



**girl scouts**  
in the heart  
of pennsylvania

## Be Connected

### Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

#### Dear GSHPA Volunteers,

The 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting is coming right up and that means it is time to launch an initiative that brings the whole Council together to show our communities and our region the importance of girls' leadership. What better way to do that than with a new signature program, the Forever Green initiative – an initiative that is both true to Girl Scout tradition and forward-looking in terms of community need.

Many Service Units have already planned Forever Green events and projects and have applied for funding from the Council. Later this year, our staff and troop leaders will think and train together about how to creatively use the It's your Planet: Love it! Journey curriculum within troop meetings across the Council.

But the first step of Forever Green is to kick it off with the right mix of fun and information for girls. A kick-off that combines musical entertainment and environmental education is in the works for Saturday, May 21st at the Cumberland Valley High School in Dauphin County. Bus transportation will be provided for those girls who live outside a 1 ½ hour drive from the event. Please [click here](#) for information on registration.

The purpose of the Forever Green kick-off is to excite girls about the measurable impact that they can have upon their environment and to inspire them as leaders to connect and take action. Given the environmental challenges we face, the world will surely need girls who

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Thanks for all you do

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lead the way for others when it comes to environmental conservation right on into their adulthood. Our Forever Green investment is about today's girls and tomorrow's leaders. Please join into this initiative as we rally for the celebration of our 100th year.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Kate Crowley      Jane Ransom  
Board Chair      President & CEO

### **The Kicking Off Forever Green Event Date is Set and You Won't Want to Miss it!**

Promising to be the Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA event of the year, girls from throughout our 30 counties and their troop leaders or parents are invited to attend this highly anticipated Forever Green event on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at the Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, PA from 10 am – 3 pm!

Featuring a one hour concert performance by **Disney Radio's** very own **Kicking Daisies**, this one-day event promises to be a great mix of FUN and HANDS-ON environmentally-themed ACTIVITIES that will generate a ton of excitement among girls in support of our Forever Green environmental initiative.



*Disney Radio's Kicking Daisies (pictured above) will Join GSHPA at our Kicking Off Forever Green Event on May 21.*

Often referred to as Disney's next Jonas Brothers with a hit currently on the Disney Top 30 chart, we're both excited and honored to add a performance by Kicking Daisies to our list of awesome girl-centered activities! To learn more about Kicking Daisies, check out their website

at [www.kickingdaisies.com](http://www.kickingdaisies.com).

A group of volunteers and staff from all five of our regions has been hard at work to put together this exciting event and we anticipate that it will fill-up quickly, so don't wait too long to register via ECouncil! The event will cost only \$10 per registered girl/adult and will also include lunch, a t-shirt and a participation patch. Bus transportation will be available from our service centers in Scranton, Hazleton, State College and Montoursville for an additional \$15 dollars per registered girl/adult (total cost will be \$25 per person).

Don't wait! Register by Wednesday, April 27 to guarantee your girls' t-shirt sizes. Space is limited and we anticipate that we'll fill up very quickly! [Click here to register](#).

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### **Early Bird Registration Begins in April**

Encouraging girls and adult members to re-register for next year before we break from regular troop meetings for the Summer helps all of us plan and prepare for the upcoming Girl Scout year. With the 100th Anniversary year soon upon us, every volunteer can help us prepare for all of the great things that we have in the works for 2012 by encouraging as many girls and adults to re-register for the 2011-2012 Girl Scout year.

To help encourage as many troop leaders and assistant leaders to do so this Spring, we're trying something new... Rather than offering a patch for girls who re-register and distributing it almost 4 months later, we are going to offer a special 100th Anniversary/Forever Green themed incentive or thank you for all troop leaders and assistant leaders who meet the following criteria:

- Have submitted a completed Dues Summary form and all applicable re-registration forms and payment to either their SU registrar or Membership Associate by the May 31, 2011 deadline.
- Have submitted their completed Troop Financial Form and submitted it to their SUM or Membership Associate by July 30, 2011.

To do so, Membership Associates will start distributing both Girl and Adult Membership forms at Service Unit meetings throughout the month of April, but if you need forms sooner, please let your Membership Associate

know or stop by your service center during regular drop-in hours.

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### **GSHPA Spotlight, Janelle Flanagan**

GSHPA volunteer and Lifetime Girl Scout, Janelle Flanagan, of Duncannon was recently selected to represent GSUSA at the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' (WAGGS) Young Women's World Forum. Janelle is currently at the Sangam WAGGS World Center, in Pune, India where she is serving on a committee of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world.



*Pictured above is Janelle at the Our Cabaña World Center during her trip to Mexico in 2009.*

"I was truly honored to be selected to attend this event," Janelle said. "This will be a great opportunity for me to interact with other young women from all over the world who are also passionate about Girl Scouts and the opportunity we have to help girls develop important leadership skills."

Since she graduated from high school, Janelle, who is 26 years old, has served as a troop leader for both Daisy and Brownie troops. She is currently a Girl Scout Gold Award adviser and volunteers with an older girl troop. Janelle feels especially passionate about contributing to Girl Scouts and helping to mentor Girls because of the impact that Girl Scouting had on her life. "Girl Scouts has made me who I am," Janelle stated, "and I wouldn't have had nearly as many enriching experiences in my life if I had not participated in Girl Scouts."

Janelle has visited two of the WAGGS World Centers, since 2007, and her trip to India will make it three out of four. "I visited the Pax Lodge in England when I was studying abroad and attended a program for adults in Girl Scouting at Our Cabaña in Mexico," added Janelle. Janelle has a goal to make it to all 4 World Centers

before she turns 30.

I don't think I would have seen so much of the world if it wasn't for Girl Scouts," said Janelle. "It has really challenged me to do things that are outside of my comfort zone, and I hope that I can build on what I learn at the conference and use it to show the girls in my troop that these opportunities are out there for them too."

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### **Thank You Volunteers**

*The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."*

**-- Juliette Gordon Low**

You give your time, energy, dedication, talents, singing voice, minivan/SUV... but mostly you give your heart. Thank you for all that you do as a Girl Scout volunteer!

April is volunteer month and April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Leader Day and we hope you realize it's not just the staff of GSHPA and your fellow volunteers who appreciate your service. The girls also realize the commitment you have made to them and many will never forget the part you played in their lives.

Troop leaders aren't the only volunteers who give so much of themselves. Service unit team members, cookie chairs, facilitators, camp site teams, archive teams and many, many more important volunteers help our organization. Thank you for the work that you do to help today's girls to become tomorrow's leaders!

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### **Information Nights set for 2011 Sleep Away Camp!**

Information nights for 2011 Sleep Away Camp continue throughout the month of 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:

- 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](mailto:kbenasutti@gshpa.org).

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### **Council Store Travel Schedule Continues**

Don't forget that the traveling version of the GSHPA council store will be at the following locations from 10 am – 3 pm:

- 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

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](http://www.gshpa.org/shop.html).

Here's a preview of what will be available:

- Membership stars
- Insignia tabs
- Numeral guards
- Journey books, awards, keepsakes
- ID sets/Flags/ Troop Numerals
- Other insignia such as Daisy/Brownie/Girl Scout and WAGGGS pins
- Some adult recognition
- Vests/sashes/tunics
- Certificates
- Silver and Bronze award pins
- Gold, Silver and Bronze awards gifts
- Clearance items at rock-bottom prices
- 2011 Cookie patches and pins
- Clothing

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 click [here](#) to visit the online store.

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### **We've Moved...**

The York Service Center that is! After much anticipation, we are pleased to announce that our York Service Center has officially moved and is now open for business at our new location in the Delco Plaza. Our new address is **1213 Carlisle Road, York, PA 17404**. Feel free to stop by and check it out during our regular drop-in hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 am – 1 pm or contact your Membership Associate to schedule an appointment. Since we've literally just moved in, please bear with us as we unpack boxes, finalize plans for our exterior signage, etc. We'll have an "official" grand opening announcement in future issues.

### **Don't Forget to Register to Attend an Upcoming Volunteer Training Weekend**

New and more seasoned volunteers 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 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 any of the training weekends listed below to register today:

- [April 15 – 17, 2011 at Camp Golden Pond in Huntingdon County](#)
- [May 14 – 15, 2011 at Camp Small Valley in](#)

- [Dauphin County](#)  
• [May 14 – 15, 2011 at Camp Louise in Columbia County](#)
- [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.

## **Nature Explorers Programs Return**

Have Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and/or Ambassadors you work with who have an interest in nature and the outdoors? Check out the upcoming programs offered by Nature Explorers this coming May at Camp Louise.

