



Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

If there was one resounding theme at the recent GSUSA National Convention, it was leadership. Speakers from Frances Hesselbein, to Maya Angelou, to Katie Couric, drew a straight line from their Girl Scout experiences to their leadership achievements as adults. It was an amazing reminder of what we have all seen and all know is true: Girl Scouts inspires girls to reach their potential yesterday, today and tomorrow.

On the eve of our 100th anniversary, we are looking forward to a year of remembering and honoring the inspiring generations who have touched millions of Americans through their participation in Girl Scouts. At the same time we feel an urgency to assure that millions of future girls will experience the benefits of Girl Scouts. For this reason we have begun a \$5 million fundraising campaign called Inspiring Generations. And we have launched initiatives like *Forever Green* and the development of GSHPA camp facilities and programs.

In the coming year, as part of our focus on the future, we will be tackling some challenging issues that affect all of us. As an outgrowth of our Strategic Learning process, we will be creating work plans for instituting the Girl Scout *Pathways* and for bringing in the next inspiring generation of volunteers. We will be challenging our Board, staff, volunteers and girls to create a more diverse council. We will be working on ways to make state-of-the-art technology pervasive within Girl Scout programming and management. And we will develop a plan for raising the public's understanding of the value of Girl Scouts.

In short, the work of helping today's girls become tomorrow's leaders,

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as we move into the next century of Girl Scouting, will be at the top of our agenda. We look forward to doing this work with all of you.

We thank you for all the ways in which you are inspiring the next generation of women leaders right now.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,

Kate Crowley Jane Ransom
Board Chair President & CEO

Report from the GSUSA National Convention



Pictured above are GSHPA Board Chair, Kate Crowley (center) and a few adult and girl delegates at GSUSA's 52nd National Convention in Houston, Texas.

GSHPA's 28-person delegation immersed itself in a sea of green for three days in Houston for GSUSA's 52nd National Convention from November 10-13. Girl Scouts of the USA kicked off the celebration of the 100th anniversary with fireworks and a host of wonderful speakers, including ABC News journalist Katie Couric; Soledad O'Brien, host of CNN's *In America*; Robin Roberts, co-anchor of *Good Morning America*; three-time Grammy-nominated recording artist Sarah Bareilles; Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker; actress and philanthropist Marlee Martin; gospel singer Yolanda Adams; and actress Monique Coleman, who starred in the *High School Musical* films.

When asked to name the most inspiring moment at the convention, GSHPA delegate Belinda Stefl said that meeting GSUSA's new CEO Anna Maria Chávez and seeing her introduce her parents, husband, brothers and extended family during her speech was especially moving. [Click here to see her forward-looking speech.](#)

Every GSHPA delegation member mentioned feeling especially inspired by the special Young Women of Distinction event in which the ten highest achieving Girl Scouts in the nation talked about their projects

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See what's happening throughout GSHPA!

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Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates.

and their aspirations for the future. Delegation member Kathy Ledzinski said she hopes we will be able to share the awe-inspiring projects she heard about with GSHPA's Gold Award advisors. Conni Yoder said that after hearing from these young women, the future of Girl Scouting "looked pretty bright from where I was sitting."

Also attended by GSHPA delegation members were preconvention history and governance conferences, conversations on diversity and philanthropy, and the amazing hall of displays which was crowded with Girl Scout memorabilia, cookie vendors and examples of Girl Scout best practices.

All of our delegates participated in the democratic process, casting their votes on the three proposals which came before the National Council session. Delegates report that they felt well-informed about the substance of the proposals and appreciated the feedback they heard at GSHPA's October delegates meetings. Libby Gross, one of the girls in the GSHPA delegation said, "I liked the voting sessions the best because of being able to hear both sides of the important issues of Girl Scouts' future."

The outcome of the voting was:

- **Proposal #1** - Giving councils the option of implementing an annual council fee, no more than the amount of annual membership registration, passed. (Please note that GSHPA does not currently have a position on whether or not it will exercise this option.)
- **Proposal #2** - Which would have established rolling membership year, did not pass.
- **Proposal #3** - Which would have rescheduled the election of national council delegates to two years in advance of national conventions, did not pass.

In addition to everything else, GSHPA's five girl delegates participated in a Girl Scout Leadership Institute which was concurrent with much of the convention. When asked about the impact of the convention, one of the girls, Amanda Newman, said it was "the reminder for girls to be empowered. We can do whatever we put our minds to."

Delegation member Ann Baker said she learned that "Girl Scouting is here to stay. Opportunities for girls will continue to grow. If only every girl could feel the magic." And Carolyn Warman, Vice Chair of the GSHPA Board of Directors, said that after she saw "hundreds of smart, capable girls attending the convention," she left feeling that "their positive energy was infectious" and knowing "how exciting our year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts is going to be."

2012 Cookie College/Cookie Rallies Set for Saturday, Jan. 7



Kick off this year's cookie sale by encouraging your troop to attend a regional Cookie Rally or Cookie College event. As the first girl event of the 100th year of Girl Scouting, those who attend will enjoy a Saturday packed full of excitement, games, cool tips and fun lessons in cookie business smarts, and the best part is it's right in your backyard!

Cookie Rallies 10 am – noon

Daisy, Junior and Brownie Girl Scouts can have a blast at the Cookie Rally, where they'll participate in fun games and activities that will motivate and excite them for the upcoming cookie sale, while teaching valuable lessons on safety, selling tips, and goal-setting. Cookie Rallies will be held from 10 am to noon*.

Cookie College 1:30 – 4 pm

Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will enjoy our third annual Cookie College, where they'll participate in hands-on workshops that will equip them with cool tips and important skills in business smarts including topics of marketing, goal-setting, social marketing, and internet safety. Girls graduate as Cookie Entrepreneur Officers inspired to take their "cookie business" to new levels of success! The Cookie College will be held from 1:30 to 4pm*.

These Council-wide cookie events are free for all girls. Just click one of the links below to register for the location that's best for you!

- [North Region Cookie Rally](#)
[North Region Cookie College](#)
- [Northeast Cookie Rally](#)
[Northeast Cookie College](#)
- [South Region Cookie Rally](#)
[South Region Cookie College](#)
- [South Central Region Cookie Rally](#)

- [South Central Region Cookie College](#)
[West Region Cookie Rally](#)
[West Region Cookie College](#)

**Lunch will not be provided at either event.*

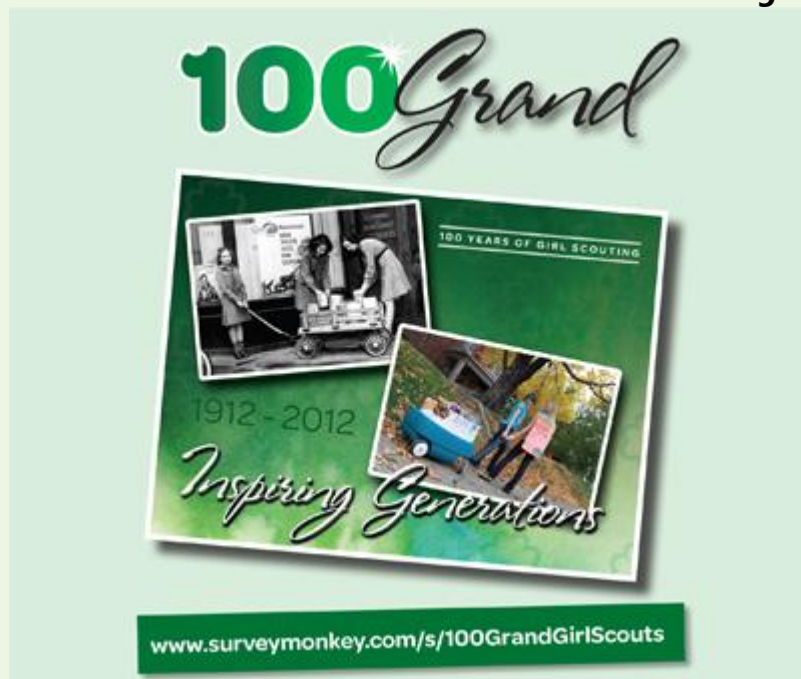
Special thanks to our *Tagalong* sponsor



and to our *Samoa* sponsor



Join GSHPA for Our 100 Grand Girl Scouts Challenge!



The 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting is an exciting and invigorating time to be a part of our organization and help today's girls to become tomorrow's leaders!

This is your chance to mark your place in Girl Scout history! Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is looking for anyone who has ever been a member of Girl Scouts in her/his lifetime, anywhere in the world and now resides within our 30-county footprint. If you meet these criteria, we encourage you to join us for our 100 Grand Girl Scouts Challenge.

By registering with our Green Directory, you can help us with our campaign to locate 100,000 Girl Scout alumnae by December 31, 2012 as we celebrate our 100th anniversary!

You can also help us reach our goal by forwarding the link below to

anyone in your address book who is now, ever was or even may know someone who was a Girl Scout to sign up too. Just log onto <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/100GrandGirlScouts> and share your Girl Scout story today!

100th Anniversary GSHPA Service Unit Mini Grant Recipients Announced

In June, 2011, Service Units (SUs) were encouraged to apply for mini-grants in support of SU-organized events designed to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts.

The response from our volunteers was extremely positive and we want to thank all of you who applied and congratulate you on your creative ideas for projects and events that we're sure will create a buzz and excitement about Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary throughout our council.

A total of 71 service units have been awarded grant money, which will be used for projects and celebrations that connect directly to either or both of the following 100th Anniversary goals:

- Empower girls to impact their community.
- Increase the visibility of Girl Scouts.

Among those Service Units receiving grants, more than 9,000 girls from our council (nearly one third of our girl members) are set to participate in these exciting events and projects and to help promote Girl Scouts within their communities. Thank you for inspiring this new generation of Girl Scouts to help us celebrate our 100th anniversary and congratulations again to all the recipients. Please take a moment to click the link below to view a complete list of recipients and their respective projects/events.

[Click here for a list of our 100th Anniversary Mini Grant recipients.](#)

Time is Running Out to Measure Your Impact on Our Environment

Encourage your girls to Pledge to be *Forever Green* and take part in our EcoFootprint Challenge today and help us to reduce our Council's Ecological Footprint by 10 percent! The deadline to fill out the EcoFootprint Challenge form is 11:59 pm on Monday, Dec. 31. Girls should sign up today to be a part of this *Forever Green* initiative and learn how many Earths it would take to support our lifestyle.

The next step of the EcoFootprint Challenge will be for girls to continue to learn how they can change some of their current habits to reduce their Ecological Footprint and help meet our council-wide goal of reducing our Ecological Footprint by 10 percent before June, 2012.

Log on to <http://fs2.formsite.com/gshpa/EcoFootprint/index.html> to join the hundreds of girls from our council who have already completed the EcoFootprint Challenge.

By participating, girls will also be eligible for the 2011-2012 *Forever Green* patch! For patch requirements and ordering information, visit <http://shop.gshpa.org/store/product/14260/GSHPA-Forever-Green-PATCH/> today.

Rekindling Our Commitment to the Outdoor Experience

On Wednesday, November 16, GSHPA announced our Board-Approved plan that will strategically invest in all seven camps located throughout our 30-county service area over the course of the next five years. The announcement was sent to all volunteers and adult members, but if you have not yet had a chance to view this announcement, please [click here](#) to learn more about the Camp Development Plan.

Approval of the camp development plan is a very exciting next step in our council's efforts to continue to offer experiences that help today's girls become tomorrow's leaders. To receive a hard copy of the full plan, registered adult members of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania are encouraged to request a copy by submitting your request at <https://www2.e-council.net/code/onlinereg?council=258&JumpTo=Step3&Eventid=3488&type=AT>.

