



Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear GSHPA Volunteers,

With the conclusion of the troop year came several meaningful and emotional bridging ceremonies for girls and Service Unit awards ceremonies for adult volunteers across the Council. The culminating event came last Saturday when we celebrated the eighty-three girls who earned the Gold Award at a wonderful event in Harrisburg with thirty of the girls and their families, as well as scholarship winners, in attendance.

Seeing the Gold Awardees and hearing about their projects – which focused on topics as varied as the environment, children’s hygiene and homelessness – we received a forceful reminder of how Girl Scouts can turn today’s girls into tomorrow’s leaders. Whether you are a Daisy troop leader or a Gold Award advisor, you are inspiring girls to acquire self-confidence and leadership skills, step-by-step, along the path to womanhood. Thank you!

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who took the time to provide feedback on our most recent annual meeting, which was held by videoconference on April 30th. As a result of your input, we are exploring the following possibilities for next year:

- Having one main meeting location with a few smaller satellite locations connected by videoconference to the main meeting sites
- Presenting only the highest recognition awards at the annual meeting and presenting the others at

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Volunteer Kickoff Info](#)

Click here for all the details for the upcoming Volunteer Kickoff!

[GSHPA Spotlight](#)

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

[100th Anniversary Sing-Along](#)

Join GSHPA for a trip to the Rock the Mall Event in 2012!

[Volunteer Training Weekends set to Return](#)

Click here for more information

[100th Mini-grant deadline is coming up](#)

Click here to find out how to apply before it's too late.

[Optional Activity Insurance](#)

Click here for a refresher on our Optional Activity Insurance policy

[Video Shoot for WITF Special](#)

Click here for an update on the progress of the filming for the GSHPA 100th Anniversary Special set to air on WITF in 2012.

- regional meetings
- Expanding opportunities for strategic discussion at delegate meetings
- Working at making the annual meeting more special and informative for the attendees.

[Around the Council](#)

See what's happening throughout GSHPA.

[Mark Your Calendars](#)

Click here for a list of upcoming GSHPA events.

We wish you a wonderful summer that includes some taking care of yourself and some relaxation with your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley Jane Ransom
Board Chair President & CEO

Get a Jump Start on the 2011-2012 Girl Scout Year by Attending Volunteer Kick-Off

Service Unit team members, troop leaders, assistant troop leaders and more are all invited to attend the annual Volunteer Kick-Off event at Camp Small Valley in Halifax, PA on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Participants will hear the latest and greatest news about the plans that Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania has for the upcoming year including key updates on the 100th Anniversary and Strategic Learning.

Here's a preview of the day's schedule:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 – 10:00 am | Registration |
| 10:00 – 11:15 am | Opening |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Workshop Session #1 |
| 12:30 – 1:15 pm | Lunch will be provided |
| 1:30 – 2:30 pm | Workshop Session #2 |
| 2:45 – 3:15 pm | Closing |

Upon registering via ECouncil, participants will receive a confirmation requesting their top five workshops and will receive a personalized schedule at check-in. Here's a preview of what you'll be able to choose from:

- Workshop #1 - Volunteer Resources – Learn about our council's transition from the discontinued SafetyWise and the Volunteer Resource Guide to Volunteer Essentials and the Safety Checkpoints.
- Workshop #2 - Forever Green – The 2011 – 2012 Girl Scout year will include a variety of means by which both girls and adults can participate in our council's environmental initiative called Forever Green. Learn about all of the great plans we have in-store for the coming year and how you can help us achieve our goals to reduce our carbon footprint

and increase our awareness of our impact on the environment.

- Workshop #3 - Volunteer Development – Learn all about the upcoming volunteer training improvements that are scheduled to roll-out this upcoming year and how these changes will impact new and existing volunteers.
- Workshop #4 - 2012 Camporee – Share your thoughts and ideas on what key components should be included in the upcoming 100th Anniversary Camporee currently slated for August 2012.
- Workshop #5 - Silver and Bronze Awards – In addition to the Gold Award, earning the Silver and Bronze Awards also exemplifies everything that's great about Girl Scouts. By attending this workshop, you'll have a better understanding of the requirements of each of these awards and the process your girls will need to follow to achieve them.
- Workshop #6 - Take Action Projects - Discover, Connect and Take Action are all buzz words that have been tossed around the Girl Scout community, but what is the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project? By attending this workshop, you'll learn the answer to that question, how to steps involved in organizing one and much, much more.
- Workshop #7 - Media Relations at the Service Unit Level – Learn from our very own communications team the best means of connecting with local media and the process to do so using new tips, tools and resources. Participants will also learn more about a revitalized Service Unit position who will coordinate media contacts so that you can go back to your own service unit and start to recruit someone for this position in partnership with your Service Unit Manager and Membership Associate.
- Workshop #8 - The Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting Preview - Curious about all the talk about the new Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting and how this will impact your service unit and/or troop's upcoming plans? Plan to attend this workshop to hear more about the national transition to this brand new grade level-specific resource and how the new Guide and Journey books work together.

- Workshop #9 - Family Partnership – In councils across the country, the Family Partnership Campaign has grown into a successful fund raising effort to help supplement costs in providing service to our girls. Learn more about upcoming plans for the 2011-2012 Family Partnership Campaign, share your insights on the campaign and provide your thoughts on how to engage more service units and troops.
- Workshop #10 – Volunteer Recognitions – Many hard working and dedicated volunteers from throughout our council are recognized each year for their commitment and dedication to Girl Scouts through our formal volunteer recognition process. Learn more about the variety of volunteer recognitions that are available, the upcoming plans to retire some of the Volunteer Achievement pins and keys after 2012 and the changes to this year's nomination and awards process.

Interested in attending please [click here](#) to register.

GSHPA Spotlight **Celebrating Girl Scouts' Highest Honor**



Pictured above are all the Gold Award Recipients who attended this year's event.

More than 80 girls from our Council were recognized on Saturday, June 25, 2011 for earning the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award during the 2011 GSHPA Gold Award Event at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can attain. By earning the Gold Award, a Girl Scout has demonstrated her 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.

After months of working on their projects, all 83 recipients who earned the notable award between April 2010 and April 2011 were honored during the elegant luncheon. The event included the display of numerous Gold Award projects and a keynote address by newly-elected GSHPA Board member and Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Strategic Growth at Weston Solutions, Inc., Kathleen A. McGinty. GSHPA Board Chair Kate Crowley served as the event's MC.

During her address, McGinty praised each of the girls in attendance for the hard work and commitment they had demonstrated by earning their Gold Awards. "Each one of you is uniquely valuable, and I believe this is only the beginning of your journeys and the contributions you will make to your communities as leaders," McGinty added. "If you own your gold, it will give you the self confidence to recognize that everyone around you is also unique and has important skills to offer, which will help to make you all great leaders."

"It is truly an honor each year for us to recognize the girls who have worked so hard to achieve their goal 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."

More than 30 girls attended the event and members from each region of GSHPA's 30-county service area were represented. Each girl was also encouraged to invite troop leaders, family members and friends to help them celebrate their special day. Also honored at the event were the 12 girls from the council who received the 2011 GSHPA Scholarship Awards.

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



For a complete listing of Gold Award and Scholarship Award recipients who were recognized at the 2011 Gold Award Event, [click here](#) or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/gshpa to see photos from the event.

Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary

Sing-Along Set for June 9, 2012



Sponsored by Girl Scouts of the USA, K12, Booz Allen Hamilton, GEICO, Ernst & Young and CareFirst, the Girl Scouts Rock the Mall event, held on the National Mall, is expected to draw over 200,000 Girl Scouts, friends, family and alumnae from around the world to Washington, DC on Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 12 – 4 pm. In support of this event, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania will organize bus transportation to/from the event from each of the five regions. Please be sure to check out future issues of the volunteer newsletter for more details.

Volunteer Training Weekends Return this Fall!

By offering five council-run Volunteer Training Weekends and another in partnership with the Lebanon County service units last Fall, between 500 and 600 new and returning volunteers participated in required and/or enrichment trainings at the start of last Girl Scout year. Given the overwhelming success of this model, we are pleased to announce that new and returning volunteers will have similar opportunities to choose from again this coming Fall. Please mark the following dates on your calendars and look for registration info to arrive in your inbox in the months ahead!

*The five council-run volunteer weekends will free to all participants and will only require a \$25 deposit for First Aid/CPR training that is refunded upon completion of the course.

- September 17 – 18, 2011 at Camp Louise*
- September 24 – 25, 2011 at Camp Archbald*
- October 1 - 2, 2011 at Camp Small Valley*
- October 15 - 16, 2011 at Camp Echo Trail*
- October 22 – 23, 2011 at Camp Golden Pond*

The Lebanon County-based service units have also come together to offer a similar volunteer training weekend again this Fall on September 23 – 25, 2011 at Camp

Furnace Hills. Please [click here](#) for registration info for this specific weekend.

The New Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting Update

Gearing up for the arrival of the new Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting books later this Fall, [click here](#) to view an online video preview from GSUSA of what the books will include. Check-out future issues of this newsletter for more info and details as it becomes available.

100th Anniversary Service Unit Mini-Grant Applications are Due July 15!

Service units that are interested in doing something special in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts are encouraged to apply for up to \$500 of financial support. Eligible events/activities must align with the following goals:

- **Goal #1:** Empower girls to impact their community.
- **Goal #2:** Increase the visibility of Girl Scouts.

The deadline to apply is July 15, 2011. To learn more about the mini-grant application process and check out the application itself, please [click here](#).

Purchasing Optional Activity Insurance Basics

An optional plan of activity insurance is available for Girl Scouts taking extended trips and for non-members who participate in Girl Scout activities. These plans are secondary insurance that individuals are entitled to receive while participating in any approved supervised Girl Scout activity. Optional insurance coverage is available for any Girl Scout activity that involves non-Girl Scouts or lasts longer than three days and two nights. To learn more about the plan options [click here](#) and scroll to page 30 of the Volunteer Resource Guide or purchase optional insurance, please click here to access Additional Insurance Coverage Request Form. This form must be submitted along with a check made payable to Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA at minimum of two weeks prior to the trip/event to:

**Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA
Attn. Pat Hoyt, 350 Hale Ave,
Harrisburg, PA 17104**

The current rates are listed below per plan. Insurance rates should be calculated based on the period of time beginning with the day the participant leaves home through the day the participant returns home.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Plan 2: | \$0.11 per day, per participant |
| Plan 3E: | \$0.70 per day, per participant |
| Plan 3P: | \$0.29 per day, per participant |
| Intl. Plan 3PI: | \$1.17 per day, per participant |

For more information, please contact Pat Hoyt at 1-800-692-7816.

Gold Award Requirements Transition Reminder

It's finally here – the official cut-off point between the old ("Go For It – Gold Award") and the new (the "Gold Award Take Action" Journey) GSUSA guidelines for all Gold Award projects! September 30, 2011 is the official deadline for all girls who are in the process of completing their Gold Award projects under the "old" guidelines (also known as the "Go For It – Gold Award" guidelines). All girls who are working on projects with completion dates after September 30, 2011 should already know that they need to follow the new guidelines. If you have specific questions about this transition, please [click here](#).

GSHPA's First Official 100th Anniversary Project is Underway

A production crew from WITF in Harrisburg came to Camp Furnace Hills with co-anchor of the PBS News Hour, Judy Woodruff, on Monday, June 20 to begin shooting video for an hour-long 100th Anniversary special which will air on PBS during the 100th Anniversary year. Ms. Woodruff interviewed several prominent former Girl Scouts and participated in Sleep Away camp activities at Camp Furnace Hills while the cameras rolled. A few photos of the video shoot are below:



Pictured above is Judy Woodruff, co-anchor of the PBS News Hour, talking with some of the girls attending Sleep Away Camp at Camp Furnace Hills during the video shoot.



Here is Ms. Woodruff making s'mores with the girls during their outdoor cooking activity at the camp.

The PBS special is set to air sometime in March 2012. Keep watching the Volunteer newsletter for more details.

Changes to Store Phone Hours for Orders and Questions

The store phone lines are now closed on Mondays. Any store voice mail messages left on Mondays will now be returned Tuesday. Questions may be answered and phone orders can be placed Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm by calling 1.877.920.1951 and Saturdays from 10 am – 3 pm.

If you are unable to call during the above hours, questions may also be emailed to shop@gshpa.org.

Inventory update

July 16-23, 2011 –Council Store and online store will be closed for inventory and phone calls/phone orders will not be accepted. Online store, phone calls and phone ordering will resume Tuesday, July 26. Council Store returns to normal operating hours Thursday, July 28.

Dates have been changed for the 52nd Girl Scouts National Convention

If you are interested in being an Official Visitor at the 52nd Girl Scouts National Convention in Houston, please be advised that the dates have been changed. The new dates for the event are **November 8 to November 13, 2011**.

Individuals wishing to attend as full-time visitors must pay the convention registration fee and register to attend through GSHPA. Registrations and payments received by GSUSA before July 15 are \$225 for girls (ages 14-17) and \$295 for adults (18 and over). After July 15, the cost is \$275 for girls and \$350 for adults. All travel, lodging and eating expenses would be your responsibility.

All Official Visitors registering to attend, including friends or family members of delegates, must be registered members

of GSUSA and be 14 years of age or older at the time of the convention.

At this time, we are inquiring about who is interested; send no paperwork or payment at this time. Please contact Shelly Sprenkle at ssprenkle@gshpa.org or call 1-800-692-7816.

Foxfire House Open House

Experience the Spirit of Foxfire by attending the annual Foxfire House Open House on Sunday, September 25 from 2 to 4 PM at Camp Furnace Hills in Denver, PA. This free event is open to all Girl Scouts, their families, friends, and Girl Scout troops. No registration required.