[http://www.gshpa.org/images/nature\\_explorers\\_2011.pdf](http://www.gshpa.org/images/nature_explorers_2011.pdf)

\*Please note that the registration deadline for the April programs was March 31.

## **Around the Council**

### **Girls**

- Brownie Troop 21676 in York County welcomed guest speaker, Jodi Crimmel of Haiti Partnership to their meeting to talk about her trips to Haiti. The girls were very interested in the photos and items she brought to share. They were particularly interested in the hygiene kits that Jodi distributes to those in need in Haiti. After Jodi's visit, the troop decided the kits would be a specific and immediate way for them to help the people of Haiti. Each girl used a dollar of her own money or did a chore at home in order to earn a dollar to buy a portion of the items needed to create the hygiene kits. The girls also earmarked some of their product sale proceeds to help purchase kit items. In mid March, on her next trip to Haiti, Jodi will bring and distribute twelve kits on behalf of the troop. Jodi promised to report back to the troop how their kits were received. The troop leader had this to say about this experience; "Our Brownies saw a Girl Guide in action and now they see themselves taking action as well!"



## Volunteers

- Cedar Rose and Pine Mountain service units in Lebanon County donated items to be given to the first baby girl to be born at the Good Samaritan hospital in Lebanon on the Girl Scout Birthday, Saturday March 12, 2011. There were so many items collected that they filled a large laundry basket and an oversized diaper pail. (The mother also received two boxes of Girl Scout cookies as her own treat.) Baby Emily was born at 9pm on Saturday evening and weighed 7lbs 13 oz. The family was delighted and the mother was so thankful for the donated items that she is planning to attend the leader meetings in April with the baby to personally thank them for donating the baby goodies to her.

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State College and surrounding community grocery stores were sold out of canned tuna last week as Girl Scouts across the region gathered food items and other essentials (water hydration kits in particular) to send to earthquake/tsunami ravaged northern Japan. Word was received this week from a very grateful recipient of the first suitcase of items to reach the area. He had shared the food with local families and all in the community were using the hydration systems included to purify undrinkable water. He thanked the donors for their lifesaving gesture of goodwill.

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## Cookie Wrap-Up

Throughout the week of April 4, 2011, any troop cookie managers who have not yet submitted their troop's cookie money will receive a reminder email from their Product Sales Associate informing them that their cookie payment is now past due. In the past, folks who have received this type of "friendly reminder" and believed that they had already submitted their cookie money had ignored this request. The emails from the Product Sales Associates are our first attempt at trying to account for any missing payments prior to sending folks through the more formal collections process. With that said, should you receive this email and you have already submitted all of your cookie money, it is extremely important that you contact your Product Sales Associate immediately to avoid being sent unnecessarily to collections and

incurring additional fees.

### **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:

<b>Camp Sampler Camp Archbald</b> Grades K-12 \$60/girl \$45/adult July 22-24		<b>Camp Sampler Camp Archbald</b> Grades K-12 \$60/girl \$45/adult August 12-14
<b>Autumn Festival Camp Louise</b> Grades 6-12 \$30/person October 7-9	<b>Fall Fun Camp Happy Valley</b> Grades 2-5 \$30/person October 21-23	<b>Fall Festival Camp Echo Trail</b> Grades 6-12 \$30/person November 4-6

[Click here](#) to register your troop for a Troop Adventure Camp today.

### **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](http://www.gshpa.org/scholarships.html) for more information.

### **Quick Start Your Canoe Course at Camp Golden Pond**

For only \$45 per person, interested Troop Leaders and Registered Adult Volunteers are invited to participate in a

tandem canoeing course facilitated by ACA (American Canoe Association) instructors on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 9 am – 4:30 pm at Camp Golden Pond in Huntingdon County. The course will introduce/expose the participant to the sufficient skills and knowledge of canoeing that will enable them to enjoy the sport of tandem canoeing on flat water while also meeting the Safety Wise guidelines to take their troop(s) out in the canoes. Participants will not be certified canoe instructors. They will learn the following skills: Launching & Landing, Rescue and Emptying, Basic Strokes and Maneuvers and more. [Click here](#) to register.

## Save The Date

- **Friday, April 15, 2011** – GSHPA Scholarship Application Deadlines
- **Saturday, May 21, 2011** – Kicking Off Forever Green Event
- **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.
- **Saturday, August 13, 2011** – Annual Volunteer Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley