



Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Girl Scout Volunteers

Please get out your calendars. In this newsletter, GSHPA announces the dates of:

- The Council Store coming to each region
- Spring & Summer 2011 Troop Adventure Camp
- Spring 2011 Adult Training Weekends at GSHPA Camps

These initiatives are a direct result of the input you've provided as we have implemented our business plan. And now that we have reached a level of financial stability, we are looking further forward. Over the next few months, we'll be using GSUSA's Strategic Learning process to look at some critical questions for our Council, including:

How do we achieve steady, **sustainable membership growth**?

How do we stay on the road to **stronger fiscal health**?

How do we increase **community perception** of the value of Girl Scouting?

To do so, we have assembled a team of volunteers, staff, community leaders and experts to meet several times over the Spring and recommend strategies to the Board over the Summer. This team will look to volunteers and girls, among others, for solutions and approaches to meet these challenges head-on. We're looking forward to keeping you posted as GSHPA's Strategic Learning work unfolds.

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Troop Adventure Camp is Coming Back!](#)

Learn more about this great outdoor alternative to traditional Girl Scout Camp.

[GSHPA Spotlight](#)

See who we're shining the spotlight on this month!

[Scholarship Application Deadline is almost here](#)

Learn more about this opportunity for Girl Scouts to earn extra money for college before it's too late.

[Around the Council](#)

See what's happening throughout GSHPA.

[The Council Store is Going on Tour](#)

The GSHPA Council Store is hitting the road! Find out when it will make it to your area.

[Move Volunteer Training Weekends Set](#)

Mark you calendars for these great training opportunities.

Thank you, everyone for your great volunteer work for the Girl Scouts.

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

There's Still Time to Apply for Your Forever Green Service Unit Mini Grants!

Service units who are interested in organizing an environmentally themed project or event as part of the Forever Green Signature Programming initiative are invited to apply for a mini-grant. Qualified applications must be able to demonstrate how their project or event will help Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania raise environmental awareness among girls and the communities we serve while also helping to reduce our overall carbon footprint.

All projects or events must take place between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012, but the deadline to apply is March 1, 2011. If approved, grant recipients will receive \$200 - \$500 to be used towards this project or event.

[Click here](#) to check-out the guidelines and application.

Troop Adventure Camp Returns This Spring!

Attention all troop leaders - Interested in taking your troop camping but still haven't had time to complete the required training to do so? Wish you could provide your troop with an outdoor experience that will create the kinds of memories that will last a lifetime, but camping just isn't your cup of tea? No worries, we have the perfect win-win solution – Troop Adventure Camp (TAC)!

Based on feedback from past Troop Adventure Camps, we've tried to put together the kind of troop camping experience that even the most novice troop leader and her troop can enjoy. This year, Troop Adventure Camp will occur throughout the council. TAC will be geared towards specific grade levels and will include themed activities on a number of dates at all seven of our camp properties. Troops will have the opportunity to participate in a pre planned schedule of activities. Essentially, troops will arrive the night before the program begins and stay in a lodge, cabin or tent unit. During the onsite registration process, troops will receive their schedule of events, meal times and miscellaneous information regarding camp. Troops may share a building with other troops as well as the scheduled activities.

Choose from one of more of the following Troop Adventure Camps:

<p>Nature Crafts Camp Golden Pond Grades 2-5 \$30/person March 11-13</p>	<p>Earth Connections Camp Small Valley Grades 4-5 \$30/person April 8-10</p>	<p>Camp Sampler Camp Furnace Hills Grades K-12\$ 60/girl \$45/adult June 17-19</p>
<p>Camp Sampler Camp Archbald Grades K-12 \$60/girl \$45/adult July 22-24</p>	<p>Camp Sampler Camp Archbald Grades K-12 \$60/girl \$45/adult August 12-14</p>	<p>Autumn Festival Camp Louise Grades 6-12 \$30/person October 7-9</p>
<p>Fall Fun Camp Happy Valley Grades 2-5 \$30/person October 21-23</p>	<p>Fall Festival Camp Echo Trail Grades 6-12 \$30/person November 4-6</p>	

[Back to top](#)

GSHPA Spotlight Melanie Robison

"As far back as I can remember, Girl Scouts has challenged me to do things I never imagined I could." That's what GSHPA Volunteer and older-girl troop leader, Melanie Robison, of Schuylkill Haven, said when she was asked what drives her to stay involved with Girl Scouting.

