




girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

Sleep Away camp is in full swing as we write this greeting. In the feedback we're receiving from parents – about their daughters' excitement over sleeping in tents, overcoming of homesickness, sightings of "wild" animals, and discovering whole new crops of friends – we see the signs of the confidence and character-building outcomes of the outdoor experience for girls.

We are determined to make sure that camping remains a distinctive part of the Girl Scout experience in our council. This is one of the reasons why we're continuing to hold volunteer training weekends at our camps – to keep you, the volunteers, in touch with what these wonderful properties have to offer girls. As far as outdoor programming is concerned, we've taken a back-to-basics approach, working on improving the fundamentals, such as archery, crafts, canoeing, outdoor cooking, horseback riding and swimming. We've upgraded our Troop Adventure Camp offerings this year, as well. And as part of our effort to rekindle the commitment to the outdoor experience, we are also working on a thoughtful strategy for improving the physical camp properties.

In the blink of an eye September will be here and troops will be forming. That is why we encourage volunteers to attend this year's Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley on Saturday, August 13th. We are excited to share with you our priorities for the year, the focus areas resulting from our recently completed Strategic Learning process, and the exciting things we're planning for the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting!

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The traveling store is back by popular demand. Click here to see when the store will set up at a location near you!

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Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates.

We hope you are planning on joining us that day. It is our dearest hope that all of our volunteers have had some well-deserved rest and relaxation this summer to recharge the batteries for another wonderful Girl Scout year.

All our best,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

Be Green. Forever Green.

The 2012 program year will bring exciting opportunities for girls, volunteers and staff to get involved in our council-wide initiative focused on increasing environmental awareness and reducing our ecological footprint by 10 percent.

1. Look for an opportunity to take the Eco-Footprint Challenge this September and understand how your lifestyle (the things you eat, where you live, and how you get from place to place) impacts our planet.
2. Become eligible to receive the 2011-2012 *Forever Green* Participation Patch by reporting the results of your ecological footprint and taking the Forever Green pledge. Participate in activities, events, or presentations that raise your environmental awareness throughout the year and earn rockers for your patch. The 2011-2012 *Forever Green* participation patch and rockers will be available for purchase at the GSHPA online store in September 2011.
3. If your troop has not yet completed the *It's Your Planet, Love it!* leadership journey, this is the year to do it! Get ready for the journey with a FREE book set (one girl and one adult guide) to use with your troop. Girl Scout leaders who have already registered for the 2012 year, should ask their Membership Associates for details.

Hard Work Pays Off: Family Partnership Fundraising Increased by 26% in 2011

Many thanks to the thirty service units who participated in the 2011 Family Partnership program! Nearly \$20,000 was raised through online and mail-in donations and through special events, a 26% increase from the first year of the campaign in 2010.

Special recognition goes out to Service Unit 716 in Lancaster County for raising nearly \$2,800 through their very successful sub sale, and to Service Unit 258 in Cumberland County who reached 98% of their goal by hosting a spaghetti dinner and promoting mail-in donations.

The funds raised through this important program are used to offset operating and programming costs that impact all regions of our council, from financial assistance to girls in need to volunteer training weekends and everything in between. The hard work of our Family Partnership participants has a positive effect on all of us.

Don't forget to include next year's campaign in your service unit's 2012 operating plans! The program will take place between March 15 and May 31, 2012. It's never too early to start planning – if your service unit would like more information on how to participate in the Family Partnership program, please contact Kimberly Clapper at kclapper@gshpa.org or 800-692-7816 ext. 1055.

GSHPA Spotlight: GSHPA Helps Girls Reach New Destinations

Two Groups of GSHPA girls recently had a chance to expand their horizons during some travel opportunities arranged by a few very dedicated volunteers.

Journey Through London

Kathy Leight accompanied three girls to London to visit the PAX Lodge, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Center. The girls chose their destination when they learned about the Journey Through London program offered through the WAGGGS World Center. During their trip, they took a tour of London and saw the sights, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the Thames River.



Pictured Above from left are Nicole Eck, Skylar Ogden, Corey Leight, as they posed for a photo with a member of the London Royal Guard during their trip.

They also each had the opportunity to select a service project they could take part in to help in the local communities. Their projects included helping with counts at a wildlife conservation park, assisting the staff at a local nursing home and helping with the flat boats on the Thames River. They also connected with several other girls from the United States and Canada who were also on destinations to the PAX Lodge.

This was a great opportunity for the girls, one of which is going off to college in the fall, while the others will both begin their senior year in high school. "They wanted to do something really big that could be like a great, culminating experience to celebrate their time in Girl Scouting," said Leight. "The experience opened their eyes to world travel and helped to show them they were capable of doing what it takes to reach their goals."

Savannah Bound

Francy Shreve, Laura Smith and Cindy Krishak organized a destination for a group of 18 fourth, fifth and sixth grade girls from GSHPA's Western region, the Savannah Bound Girls, to Savannah Georgia, to learn about Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Lowe. The group traveled by train from Lewistown to Philadelphia and then onto their destination. "Just the train ride itself was a very exciting part of the trip for most of the girls who had never ridden on a train before," said Smith.



The group is pictured here standing outside the First Girl Scout Headquarters in Savannah, Georgia.

The girls enjoyed a few days of tours and sightseeing in Savannah combined with a few days jam packed with fun-filled Girl Scout History. They visited the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Lowe, toured the house that she lived in as a girl, and learned all about her life in Georgia. They also had a pinning ceremony in Juliette's garden.

"This was an excellent way for the Girls to learn a lot about the History of our organization," Smith added. "The girls also learned a lot about technology and social media as they were encouraged to blog and Tweet during the trip to keep their friends and family up to date on what they were doing, and they taught some of us adults a thing or two along the way."

The trip will be open again next year to members in the Western Region. For information on how to apply to attend, contact Laura Smith at lmahs@aol.com.

Volunteer Training Weekends Return this Fall

By offering 5 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.

Calling all volunteers - The GSHPA Traveling Store is coming to YOU!

This fall, the Council store will be visiting each Service Center around Council to give our volunteers the opportunity to come look, touch, feel and buy needed materials for the upcoming troop year! So mark your calendars and be ready to SHOP with us! Below is a schedule of upcoming dates when the Council store will travel to a location near you:

All dates listed below are Saturdays and the Traveling Store hours will be 11:00am to 2:30pm.

October: 8 York Service Center
15 Hazleton Service Center
22 Montoursville Service Center
29 Scranton Service Center

November: 5 State College Service Center

We can't wait to see you there!!

Around the Council

Girls

- A membership Associate in the North Region of the Council, Elaina Elmore, is currently working at a Women's Resource Center to offer a summer outreach program. This week one of the mothers approached her and asked why she chose to be there. Elaina simply shared that all girls should have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts and we wanted to make sure that we brought them this opportunity. After this simple statement, the mother started to cry and thanked Elaina for everything that she was doing with these girls.

- Girl Scouts from Service Unit 309 (NE Region) sent cards and cookies to soldiers in Kosovo. SSG Laurence Addicott posted the cards on a bulletin board for the camp to read. A note of appreciation was sent back. The soldiers like to hear from family and friends and they enjoyed the cookies as well. Below is a picture sent by the soldiers to our Girl Scouts.
- June 24 was Scout Night with the York Revolution (Pro Baseball) and was the culminating activity for girls in York City that had participated in GSHPA's Defy the Odds series. Sixty girls and adults participated in the event, which included pre-game parade and player autographs. Girls and adults enjoyed the perfect night for ball game in their home town.

Volunteers

- Recently, Membership Associate, Vicky Miley and volunteer adult learning facilitator, Kathy Ledzinski received a special letter from one of the participants on their recent Basic Outdoor Skills training course at Camp Echo Trail. The volunteer wrote, "I dreaded that weekend camping thinking I was going to be bored out of my mind with booklets, handouts and you reading them to us...Boy was I surprised at how much fun and learning that happened that weekend. I felt so completely prepared to take my troop camping at the service unit encampment and had a lot of fun doing it, too!"
- A Membership Associate wrote in about the change in an Adams County volunteer who has made big strides in overcoming her shyness and has become a leader in Girl Scouts. She has progressed from assisting with a troop to being the troop leader; she also has gained so much confidence that she is now leading service unit events. She feels proud of the good she has done and looks forward to whatever lies ahead.
- Cyndi Schuetrum, an assistant Junior leader and a brand new Cadette leader for the Shenandoah area and SU 302, recently made a house call to two girls that were interested in joining Girl Scouts. The mother really wanted her daughters' to get involved but was

concerned about getting the girls to the meetings without having transportation to get there. Cyndi, going above and beyond, made sure the girls still received the necessary forms to become Girl Scouts and is going to work with the girls to make sure even if they can't make all the meetings due to their situation, they will have ways to be involved by sending badge work that they can do at home, and making sure that they will be attending all the events the troop attends.

Save the Date!

- **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