is also distributing mini-grants to 32 Service Units that are organizing hundreds of girls who will be carrying out a variety of environmental conservation projects ranging from planting trees along streams to serve as buffers against erosion to placing rain barrels in community parks to capture storm-water runoff.

We are proud to be marking the centennial of Girl Scouting – which is right around the corner in 2012 – with this broad-based signature initiative in which girls all across our council can have a collective impact on the region and their communities.

In this issue you will read about our annual Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony which took place this year on June 25th. At this moving event we were inspired by and reminded of the outcomes that Girl Scouts cultivates in the girls – Courage, Confidence and Character.



We are also busy with sleep away camp and summer outreach activities for girls all across central and northeast Pennsylvania – all part of our drive to connect with girls and develop their self-confidence and sense of themselves as tomorrow's leaders.

Forever Green, summer camp, outreach programs, Gold Awards; none of these important markers of Girl Scouting in our council could be achieved without your generous support and encouragement.

We sincerely thank you for your continuing interest,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane B. Ransom
President/CEO



Circle of Friends Members

By joining the Circle of Friends, individuals who make annual gifts totaling \$1,000 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.

Bridge to the Future Society: ***Individuals who contribute an annual gift of \$2500 or more.***

- * Cappy Bush
- * Kate Crowley
- Martha Heist
- * Mr. & Mrs. William Hoffmann
- * Heidi Nicholas
- * Jane Ransom
- * Natalie Smith

Golden Friends: Individuals who pledge to contribute \$1000 - \$2499 per year for 3 years.

- * Marion C. Alexander
- * Eleanor Allen
- * Joanne Bankos
- * Mimi Barash Coppersmith
- * Nancy A. Besch
- * Karen Best
- * Joy Dougherty
- * Linda and Blake Gall
- * Melinda Ghilardi
- * Betsy Keefer
- * Laura Muia
- * Barbara Palmer
- * Mary Jane Saras

Silver Sponsors: Individuals who contribute an annual gift of \$1000 - \$2499.

- * E. Lee Beard
- * Janice Black
- * Michael Breslin
- Charles Cunningham
- Linda Davis
- * Virginia Goodrich
- * Ann Goropoulos
- Norman Hoffer
- Robert and Melinda Inners
- * Kyle Kauffman
- * Susan Kreidler
- Bridget Montgomery
- * Alva Roseth
- * DrueAnne Schreyer
- * Karen Snider
- * Dianne Steimling
- * Mr. & Mrs. Paul Witt
- * Kathleen Wolfinger

**Denotes charter member of Circle of Friends*



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Kicking Off *Forever Green* Event a Huge Success!

More than 1,400 Girl Scouts and adult volunteers from throughout our Council attended the Kicking off *Forever Green* event at Cumberland Valley High School on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

The festivities started with opening remarks by special guest, Mother Earth played by GSHPA's own CEO Jane Ransom. The girls then kicked off their day of environmentally themed activities by reciting a few *Forever Green* cheers, led by Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low played by GSHPA's own Executive Vice President Ann Goropoulos.

"This was a great opportunity for us to really generate a buzz throughout our council about this new initiative and we couldn't be happier with the turnout," said Jane Ransom, GSHPA President and CEO. "It's very encouraging to see this many girls and volunteers coming together and being so enthusiastic about preserving our environment."

The day wrapped up with a one-hour concert performance by Kicking Daisies, winners of Radio Disney's Next Big Thing Award, to help the girls get motivated about going green.

The band invited the girls to join them on stage during the last set.