Melanie was a Girl Scout for 12 years and has stayed active as a volunteer for 14 years since. She serves as the troop leader for two troops of both Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts in Service Unit 234. Melanie particularly enjoys working with the girls in these age ranges because she recalls that this was about the time when she really started to see how much Girl Scouting had an impact on her life.

Melanie does a lot of work with her troops to keep them active and interested in programming by planning a variety of different outdoor activities. "I think when girls reach the Cadette level, it can become challenging for volunteers and troop leaders to keep them engaged," Melanie said, "That is why I have really tried to impart to my troops that their experience is girl-led."



Pictured above are Melanie and her Cadette Troop from their 3-day camping trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield where they hiked a little over 17 miles in 3 days.

Her troops are very involved in the planning of their activities and programming. Melanie explained that it is a common practice for her to get her troops into a room at the beginning of the Girl Scout year, give them a white board and let them write down their ideas of what activities they'd like to do throughout the year. And then she gives them that extra push in the right direction to make sure the activities they've chosen will help them to develop important leadership skills, which will serve them later in their adult lives.

According to Melanie, if it wasn't for her leader pushing her, she may not have stayed involved with Girl Scouting and she certainly wouldn't have developed the valuable skills she has used to help her become a successful in her life and her career. "I was very fortunate as a girl to have a phenomenal leader who really pushed me and brought out the best in me," Melanie recalled, "She became like a second mother to me and allowed me to see that I had what it took to step up and be a leader."

Since Melanie has graduated from high school, she has found herself in leadership roles in one way or another and says she owes that to Girl Scouting. Those experiences are what fueled her desire to stay active as a volunteer and dedicated to helping today's older Girl Scouts find those important leadership qualities within themselves.

"As I bridged to adulthood, my experience as a girl scout made me realize that I wanted to provide that same type of leadership to girls," Melanie added, "I was lucky enough

to have a great troop leader who helped me to see what I could become, and that propelled me to become a leader myself.”

If you have a girl, troop, volunteer, service unit, program or event that you think we should shine the spotlight on, please send your story ideas to communications@gshpa.org.

[Back to top](#)

The 2011 Family Partnership Program – April 1 to May 15

It may only be February but this year’s Family Partnership Program will be here before we know it! This year’s program will run from April 1 – May 15, 2011.

Family Partnership is a volunteer-led fundraising program offered once a year through our service units. Any money raised through the program will be used to help offset GSHPA’s general operating expenses which include things such as volunteer development, financial assistance for girls in need, program expenses, camp/facility maintenance and staffing costs.

It’s more than that, though – it’s an opportunity for you, our volunteers, to talk about what you do. While you’re helping to raise money for a great cause, take the time to tell parents, friends and family about the growth you’ve helped foster in your girls and the incredible opportunities you’ve helped them experience through Girl Scouts! There are three participation methods for service units to choose from. You can choose to use one, two, or all three methods, depending on the interests of your group:

1. Encourage online donations via GSHPA’s online donation form at www.gshpa.org/donatenow.html
2. Distribute donation envelopes. Provided by GSHPA, these envelopes are pre-addressed to the Harrisburg office.
3. Host a special event of the service unit’s choosing. Please keep in mind that raffles of any sort are not permitted due to PA small gaming regulations – this includes bingo and basket raffles, for example.

We encourage you to become part of the Family Partnership Program. For more details, please visit our website at <http://www.gshpa.org/familypartnershippgm.html>.

Service units wishing to participate in this voluntary program should appoint a "point person" and contact Beth Beyer at GSHPA (bbeyer@gshpa.org or 800-692-7816, ext. 1013) by Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Cookie Sale is Going Strong

The initial order session of the 2010 Cookie Program is wrapping up and the sale is still going strong. Don't forget booth sales start on President's Day Weekend. Please let your friends and family know they can find out where your troop and other troops are setting up booths by going to www.FindCookiesNow.org. If you have an I-phone, you can also click here to download the new Girl Scout Cookie Locator App for free!

Signature Programming Webinar Info Available at gshpa.org

If you missed one of the recent webinars about Signature Programming and our more specific plans and goals for the Forever Green initiative, check-out the presentation and more on the newly created Signature Programming section of the gshpa.org website. As more information becomes available about upcoming events, the online carbon footprint calculator, service unit mini-grant awards and more, it will be posted here. [Click here](#) to visit the webpage.

Camp Guides are Coming Soon!

Start checking your mailboxes for the 2011 GSHPA Summer Camp Guide. One camp guide will be mailed to each registered girl in our 30-county service area and will arrive by the end of February. The 2011 Summer Camp Guide is loaded with information about this year's summer camping season, and we're counting on our Volunteers to get our girls excited about Girl Scout Camp!

