

October, 2011




girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

The importance of your influence upon the governance of our Council, and also upon the governance of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., stands out as we begin the new Girl Scout year. Coming up this month we'll be holding meetings of service unit-elected delegates in every region. In November our national delegates, who were elected at the last annual meeting, will head to Houston for the 2011 Girl Scouts National Convention.

GSHPA's membership associates and regional directors work with volunteers on operational issues continuously by answering questions, listening to ideas, and fine-tuning procedures in order to help you deliver Girl Scouting to girls as smoothly and effectively as possible.

On the other hand, elected delegates help shape council-wide and national strategies and policies. For example, at the upcoming GSHPA delegates meetings we will be asking delegates for strategic advice on implementing one of the priorities we established in our recent Strategic Learning process, specifically, the non-troop Girl Scout Pathways (series, events, camp, travel, and virtual) at the Junior age level.

We will also be discussing the three proposals coming up for vote at the national convention. These proposals concern local council program fees, the annual membership year, and the election cycle for national delegates. To assure that our service unit and national delegates hear the opinions of the membership, we are inviting our members to take a quick survey at the link below:

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Check out our latest Good Rule of Thumb.

[New Partnership Opportunity for Volunteers](#)

Find out about this new opportunity for volunteers looking to organize council-wide events.

[GSHPA Spotlight](#)

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

[Forever Green Updates](#)

Check out the latest additions to our *Forever Green* Initiative!

[Council Store Updates](#)

Click here for information about tax-free purchases and where the traveling store is stopping next!

[Camp Work Parties](#)

Find out how you can help get one of our camps ready for the winter and earn a free weekend at camp for your troop!

[Great Girl Scout Hike](#)

Learn how you can join Girl Scouts across the country for

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CONVENTIONPROPOSALS2011>

Here you will find each of the proposals, GSUSA's stance on each of them, as well as some of the pros and cons that the national delegates have been discussing about each of them. Please help our delegates decide how to vote on these proposals by participating in the survey and letting them know what you think.

We thank you for taking the time to participate in GSHPA's governance – whether by electing service unit delegates, serving as delegates, participating in surveys, or serving on ad hoc task groups like the Strategic Learning team we convened last Spring. We value your input and all that you do for the girls.

With thanks to all of you,

Kate Crowley Jane Ransom
Board Chair President & CEO

It's the Start of a New Troop Year...*

Good Rule of Thumb #1:

Take the Time to Update Your Troop Bank Account's Signatories

If you are a troop leader for the 2011-2012 troop year and/or are responsible for an existing troop bank account, please make a special point to stop by a branch of your troop's bank and update your troop bank account signatories. Keep in mind that anyone listed on a troop's bank account as a signatory has the ability to both deposit and withdraw your troop funds from your account. Even if you are a returning troop leader working with the same troop bank account you did last year, this is always a good practice just to make sure that former volunteers are no longer listed as folks who may access your troop's funds. Get your troop year off to a great start by stopping by your troop's local bank and updating who can access your troop's account within the next couple of weeks.

**This is the first message in a series of helpful hints entitled "It's the Start of the Troop Year..." that will include tips for new and returning troop leaders.*

New Partnership Opportunity for Volunteers who Offer Council-Wide Activities

Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA is pleased to offer a special partnership opportunity for volunteer groups who want to offer and advertise an activity/event for adult or girl members throughout our 30-county footprint. For those activities that

this special 100th Anniversary hike!

Around the Council

See what's happening throughout GSHPA

Save the Date

Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates.

involve volunteers from three or more service units and meet the following criteria*, volunteer-led events/activities may be eligible for council-wide promotion via the monthly volunteer e-newsletter, listings on our website and even free use of a GSHPA-owned camp property:

** Volunteer-led Day Camps, Camporees and Encampments do not qualify.*

- The intended purpose of the activity must align with at least one council priority listed within the current fiscal year's operating plan.
- The activity must fill a niche that is appealing to the intended audience located throughout the council.
- The activity must be open to all who meet the pre-defined and agreed upon qualifications.
- Volunteer vs. Girl Activities/Events:
 1. If the activity is a Volunteer Event, it must include a minimum of 5 trainings that will help participants directly enhance/improve the type and/or quality of the Girl Scout experience they currently directly offer for girls.
 2. If the activity is a Girl Event, it must align with 1 of the 3 Girl Scout Leadership Experience outcomes that GSHPA has prioritized and agree to perform a pre- and post-test of participants.
- The activity must have a volunteer committee representing a minimum of 3 service units involved in the planning and implementation of the activity.
- Must provide an anticipated budget reflecting anticipated income and expenses and a zero balance at completion of the activity.
- The activity must not conflict with an already established council-wide program that targets the same audience.
- The activity must comply with all policies and procedures as outlined in Volunteer Essentials and the appropriate Safety Checkpoints.
- The participants in the activity must be registered members of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania either prior to or as a result of their participation.

Interested in applying? Please send an email to general@gshpa.org for a full application and more details.

GSHPA Spotlight
Girl Scouts Spring to Action to Help Flood Victims

"To help people at all times," is the third line of the Girl Scout Promise that we all pledged to uphold when we became Girl Scouts. There has not been a time in recent memory in which people in the communities throughout our 30-county service area have needed help more than in the past few weeks due to the storms and flooding that have affected so many people. And help is exactly what countless girls and troops across our council did.

Many counties throughout our council were devastated by high flood levels and record setting rainfall, which caused rivers, streams and creeks to overflow their banks and run into the streets. Thousands were displaced from their homes and in need of help. Our girls and volunteers sprang to action to do whatever they could, from holding clothing drives to handing out drinks and cleaning supplies, to helping set up emergency shelters for members of the community who were evacuated from their homes. Below are some examples of flood relief efforts organized by our girls and volunteers:

- Led by Junior Troop Leader Joann Risso, Service Unit 329 took the initiative to start a Flood Recovery Drive to help their local area as well as their neighboring town, Pine Grove, which was affected by the recent flooding. They have had an outpouring of donations and all the troops have gotten involved. The troops have all made cards and posters to include with the donations they have collected. (See photo below)



- Michelle Swoga, troop leader, helped to organize a clothing and supply drive in Luzerne County.
- Cathy Grossbauer, troop leader, helped to organize a clothing and supply drive in conjunction with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Pittston, the local Kmart, Scranton Mission, Kids Klothesline, and Boul's Trucking. They gathered enough supplies to fill an entire semi truck full

of clothes to donate to anyone who was in need. This site was covered on a WNEP newscast. Those supplies went to people in need in Pittston, West Pittston, Duryea, Nanticoke and Shickshinny.

- Sandra Colwell, troop leader, helped to organize local relief efforts in Pittston and West Pittston.
- Daisy troop 32518, Brownie troop 32795, and Junior troop 30823 in the Nanticoke area organized a supply drive for supplies for kids.
- Tunkhannock service unit also organized a supply drive for those people in Wyoming County in need.
- When Halifax Middle School was turned into an emergency shelter during the flooding from Tropical Storm Lee, Beth Leonard, Service Unit Manager for SU 191 coordinated all of the services for those who had been displaced.
- An older girl troop in Service Unit 624 went into the Williamsport area to help some of the elderly residents clean out their homes. They helped carry damaged belongings and debris from basements and clean up as much as they could.
- Service Unit 327 from Pine Grove, which was devastated by the recent flooding, jumped at the opportunity to help their community out this past weekend. The Service Unit, girls and volunteers alike, coordinated with Operation Hugs and Kisses to pass out water, bleach, and towels, to victims of the flooding, and all this week they will be helping the Pine Grove Wesleyan Church with organizing donated items to hand out.
- Several girls from troops in Service Unit 628 volunteered at a local church that was being used as a drop off center for much needed cleaning supplies and other necessary items. They helped sort items as they were brought in and helped people that were still a little in shock at their situation gather the things they needed to start the recovery process.
- Another troop in Service unit 628 went door to door and handed out cold water, juice boxes, fresh fruit, buckets, cleaning supplies and other much needed essentials in the flooded areas.
- Girls from Service Unit 322 in Luzerne County have been conducting a door-to-door food drive in neighborhoods not directly affected by the recent flooding in their area. The girls collected nearly \$5,000 in food and cleaning supplies, which were then delivered to the West Pittston Salvation Army to restock their food pantry and distribute to the flood victims. They packed a van to the roof. The girls plan to continue these collections. (See

photo below)



We know there were many more efforts to help flood victims by girls and volunteers that were not reported back to us. For these and all the instances listed above, we say THANK YOU to all our girls and volunteers. By coming together to help members of your communities in their time of need, you have exemplified the spirit of Girl Scouting and showed that you are helpful and friendly, considerate and caring, and courageous and strong and are living by the Girl Scout Promise and Law!

Forever Green Updates

Forever Green Video Chats Create a Buzzzzzzzzzz!

How do you decide that you love something enough to spend your life making it, growing it, or teaching others about it? Let's ask the experts. Beginning this November, Girl Scouts in grades 6-12 can participate in several live video chats with business owners, public speakers, and educators who have taken a Forever Green pledge of their own.

The first video chat, scheduled for November 9, 2011 from 7 - 8 pm is with Alyssa Fine, PA 2011 Honey Queen and Emily Bruckart, Honey Princess. Both women are college seniors at Penn State and Shippensburg Universities; they travel throughout the state speaking on behalf of the beekeeping industry. Ms. Fine and Ms. Bruckart will each share her perspective on what motivates them to advocate for honeybees as well as some ways that environmental concerns impact honey production.

A video chat is a real-time, online discussion that features a host, speaker or speakers, and participants who need a computer (Mac or PC) with internet access and speakers to see and hear presentations. Discussion questions will be taken via the online provider's chat function. Register for this and other video chats

at <http://www.gshpa.org/girls/programeventscalendar.html>
beginning October 10, 2011.

GSHPA Recycles: Every Wrapper Counts!



Beginning today, GSHPA troops can “Outsmart Waste” by collecting individual candy wrappers, large candy bags, and multi-pack candy wrapping for a council-wide recycling effort with Terracycle. Terracycle is a company that collects items we normally throw in the trash and finds ways to turn them into new products (e.g., candy wrappers and chip bags become pencil cases, purses, and backpacks!) Every wrapper counts! Start saving crinkly plastic wrappers from fall product sales and Halloween candy - just the wrappers – no paper inserts or candy, please! Put them in a (sealed) bag and bring them to a drop-off site in your region by Tuesday, November 15, 2011 also known as America Recycles Day. How many pounds of waste can we keep out of landfills? Remember, every wrapper counts, but don’t eat any more candy than you normally do! Collect your friends’ candy wrappers instead. Collections results will be announced in December 2012.

Collection Sites (listed below) are open during posted office hours or by appointment. Troops or Service Units can work with their Membership Associates to schedule large drop-offs during days and times that work for them.

- Hazleton Service Center - 426 Airport Road, 12 Beltway Commons, Hazle Township, PA 18202 (Tues. & Thurs. 11 am – 1 pm).
- Harrisburg Service Center - 350 Hale Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17104 (Mon-Thurs 8:30 am – 5 pm, Fri. 8:30 am - 3 pm)
- Montoursville Service Center - Parkview Center, Suite 1, 999 North Loyalsock Avenue, Montoursville, PA, 17754 (Mon. - Fri. 11 am – 1 pm)
- Scranton Service Center - 1444 East Lackawanna Avenue, Suite 222, Olyphant, PA 18447 (Mon. - Fri. 11 am – 1 pm)
- State College Service Center - 1040-1 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801 (Mon. - Fri. 11 am– 1 pm)
- York Service Center - 1213 Carlisle Road, York, PA 17404

(Tues. & Weds. 11 am – 1 pm)

The GSHPA Traveling Store is Back for the Start of the New Troop Year!

The GSHPA Traveling Store is back in business and is scheduled to visit a total of five locations within the next five weeks. This will give almost everyone throughout our 30-county service area access to a modified version of the Council Store within an approximate 1 ½ hour drive.

The store will be open for business from 11 am to 2:30 pm at the dates and locations listed below:

- **Saturday, October 8** at the York Service Center - 1213 Carlisle Road, York, PA
- **Saturday, October 15** at the Hazleton Service Center - 426 Airport Road, 12 Beltway Commons, Hazle Township, PA
- **Saturday, October 22** at the Montoursville Service Center - Parkview Center, Suite 1, 999 North Loyalsock Avenue, Montoursville, PA
- **Saturday, October 29** at the Scranton Service Center - 1444 East Lackawanna Avenue, Suite 222, Olyphant, PA
- **Saturday, November 5** at the State College Service Center - 1040-1 Benner Pike, State College, PA

Plan now to check-out a variety of Girl Scout and Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania items at a location near you. Need something right away? Remember there's no need to wait for the Traveling Trunk, the online store is available 24/7 at www.gshpa.org/shop.html.

Accounts are Now Available for Troops and SUs to Make Tax-exempt Purchases

This is just a reminder that as you begin to make purchases for your troops or Service Units (SUs) as we start up our new troop year, GSHPA now offers special accounts which will allow you to buy items for your troops or SUs from our online council store without worrying about sales tax!

The tax-exempt accounts have already been set up for you. To access these accounts, please follow the steps below:

Logging into your tax exempt Troop or SU account for the first time

1. Please remember that your Troop/SU account is the one

- GSHPA has created for your Troop or SU, not one that you may have already created yourself.
2. You can login to your new account by visiting GSHPA's online store homepage: <http://shop.gshpa.org/store/>
 3. Near the top, and on the right side of the store homepage under "My Account" enter the following information:
 - i. Troop/SU account username (the letters TR or SU followed by your 5-digit troopnumber or 3-digit SU number).
 - ii. Your password: GSHPA (this is case sensitive; all caps and no spaces). Once you have logged in, you will be able to personalize the password.
 4. For more details about how to use your troop or SU's tax-exempt account, [click here](#).

Camp Work Party Weekends Set for October

How would you like to bring your troop out for a free weekend of camping? All you'll have to do is join in the fun and get your hands a little dirty at one of our GSHPA Camp Work Parties!

Troops, adults and friends of Girl Scouting are encouraged to join GSHPA staff as we prepare our camps for the upcoming winter season. Participants will help with several end-of-year camp maintenance duties including, putting away seasonal equipment, cleaning up storm debris, putting away mattresses, and beds, and breaking down and storing tents. If weather and time permit, there may be some staining and/or painting, and also some trail clean up. Jobs will be assigned by committees and/or rangers and will be age-level appropriate.

The Camp Work Parties are set for the weekend of Oct. 15-17 at Camp Archbald and Oct. 21-23 at the following locations:

- Camp Echo Trail
- Camp Furnace Hills (participation limited to Senior and Ambassador Troops)
- Camp Golden Pond
- Camp Louise
- Camp Small Valley

The actual work will take place on Saturday and volunteers may sign up for either the entire day or a half-day. **Troops providing a full day of work on Saturday will camp for FREE!** Please remember, accommodations will be limited since tents will be taken down for the winter and some seasonal water may be turned off. A light lunch will also be provided to all volunteers on

Saturday.

- Rules for Troop participation are as follows:
- Troop leaders must have all required camp and first aid certified adults with them
- Leaders are responsible for supervision of the girls; staying on task and in their assigned areas
- On departure, troops must check out with Site Hosts or Rangers and leave the unit they used cleaned and ready for the next group.

To sign up for work parties at Camp Archbald, Echo Trail, Golden Pond, Louise or Small Valley, call 1-800-692-7816 and ask to speak to one of our registrars.

Seniors and Ambassadors interested in helping at Camp Furnace Hills should call Phyllis Doughty at 717-733-6784 or email doetea@dejazzd.com. If you plan to spend the night, you must complete the Application for Trip to GSHPA Owned Site form. Click here to view a printable copy of this form.

Dates have been set for the 2012 Family Partnership Program

This year's Family Partnership program is set to run from March 15 to May 31, 2012. As many of you are making plans for our 100th anniversary year, we hope you will add the Family Partnership Program to your agenda!

Family Partnership is a volunteer-led fundraising program offered once a year through our service units. 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!

As we prepare to celebrate our centennial year, we've made a few changes to the Family Partnership Program. For example, this year your service unit will receive a ten percent return on the total amount you collect and any money raised through the program will be used for financial assistance to help girls in need who want to participate in Girl Scouting.

For more details, please contact Kimberly Clapper at 800-692-7816, ext. 1055 or email kclapper@gshpa.org.

Take a Hike...a Really Big One!

Girl Scouts of all ages are invited to join the Great Girl Scout Hike along the Appalachian Trail. In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting, Girl Scouts from across the country are joining together to pick a section of the Appalachian Trail.

