



Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Girl Scout Volunteers

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, we will celebrate what has come to be known as Girl Scout Birthday. Hard to believe that it was 99 years ago on that very day in 1912 that Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the first 18 Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia and began a movement of which we are all now proud members. Girl Scout Week reminds us not only of our founder's vision for Girl Scouts, but also of all the wonderful things that have now become synonymous with the Girl Scout experience that so many of us hold so near and dear to our hearts.

As a volunteer, when you think Girl Scouts, you may think about the upcoming camping trip you have planned with your troop in the Spring, or you may find yourself thinking of all of the community service hours you have witnessed over the years. You may think of the girls you've had the pleasure of watching grow into wonderful young women right before your eyes, or of the seven young Daisies who drive you nuts while making you laugh all at the same time. We hope that you take a moment during Girl Scout Week to reflect upon the amazing impact that you as a volunteer have had on at least one girl this year - your time with her has helped her think a little differently, speak a little more confidently, laugh a little harder, smile a little brighter, all while coming one step closer to figuring out who she is in a world filled with possibilities.

This Girl Scout Birthday take a moment to consider how proud Juliette Gordon Low would be of you right now and how happy she would be to know that you chose to share a piece of yourself with a movement that continues

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on – a vision that started out with only 18 girl members and has grown to 3.4 million.

Happy Girl Scout Birthday,

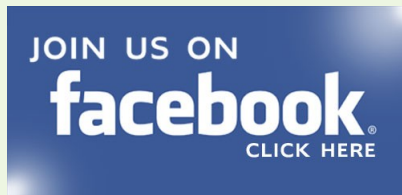
Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

GSHPA is Now on Facebook!

Join us on our new Facebook page to stay connected with other volunteers, troop leaders, girls, alumnae and council staff! By liking GSHPA on Facebook, you will have access to information about council-wide events, photos, information about sales and deals at our council store and so much more.

We encourage all our volunteers to log on and join us to begin posting information on our wall and networking with members from all across the council and Girl Scouts and volunteers from other councils too! Click the button below to visit our Facebook page and plug in to the Girl Scout network.



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Spring/Summer Volunteer Training Weekend Registration Begins March 16!

New and more seasoned volunteers will once again have the opportunity this Spring and Summer to participate in free Volunteer Training Weekends. 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 any of the five locations throughout our council. All five weekends will offer 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

[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.

overnight lodging). Pre-registration is required and participants must be current GSHPA volunteers. **Visit www.gshpa.org for more info beginning on March 11. Registration will begin on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 8:30 am!** Space is limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Look for a personal invitation in your inbox with the links to the registration forms on the 16th!

Here's a preview of what each weekend will include:

April 15 – 17, 2011 Camp Golden Pond in Huntingdon County		
Friday – Saturday: Basic Outdoor Skills	Saturday: Fast, Easy and Cheap Games Meal Planning & Kapers Charts Bridging Workshop Fire Building 101 Geocaching Ready, Set, Go! Letterboxing and Compasses	Saturday: Ceremonies Songs Bronze, Silver & Gold Award Sunday: Yoga Class Scrapbooking Knitting Basics

May 14 – 15, 2011 Camp Small Valley in Dauphin County		
Saturday – Sunday: Basic Outdoor Skills	Saturday: First Aid & CPR Fire Building 101 Hints for Hike Leaders Letterboxing Outdoor Games Outdoor Cooking Rainy Day Activities Geocaching	Sunday: Ready, Set, Go! Leave No Trace Tree ID Animal Tracks Nature Crafts

May 14 – 15, 2011 at Camp Louise in Columbia County		
Saturday – Sunday: Basic Outdoor Skills	Saturday: Fire Building 101 Ready, Set, Go! Basic	Sunday: Creative Cooking Nature Games

Saturday: First Aid & CPR Geocaching	Teambuilding Songs	Nature Hikes
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**June 4 – 5, 2011
at Camp Archbald in Susquehanna County**

Saturday – Sunday: Basic Outdoor Skills Saturday: First Aid & CPR Geocaching	Saturday: Fire Building 101 Ready, Set, Go! Basic Teambuilding Songs	Sunday: Creative Cooking Nature Games Nature Hikes
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**June 18 – 19, 2011
at Camp Echo Trail in York County**

Saturday – Sunday: Basic Outdoor Skills Saturday: First Aid & CPR Ready, Set, Go!	Saturday: Happy Camper Nature Enthusiast Fire Building 101 Crafty Camper	Saturday: Compass Capers Sunday: Camp Sing-along Camp Closing Ceremony
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Application Deadline for GSHPA College Scholarships is April 15

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.

Interested girls should visit www.gshpa.org/scholarships.html for more information.

GSHPA Spotlight

Julia Biechler

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.



Pictured above are Julia and Alexander practicing their championship routine.

Julia, a member of 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 that 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 both 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 is to make it to Junior Nationals for both categories of competition.

Being a Girl Scout has helped Julia to be 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 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.

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.

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Register Now for Troop Adventure Camp!

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)!

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

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

\$30/person October 21-23	November 4-6
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Click [here](#) to log onto E-Council and register for TAC today!

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Information Nights set for 2011 Sleep Away Camp!