The guide will also contain dates and times of Information Nights and Open Houses where Volunteers and parents can learn more about this year's camping experience. Be on the lookout for your Summer Camp Guide, and if you do not receive one by March 1, please email camp@gshpa.org to request a copy.

Application Deadline for GSHPA College Scholarships Quickly Approaching

Girl Scouts in the Heart in Pennsylvania will once again offer a number of \$500 - \$1000 scholarships for eligible girl members who are currently seniors in high school. To apply, interested girls should complete and submit a complete application by April 15, 2011. Scholarships will be awarded in the following categories:

Gold Award Scholarship Criteria:

Gold Award Recipient required

Graduating Senior who will attend an institute of higher education – either college or technical school qualifies

Academic excellence

Strong commitment to community service activities

Schuylkill County Scholarship Criteria:

Schuylkill County graduating senior who will attend an institute of higher education - either college or technical school qualifies

Active participant in Girl Scouts

Academic excellence

Strong commitment to community service activities

Graduation Senior Scholarship Criteria:

Graduating senior who will attend an institute of higher education - either college or technical school qualifies

Academic excellence

Strong commitment to community service activities

Active participation in Girl Scouts

Interested girls should [click here](#) for more information.

[Back to top](#)

Around the Council

Girl Highlights

- Alyssa Lopez and Morgan Landers from Junior troop 50273 in Clarks Summit, SU 511, delivered approximately 400 lbs of food Monday night to the Abington Ecumenical Ministerium in Dalton, PA. They collected the food nearly three weeks for their Bronze Award.

- Girl Scout Daisy Troop 71370 from Friendly Valley Lancaster County participated in a food drive for the Leola Food Bank. Girls collected food from friends, family and neighbors. While delivering the items, girls learned about the food bank, how it works and who it serves. Soon after their initial visit, the troop returned to the food bank to help stock the shelves. The girls had a great time and earned their pink Daisy Petal for helping to make the world a better place through service and volunteering.
- On Tuesday, January 25, more than 60 Girl Scouts of all ages joined their peers and more than 500 coin collectors for the launch of the "America the Beautiful Quarter" at Gettysburg Military Park. Girls were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance during the opening flag ceremony and helped to entertain the growing crowd by singing camp songs until the Gettysburg High School War Ceremonial Brass Band began to play. The girls were given priority seating in front of the stage and treated as VIP's; they sat in awe as they listened to various speakers talk about historic objects from the Civil War era and how the battlefield preserves not only history, but is environmentally beneficial. Lincoln impersonator, James Getty, delivered the Gettysburg Address to the crowd as girls, who had memorized the famous speech in school, recited along. US Representative Todd Platts sent a spokesperson and the new first lady of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Susan Corbett, read our new governor's very first Proclamation. The girls were invited to pose for photos with Mrs. Corbett, who shared with the girls that she was a former Girl Scout and troop leader.
- Troop 41195 in Centre County visited the Boalsburg Fire Station to learn fire-safety techniques. The girls also got to meet with the town's firemen, try on some of their "Whoa, too heavy!" gear and sit in the trucks. The girls really enjoyed visiting with the firefighters and learning about the importance of fire safety.
- Girl Scout Troop 40349 in Mifflin County spent the Martin Luther King Holiday break from school doing community service at the SPCA Shelter in State College. The 18-member multi-age level troop spent the day learning about the animals and then helped with grooming of the cats and dogs and cleaning the shelter.

Volunteer Highlights

- Volunteers from Service Unit 175 (Middletown, Dauphin County) held a Day Off School event on Monday January 17, 2011. They had 40 girls attend. This program was open to girls that are registered and girls who are new to Girl Scouts. 10 girls that attended were not previously registered Girl Scouts and are now planning to join a troop. The theme was "Bring on the Drama." Girls transformed large paper into a costumes and used them in a skit, did role-playing with a partner, made a small directors board, mini microphones, and a small movie reel (made out of silver bottle caps with black electrical tape). The girls had a great time.
- Volunteers from Service Unit 163 (Duncannon/Marysville, Perry County) recently planned and held a Camporee at Small Valley. Nearly 60 girls and adults attended. Two girls who had grown up in Girl Scouts in the area and are now in college, also joined the group and acted as "counselors." The younger girls loved having them there! The weekend was filled with great food, songs, fun, crafts and other great activities. Many of the Brownies were on their first camping trip ever – and one was heard to say – "Is everyone coming back next year ?" The weekend also gave the leaders time to brainstorm and pass information on from seasoned leaders to the rookies in the group.
- Service Unit 709-Donegal presented the first "Inspired Volunteer" award to long-time volunteer, Sheryl Smeal of Maytown (Lancaster County). Sheryl has been a Girl Scout volunteer for over 25 years, and has served in various leadership and service team positions. The service team created this award to recognize outstanding volunteers for their dedication and commitment to creating fun, girl-led Girl Scout experiences for girls in their community. The team plans to recognize one 'inspired leader' at each service unit meeting, as it is their hope that by honoring a volunteer each month, other volunteers will be inspired by their leadership and achievements.

[Back to top](#)

Council Store Scheduled for Five-Stop Tour

It's finally here – the famous or infamous GSHPA Traveling Trunk. While not in the form of a trunk per se, the mobile version of the Council Store is scheduled to visit a total of five locations giving almost everyone throughout our 30 county council access to a modified

version of the Council Store within an approximate 1 ½ hour drive.

Saturday, March 26 from 10 am – 3 pm at the Montoursville Service Center

Saturday, April 2 from 10 am – 3 pm at the State College Service Center

Saturday, April 9 from 10 am – 3 pm at the Scranton Service Center

Saturday, April 16 from 10 am – 3 pm at the Hazleton Service Center

Saturday, May 7 from 10 am – 3pm at the York Service Center

Plan now to check-out a variety of Girl Scout and Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania items at a location near you on five different Saturdays between March and May. Look for more info in future issues of the volunteer newsletter. Need something now? Remember there's no need to wait for the Traveling Trunk, the online store is available 24/7 at www.gshpa.org/shop.html.

[Back to top](#)

Free Shipping is Back in February!

All purchases made at the GSHPA online store will receive free shipping on the following dates:

Monday, February 7th – Sunday, February 20th.

For more information or to place an order, log onto www.gshpa.org/shop.html.

Invitation to the Spring 2011 Delegates' Meetings

The 2011 Spring Delegates Meetings are coming up in March. ***All volunteers are invited to attend, but all must register.***

Each Delegate meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the dates and locations listed below:

Date	Location	Address
Monday, March 7	York	Zion United Methodist Church 1030 Carlisle Road York 17404
Tuesday,	Montoursville	Parkview Center, Suite 1

March 8		999 N. Loyalsock Avenue Montoursville 17754
Wednesday , March 9	Scranton Service Center	1444 E. Lackawanna Avenue Suite 222 Olyphant 18447
Thursday, March 10	Harrisburg Administratio n Office	350 Hale Avenue Harrisburg 17104
Monday, March 14	State College	1040-1 Benner Pike State College 16801
Tuesday, March 15	Webinar	www.anywhereconference.co m Login: 122368188 Phone: 866-439-4480 PIN: 775463#

Instructions for Online Registrations through E-Council:

1. Go to the GSHPA web site at www.gshpa.org
2. Click on the Volunteers tab and scroll down to Adult Training Calendar
3. Use the pull down arrow and change the month to March – Click on Go
4. Click on the date on the calendar for the meeting you want to attend.

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

If you prefer to not register online or if you are under 18, contact Shelly Sprenkle at ssprenkle@gshpa.org or 800-692-7816, x1002.

Save the Date for More Volunteer Training Weekends Coming This Spring/Summer

Look for more info in future issues of the volunteer newsletter and in your inbox about these upcoming "outdoor themed" training weekends between April – June 2011. In the meantime, please mark the following dates on your calendar:

April 15 – 17, 2011 @ Camp Golden Pond

May 13 – 15, 2011 @ Camp Small Valley

May 13 – 15, 2011 @ Camp Louise

June 3 – 5, 2011 @ Camp Archbald

June 17 – 19, 2011 @ Camp Echo Trail

[Back to top](#)

Service Center Drop-In Hours Continue

Have some items you'd like to pick up or drop off at one of our service centers? Don't forget that in addition to scheduling an appointment with your membership associate, all of our service centers have the following drop-In hours:

Gettysburg: Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

Harrisburg: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm plus by appointment

Hazleton: Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

Lancaster: Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

Montoursville: Monday – Friday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

Scranton: Monday – Friday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

State College: Monday – Friday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

York: Tuesday & Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm plus by appointment

STAR Center Programming Options

Consider one or more of the STAR Center programs for your troop this Fall. Hands-on science activities give participants in our programming at the STAR Center at Camp Small Valley the opportunity to Discover, Connect and Take Action. [Click here for a complete program listing.](#)

Experience This Year's Annual Meeting Via Videoconference

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, April 30, 2011 at various videoconferencing locations throughout our council.