The hiking journey begins Monday, March 12, 2012 and ends Wednesday, Oct 31, 2012. Girls can choose any time and any section of the Appalachian Trail.

For more information about how to join the Great Girl Scout Hike, visit www.gshike.org or [click here](#) to check out the Great Girl Scout Hike Facebook page.

Around the Council

Girls

- Sunday, September 11th, the weather matched the mood in Monroe County, gray and somber. There were many events held throughout the county to mark the tenth anniversary of the 9/11. One such event was the Healing and Remembrance Event at the United Way Memorial Garden in Tannersville. State Reps. Mario Scavello and Rosemary Brown along with Monroe County Commissioner, Theresa Merli spoke during the program. They were joined by firefighters, emergency responders and Girl Scouts from each of the five Service Units in Monroe County.
- Centre County Service Unit 414, based out of Bellefonte, is starting its year-long Energy Challenge Kick-off with a visit and tour of the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park on Saturday, October 1. They will learn about the energy monitoring system that helps make this facility a "green" building. After the tour, girls will perform a variety of activities to learn how they can become "Energy Detectives" at home and reduce the use of limited resources as well as natural and manmade materials. As an added bonus to the day's activities, Girl Scouts will help tag Monarch butterflies. The butterflies are tagged to learn about the fall migration patterns and population of the Monarch butterflies east of the Rocky Mountains.
- Three Girl Scouts from Service Unit 226-Spring Valley earned the highest award a Cadette can earn: the Silver Award. They chose the organization Love Letters: Random Cards of Kindness Inc. as their project. The girls hosted an event to make cards for children (up to 18 years old) who are battling a life threatening illness. The

event was a great success. They exceeded their goal; a total of 726 cards were created. See photo below.



Volunteers

- The Foxfire Team received this message from a troop who recently visited Foxfire House at Camp Furnace Hills:

I just wanted to let someone know about our weekend Foxfire Live in Program. We had a great time. Diane Carpenter was so helpful and full of knowledge and passion regarding the Foxfire House and history from that time period. She taught the girls how to cook, clean, tin punch and that is just to name a few things we did. At the same time she was helping Wendy Baker-Davis (who is learning to be a site host) and they both brought a lot of fun to the weekend. We wanted to extend our gratitude for showing us such a good time. Diane and Wendy made our trip memorable. Thank you--Troop 20335 – Denise Ampscher, troop leader. (See photo Below)



- Several members of the GSHPA Archives Team came

together to search the collection for badges, pins and uniform components to include in the 100th Girl Scout Anniversary Kits, which are due to be distributed to Historical Societies and other community organizations this fall. These community partners have agreed to 'host' a 100th Anniversary display at their facility sometime during FY12. Each kit includes an array of uniforms, insignia and novelty items from the last 100 years, as well as special signs and posters that can be posted in the display area. Below—a photo of several Archives team members sporting Girl Scout hats from the past 100 years of Girl Scouting.

- Volunteers in Penn Manor Service Unit (SU715) kicked-off the year with an opening candle lighting ceremony at their September Service Unit meeting. This ceremony is one of four volunteer enrichments that will be offered during fiscal year 2012 at service unit meetings throughout the South Region. This particular enrichment session demonstrates how "dark" our world would be without Girl Scouting. (See photo Below)



Save the Date!

- **October 8, 2011** – Traveling Store at York Service Center
- **October 10, 2011** – State College Delegates Meeting
- **October 11, 2011** – Montoursville Delegates Meeting
- **October 12, 2011** – Scranton Delegates Meeting
- **October 13, 2011** – York Delegates Meeting
- **October 15, 2011** – Traveling Store at Hazleton Service Center
- **October 15-16, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Echo Trail
- **October 17, 2011** – Harrisburg Delegates Meeting
- **October 19, 2011** – Delegates Meeting via Webinar

- **October 22, 2011** – Traveling Store at Montoursville Service Center
- **October 22 – 23, 2011** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Golden Pond
- **October 29, 2011** – Traveling Store at Scranton Service Center
- **November 5, 2011** – Traveling Store at State College Service Center
- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-Along
- **August 10 – 12, 2012** – 100th Anniversary Camporee