Information nights for 2011 Sleep Away Camp have been scheduled for March and April. These one-hour sessions provide a great opportunity for parents and Girls to learn more about this year's Sleep Away Camps. We encourage our volunteers to spread the word to interested parents to attend our information nights and help them decide if their daughter is ready for Sleep Away camp. Information nights will be held from 7 - 8 pm at the dates and locations listed below:

- **Harrisburg Area Service Center** - March 21
- **Montoursville Area Service Center** - March 24
- **York Area Service Center** - March 28
- **State College Area Service Center** - March 31
- **Hazleton Area Service Center** - April 4
- **Scranton Area Service Center** - April 7

For more information or if you plan to attend one of the information nights listed above, please email Kelly Benasutti at kbenasutti@gshpa.org.

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Property Reservation System Improvements in the Works

Time and time again we have heard concerns and frustrations from folks who have been trying to use our online property reservation system through E-Council to book a day, overnight or weekend visit to one or more of our seven camps. While the current online reservation system conveniently accepts credit card payments when you submit your reservation, we often find ourselves having to follow-up with folks after the fact to make multiple reservation changes because of the online system's limitations when it comes to avoiding over-booking or double-booking a specific unit or facility.

In the coming months, we plan to roll out an improved camp property reservation system. The 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 your security deposit. In the meantime, please hang in there and continue to use the E-Council Property module and look for more info about the improved process in future issues of this e-newsletter.

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Financial Assistance Form has been Updated

Our council offers financial assistance for girls throughout all 30 of our counties who qualify. Often covering the costs or a percentage of the costs associated with troop dues, attending camp, participating in a council or service unit activity and/or trip, books and uniform components, financial assistance helps girls who would not otherwise be able to afford to participate take full advantage of all of the Girl Scout activities we offer. To help streamline the application process, we recently made some modifications to our financial assistance form. Please feel free to share this form with girls and/or their parents/guardians whom you think may qualify. Click [here](#) to view the GSHPA Financial Assistance Form.

Bad Checks and Cookie Sales

All of our cookie training has reiterated the importance of not accepting checks from people whom girls and/or their parents don't know. Unfortunately, even those we may know can either knowingly or unknowingly pay for their cookies with a check or not have enough money in their account to cover their purchase(s). If this happens to a member of your troop or service unit, please contact your product sales associate to discuss the check recovery process that we now have in place to help protect our girls. While not a guarantee, this process, if successful, will help our innocent girls collect the unpaid amount and cover any bank fees associated with the transaction.

Please note that this process is not 100% guaranteed and should recovery prove to be impossible, your troop or service unit will still be responsible for both the missing money and the fees associated with the bounced check. Keep in mind that the best way to protect your troop or service unit is to discourage anyone from accepting checks as payment for any cookie purchases.

Around the Council

Girl Highlights

- More than 100 Girl Scouts from across Centre County and the West Region joined 200+ youth for a special sports clinic at Penn State University last Sunday afternoon in observance of National Girl and Women's Sports Day. The program afforded girls the opportunity to experience eight different Big Ten collegiate sports (soccer, lacrosse, volleyball, cheerleading, gymnastics, dance, softball and golf) with PSU team players assisting at each station. Following the clinic, the girls had the opportunity to watch the PSU Lady Lions basketball team defeat the nationally ranked Buckeyes of The Ohio State University.
- A Leader from Stroudsburg tells us about Jean, who is currently a freshman at East Stroudsburg University on a full academic scholarship. She continues to come to meetings weekly to help out with the younger girls and to have fun with the older girls, "Jean's mother died of breast cancer when Jean was in 2nd grade. Her teacher asked one of our leaders if Jean could join their troop because she thought it would help Jean. Jean has continued with Girl Scouts ever since. After Jean's mother died she was basically left to raise herself. Except for her good friend Rachel & Rachel's mom Dawn who made sure she continued to attend Girl Scouts, do well in school, support her financially, etc. Last year Jean's dad died while in prison of a drug over dose which is still being investigated. Girl Scouts has remained a constant for Jean & I truly believe influenced her, supported her, and helped her rise above adversity."

Volunteer Highlights

- Volunteers from Mason Dixon Service Unit (834) in Franklin County recently planned and held a Science-themed event for Brownies, Juniors and teens called "Lighten Up," with all experiments centering around light. The girls would travel to 5 different stations with hands-on experiments including making their own telescope that they would take out and look at the night sky. Each station meets a requirement for a Try-It, badge, or IP.
- Christy Foltz, troop leader with Daisy Troop #70996, Millersville, recently shared her thoughts on attending her area service unit meetings: "As an assistant leader last year, I did not attend any of the Service Unit Meetings, as I didn't see a need for it. It was only after taking over the troop this year and attending the meetings; I realized I

missed out and regret not going to the meetings last year. They are concise and well run, and not only offer a wealth of information, but remind me that I am not alone as a new leader and have unlimited support.”

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100th Anniversary Plans Underway

This month we celebrate 99 years of Girl Scouts, but just around the corner is our 100th anniversary! Celebrating a century of Girl Scouts is no small task and plans are underway. Check out next month’s issue of the volunteer newsletter to learn more about our plans for the 100th.

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.

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.](#)

Important Dates

- **Sunday, March 6, 2011** – Girl Scout Sunday
- **Sunday, March 6 – Saturday, March 12, 2011**
– Girl Scout Week
- **Saturday, March 12, 2011** – Girl Scout Birthday
- **Saturday, April 30, 2011** – Annual Meeting at six videoconference locations throughout the council.
- **Saturday, August 13, 2011** – Annual Volunteer Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley