




girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

The year 2012 will be the year of "100s." We plan to re-engage hundreds of thousands of alumnae and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. We also plan to recruit hundreds and hundreds of girls. Don't miss the 100th Anniversary Girl Activity Preview in this issue of "Be Connected" for an overview of 100th anniversary activities for girls.

On Tuesday, October 18, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania (GSHPA) kicked off the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting with the investiture of Troop Pennsylvania – our new honorary troop of the women in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Be sure to check out the Troop PA article, and enormous thanks to the GSHPA girls who provided the flag ceremony and who traveled from afar to attend.

We've heard some questions about GSHPA's 100th Anniversary Camporee. Drum roll, please, as you click on the Camporee Location Announcement!

Stay in the loop by checking out the article about Girl Scouting 101 Online Training. And don't forget we are keeping a running list of dates to remember in the Save the Date area of this newsletter.

Finally, we wish to thank you for your feedback. Through delegates meetings and the online membership survey, our delegation to GSUSA's National Convention has been informed by your input on the issues coming up for vote. The GSHPA is off to Houston next week.

IN THIS ISSUE:

[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!

[100th Anniversary Activities](#)

See what's planned so far!

[Girl Scouting 101](#)

Read about the most recent change to our Volunteer training resources.

[100th Anniversary Essay Contest](#)

Click here to find out how to help girls enter this exciting contest!

[Foxfire Open House](#)

An open house date has been set for Dec. 4. Click here to read more.

[Around the Council](#)

See what's happening throughout GSHPA!

[Save the Date](#)

Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates.

We know you are in the thick of the new Girl Scout year right now. Thank you for expanding the vision and building the confidence of girls, day-by-day, week-by-week. You are an inspiration.

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
President & CEO

State Legislators Join Troop Pennsylvania



Pictured above are all the official members of Troop Pennsylvania, an Honorary Girl Scout Troop comprised of women in the PA state legislature to help generate excitement about the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting.

26 women from the Pennsylvania state legislature gathered at the State Capitol in Harrisburg on Tuesday, October 18, to help Pennsylvania's three Girl Scout councils generate excitement about the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting by becoming honorary members of Troop Pennsylvania.

Senator Pat Vance and Representative Jennifer Mann served as honorary troop leaders during an Investiture Ceremony on the rotunda steps.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow, Girl Scouts inspires girls to reach their full potential by transforming today's girls into tomorrow's leaders. I know from my own direct experience—and especially from Girl Scout camp! —that Girl Scouts challenges girls to step outside their comfort zone, explore the world, and expand their horizons," said Senator Vance during her opening remarks.

The purpose of creating Troop PA is to begin a partnership in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts that links women members of the state legislature with Girl Scouts' mission of

building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

"With the Girl Scouts centennial year coming up, this is a great time to build our ties with the Girl Scouts, whose century-long experience and research in the business of leadership development for girls represents a wonderful resource as we go about the work of policy-making here in the state capitol," added Representative Mann.

First Lady Susan Corbett will serve as the Honorary Chair of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in Pennsylvania and was also in attendance at the event on October 18. "I know first-hand how Girl Scouting builds the confidence and leadership skills of girls," said the First Lady. "You see, as a former Girl Scout and troop leader, I've seen the magic of Girl Scouting in action."



First Lady Susan Corbett receives her pin as she is officially welcomed as a member of Troop Pennsylvania.

"Girl Scouts have descended on the Capitol, on and off for decades, to express their concerns and ideas about issues that impact girls," said Jane Ransom, President and CEO of GSHPA. "As we turn the corner to the second century of Girl Scouting we hope to continue this tradition, as well as to serve as a resource for information and research as you, the members of Troop PA, partner with us to work on issues with significant impact on girls."

The partnership between Girl Scouts and the members of Troop PA will focus on four issues of particular interest: Promoting girls' physical, social and emotional health; Increasing girls involvement in science, technology, engineering and math; Girls and leadership; and Financial literacy.

"We are very excited about this partnership," Ransom added.

"As we embark on our 100th year, the members of Troop Pennsylvania will serve as exemplary role models for Girl Scouts across this great state."

Check Out our Exciting Forever Green Programming Line-up

Go on a Journey!

If your troop has yet to go on the *It's Your Planet, Love It!* leadership journey, what are you waiting for? Pack your bags and don't forget your FREE How-To Guide for adult volunteers! One set of free books is available per registered troop as long as the registered troop leader requests the books. Ask your Membership Associate how to participate in this Forever Green promotion.

Take Action!

Hundreds of Girl Scouts have gone online at <http://fs2.formsite.com/gshpa/EcoFootprint/index.html> to complete the EcoFootprint Challenge. They're discovering that they use more energy than one Earth can provide. How many Earths does it take to support your troop's lifestyle and what can you do to reduce that number? You and your girls are encouraged to take the challenge to find out and earn yourselves an official GSHPA Forever Green patch! For patch requirements and ordering information visit, <http://shop.gshpa.org/store/product/14260/GSHPA-Forever-Green-PATCH/> today.

Get Online!

Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are invited to participate in upcoming video chats beginning November 21 at 7 pm. Additional chats are appearing on the calendar and will include a Green Girl Scouts series scheduled to begin December 1 with Girl Scout Kate Crowley. Kate is both the Board Chair for GSHPA and an employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. If anyone can have a clean conversation about waste, Kate can! How will she do that? Your girls will have to join the chat to find out! For a full listing of the upcoming video chats, [click here](#).

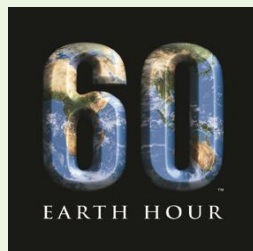
And Go Global!

On Saturday, January 21, 2012, a Forever Green Thinking Day activity entitled Girls Around the Globe Go Green will connect girls in our local council with Girl Scouts Overseas to talk about the green issues they experience in other parts of the world. The event will be hosted by a number of the Penn State

regional campuses. Watch your inbox for additional information including event times, locations, and activities.

Also, be ready for Earth Hour on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Earth Hour is an international event which brings attention to energy use across the world by asking everyone to power down lights, TVs and computers from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on March 31. What would the members of your troop do with that hour?

- Would they play board games, tell stories, or sing songs by candlelight with their families?
- Would they pretend to camp indoors, lighting their tents with homemade lanterns?
- Or would they launch a "Power Down in My Town" campaign and partner with a public place to watch it go dark for Earth Hour?



Imagine the energy you could save in just one hour! An informational video about Earth Hour is at <http://www.earthhour.org/Homepage.aspx>. Watch the video and begin to, brainstorm ideas with your troop. Resources to support Earth Hour projects for Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes will be made available in the coming months, but all age-levels are welcome to participate. Look for more information, along with sample activities, in future editions of the Volunteer Newsletter.

GSHPA 100th Anniversary Plans

The 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts is fast approaching and GSHPA has some great events planned to involve girls in the celebration of this amazing Girl Scout milestone. Below are just a few of the special 100th Anniversary events GSHPA has begun planning for girls along with some other exciting events which will be open to Girl Scouts from across the United States:

The Great Girl Scout Hike

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 including sections of the Trail located throughout our council. 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.

Girl Scouts Rock the Mall Sing Along

The Girl Scouts Rock the Mall event, which will be 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.

GSHPA Regional Kickball Tournament

Girls from all grade levels will have the opportunity to participate in our 100th Anniversary Regional Kickball Tournament. Two tournaments will be organized in each of our five regions this coming Spring/Summer – one for Daisies, Brownies and Juniors and one for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors. Winners from each region will then play each other in the All-Council Championships at the 100th Anniversary Camporee and Extravaganza. Check in with your membership associate to find out more about plans that in the works within your region.

Troop Video Contest

Beginning Feb. 1, troops in all grade levels will have the opportunity to enter our 100th Anniversary Video Contest and submit a 2-minute video with a message to future Girl Scouts. The video should tell Girl Scouts who see it in 2112 what they need to know about being a Girl Scout today in 2012. Winning videos will be placed into a virtual time capsule at the GSHPA 100th Anniversary Camporee in August 2012 and left for Girl Scouts of 2112 to find 100 years from now. Winning videos will also be posted on YouTube and on the GSHPA Web page. Watch the January, 2012 edition of the Volunteer Newsletter for more information on submission guidelines.

GSHPA 100th Anniversary Camporee

To wrap-up the celebration of Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary, GSHPA will host a weekend-long Camporee and Extravaganza on August 10 – 12, 2012. See the article below for more

information and stay tuned for more details about all the great things our council has planned to make this year one our girls will never forget!

Embark on an Adventure this Summer!

Bring Your Troop to the 100th Anniversary Camporee August 2012 will be here before we know it so start planning your troop's road trip to the 100th Anniversary Camporee from August 10 – 12, 2012 at the York Expo Center located at 334 Carlisle Ave in York, PA. Plan to stay all weekend (Friday thru Sunday), from Saturday to Sunday or just join us on Saturday for a 100th Anniversary Celebration that will be well-worth the trip! Overnight accommodations will require groups to bring their own tents and camping gear so please start planning now to make sure that you and your troop have both the right gear and proper training. The 2012 GSHPA Camporee is guaranteed to be a great time full of memories and fun. Don't let your girls miss out on this awesome opportunity to join Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA as we celebrate 100 years of Girls Scouts past and 100+ years of Girl Scouts future. More info to come in the months ahead.