Several girls who participated in Foxfire events over the past year will return to share the new skills they learned while participating in Foxfire activities. Visitors will be treated to a variety of demonstrations, which might include music, the making of German paper stars, counted cross stitch embroidery, ice cream making, calligraphy, weaving, baking and many other crafts. Tours of Foxfire House will also be available throughout the event.

If you are interested in history and would like to join the Foxfire House Team in bringing history to life, contact Vicky Miley, Membership Associate, at 1-800-692-7816 or vmiley@gshpa.org.

Around the Council

Girls

- Troop #10645 (Cumberland County) recently held a clothing drive. They collected approximately 50 large bags full of items and increased their own and other's awareness of the need. The donations came from the girl's families and from throughout the service unit and local community. Although it took quite some time to load and unload all of the bags from the leaders' cars, the girls believe they had a great day and did something for a good cause.
- Troop #10554 in Carlisle submitted this awesome presentation of media messages they prepared to reach other teens about issues of concern to them. [Click here](#) to view.
- On Saturday, June 4th, 2011, Girl Scouts from service unit 310 (Tamaqua), took a trip to New York City to see the Broadway show Wicked. This in itself

was a once in a lifetime experience for many of the girls. Rachel Pailsey, a cadette from the service unit, had submitted a "For Good" project to the Broadway show committee and she was selected, along with two others who attended the show, to present her project on stage in front of the entire Broadway audience.

- Four Juniors from Troop #50273 from Clarks Summit collected 49 packages as part of their "Operation Care Package" Bronze Award project. The local VFW and the VFW from the Tobyhanna area all donated money to help with the shipping cost which was more than \$600. The "Friends of the Forgotten," an organization whose mission is to ensure that soldiers serving now are not forgotten, was so impressed with the amount of packages the girls collected, (they far exceeded their original goal of 15 packages) that they presented the girls with their Bronze Award at a special event. The "Friends of the Forgotten" have spearheaded the project of a memorial to the first woman killed in action in Vietnam – a local Dunmore nurse. In October, they will have a dedication which either President Obama or Vice President Biden will attend. Troop #50273 has received a special invitation and a request to be front and center.
- GSHPA staff in the Northeast Region gave back to the community in the 1st ever Truck Drop to benefit the United Neighbor Centers of NEPA. They braved downpours, high winds, and the extreme sun to show community support. Girls who came participated in activities from the It's Your Planet – Love It Journey and took home some valuable information and tools to make the world a better place.

Volunteers

- Memories of last summer's day camp fun have not faded for Service Unit 841-Juliette Low. In keeping with the last year's day camp western theme, volunteer Monica Reese was asked to be the Pony Express rider, delivering important messages from camp directors (sheriffs) to Service Units and collecting attendance etc. to take back to them. Monica took this idea and literally ran with it, riding a stick horse from Service Unit to Service Unit, collecting messages in her authentic leather pouch. The girls were so charmed they began writing messages to girls in other Service Units, and

Monica's morning rounds could take up to two hours to fulfill. Months later at the service unit recognition dinner this spring Monica was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer award in appreciation of this and all the other great experiences she has created for the girls in Juliette Low Service Unit.

- Volunteers from Service Units 152 and 153 (Greater Carlisle area in Cumberland County) offered a wonderful experience to the girls of their communities. Approximately 100 girls from each Service Unit gathered recently at YMCA Camp Thompson near Pine Grove State Park for Great Beaver Adventure Camp. The girls are enjoyed hiking, making SWAPs, cooking out, and overnights for the Juniors and Cadettes. The theme for this year's camp was Wet and Wild and featured fun water-related activities like swimming in Lake Laurel, canoeing, and water games including a frozen t-shirt melt relay where teams competed with one another to see who could thaw their t-shirt the fastest and put it on!
- Endless Mountain and Mountain Ridge Service Units in Susquehanna County teamed up this year and challenged the troops to commit to 500 hours of community service throughout the year. They exceeded their goal and completed 739 hours. It is rumored that next year they are going for 1000!

Save the Date

- **July 15, 2011** – 100th Anniversary Service Unit Mini-Grant Applications are Due
- **July 31, 2011** – Troop Finance Forms are Due
- **August 5 – 7, 2011** – Outdoor Odyssey at Camp Small Valley
- **August 13, 2011** – Annual Volunteer Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley
- **September 17 – 18, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Louise
- **September 24 – 25, 2011** - Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Archbald
- **September 23 – 25, 2011** - Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Furnace Hills
- **October 1-2, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Small Valley
- **October 15-16, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Echo Trail
- **October 22 – 23, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Golden Pond

- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-Along.

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania | 800.692.7816 | www.gshpa.org | general@gshpa.org