Leadership Essentials is now Girl Scouting 101

Girl Scouts of the USA's required online training has been given a make-over and a name change. Updated with references to the New Girl's Guides to Girl Scouting and the latest Journey, new volunteers will now be asked to take Girl Scouting 101 within the first three months of their appointment via a simple link on our website. And for those volunteers with previous training, no need to panic, you're not required to take the updated training if you've previously completed the previous version called Leadership Essentials. Please see your membership associate for more information.

Enter the GSHPA 100th Anniversary Essay Contest Today!

All leaders of Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are asked to encourage your girls to participate in our 100th Anniversary Essay Contest and tell us how Girl Scouts has inspired them to become the person they are today.

A lot has changed since Girl Scouts started in 1912, but our mission to create girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place, has not.

We need your help to get girls inspired about sharing their Girl Scout Experience with us! Please ask girls to follow the

guidelines listed below:

1. Essay **MUST** be 300 words or less.
2. Essay **MUST** be typed in 11 pt font and double-spaced.
3. Essay **MUST** be postmarked by December 31, 2011 to be eligible to win.
4. Essay **MUST** be mailed* to:

**Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania
Attn: ESSAY CONTEST
350 Hale Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17104**

**Please note that electronic submissions will not be accepted.*

Winners will be selected in each grade level category with essays posted on the GSHPA Web page as well as in the April 2012 issue of the Volunteer Newsletter.

All entries must include name, address, phone number and Girl Scout grade level (Cadette, Senior or Ambassador) so we can contact the girls who are selected as winners.

Any questions should be directed to general@gshpa.org.

Foxfire House Holiday Open House set for Sunday, Dec. 4

Foxfire House will hold its annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3 pm. This free event is open to all girls and families, and showcases the sights, sounds and smells of the season! The Holiday Open House will allow girls and their families to participate in the Christmas customs and traditions that the families of Foxfire would have celebrated in the 1800s. Foxfire House is an 19th Century German bank house that is located at Camp Furnace Hills in Denver, PA in Lancaster County. There is no fee to attend and no pre-registration required.

For more information, contact Vicky Miley at vmiley@gshpa.org, or call 717-798-1850.

Around the Council

Girls

- In October, Service Unit 645 had their Forever Green

Kick off with the community. About 60 girls were in attendance going from station to station, making dolls from recycled materials and making bird feeders. PP&L was also there showing how much wattage different light bulbs use. Girls participated in a fun, games, and a variety of activities.

- Girls from Junior Troop 12276 which meets at Mountain View Elementary in SU 178 (Dauphin County) were recently featured in a story in the Harrisburg Patriot-News during their meeting. The reporter was interested in seeing a troop meeting in action and learning about how Girl Scouts impacts the girls' lives as we approach the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting. Nikki Kessler, the troop leader, said that the girls enjoyed the experience and were very comfortable with having the reporter at their meeting.
- Troop 33941 from West Pittston collected over \$11,000 in food for flood victims in their hometown. They gave the food to churches and shelters nearby. They also filled their van several times and drove around West Pittston passing out food to anyone who needed it. Thank you for helping feed those in need Troop 33941!
- Girls in Junior Troop 21010 in York County completed their Bronze Award project by planting and maintaining a garden to benefit Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in York City. The girls planted cucumbers, radishes, tomatoes and other vegetables and took care of fertilizing, weeding and harvesting. They also helped prepared bread and other dishes to be served to the homeless population at the kitchen.

Volunteers

- Approximately 50 volunteers braved the cool fall temperatures and downpours this past weekend for the Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Small Valley, hosted by staff and volunteers of the South Central Region. Volunteers participating in the Camping 101 and Outdoor Skills courses really had their skills tested as they learned to build and keep a fire going with wet wood and rainy conditions. Volunteers enjoyed workshops on the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, Conflict Resolution, Letterboxing, SWAPS, First Aid/CPR, and Celebrating our 100th anniversary by Exploring our Heritage (which included a rousing round of Archives Jeopardy). Saturday night featured a

Sky Show in STAR Center and the weekend was capped off with a Girl Scouts Own ceremony, appropriately built around the theme of rain.

- Volunteers from Service Unit 174 (Dauphin County) hosted a Heritage Day event in honor of the 100 years of Girl Scouts on Saturday October 22, 2011 at Camp Catherine in Hershey. 120 girls from the service unit attended.

Save the Date!

- **November 5, 2011** – Traveling Store at State College Service Center
- **November 12, 2011** – Traveling Store at Scranton Service Center (rescheduled)
- **November 15, 2011** – GSHPA Recycles Candy Wrappers Ends
- **January 21, 2012** – Girls Around the Globe Go Green
- **March 12, 2012** – Girl Scout Birthday
- **March 31, 2012** – *Forever Green* Earth Hour
- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-Along
- **August 10 – 12, 2012** – 100th Anniversary Camporee at the York Expo Center