We will continue to keep you updated via our website at www.gshpa.org as the implementation of the camp development plan progresses. As always, your opinion continues to be important to us and we encourage you to share your feedback at <http://www.gshpa.org/feedback.html>.

2012 Family Partnership Program Set for March 15- May 31

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! Although springtime may seem like it's far off, it is a great time to begin brainstorming ideas for your service unit.

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.

Around the Council

Girls

- Teen Girl Scout Troop 70356 and Junior Girl Scout Troop 70416 from Service Unit 714-Rainbow in Lancaster County, recently held a bonfire with the residents of Country Meadow Retirement Home. This is an annual event that the troops organize with the residents; they make S'mores and sing songs.
- Junior troop 50308 and Cadette troop 50321 headed up to Camp Archbald for fall clean up working towards their 100 hour commitment of community service for the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts. Several troops also worked on road clean up the first weekend in October collecting hundreds of pieces for trash. The girls collected everything from the small pieces of paper to large rugs, tires and chairs that were thrown over the side of the road.
- Cadette Troop 70151 in Strasburg (SU 716-Hans Herr) held their Nov. 8 meeting in the Department of Industry and Technology at Millersville University. Dr. Paul Specht, chair of Occupational Safety and Environmental Health, arranged to have three female students, all former Girl Scouts, speak to the girls on the importance of properly fitting face masks, the correct gloves to wear when handling certain types of materials, and how to correctly put in ear plugs. The students also spoke about how they selected their career path and what kinds of work they expected to do after they graduate. The session concluded with learning about fire and different types of explosives. The girls learned that some common household foods, such as sugar and chocolate, in large quantities are

explosive in an industrial setting. This was an excellent outing which helped to link the girls' Breathe Journey experience to the real world.

Volunteers

- Service Unit 519, West End (NE Region) is well on their way to doing their part to be *Forever Green* and reduce their Ecological Footprint. They have ambitiously embarked on taking as much space-hogging number two plastic out of their environment and landfills as possible. They are collecting and recycling this cloudy white plastic into planter boxes at a local facility. Each planter requires 375 lbs. of plastic to make just one container. They have already collected 545 lbs. It is their hope that they will be able to say each of their over 50 Troops will have contributed a planter for use at their local parks. If you live in the Monroe/Carbon County area and would like to drop off some milk jugs to Waste Not Technologies in Saylorsburg, the service unit will receive credit toward their goal weight.
- Volunteers from the Conococheague SU (SU 836) in Chambersburg planned a very special event at Caledonia State Park to carry out their *Forever Green* Mini Grant. Working with the local contact from DCNR and the Forestry Department, they planned a great day of activities where girls from each age level would participate in fun, age-appropriate activities that would teach them about trees and help them earn a try-it, badge or interest project patch. The girls went on a tree identification hike, learned about the different levels of the forest, learned about careers, talked about conservation and read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, investigated the various laws that protect trees, and collected seeds from the Winterberry Holly which the forestry department will use for re-seeding.
- Troop Leader Christine Kline of Brownie Troop # 10470 in SU 163 (Marysville, Perry Co.) recently took up the challenge offered by her Membership Associate, Donna Lascoskie. Donna challenged the leaders to make the 100th anniversary year something special, and to help the girls understand the idea of how much 100 is. The leaders accepted this challenge and helped their girls collect 100 coloring books. Now the girls not only know how much 100 is, they will also now see how much of a difference they can make, because they will be donating those 100 coloring books to the Ronald McDonald House. Way to go!!

Save the Date!

- **March 12, 2012** – Girl Scout Birthday
- **March 31, 2012** – Earth Hour
- **April 21, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Furnace Hills
- **May 5, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Louise
- **May 5, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Small Valley
- **June 2, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Archbald
- **June 2, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Golden Pond
- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-Along
- **August 10 – 12, 2012** – 100th Anniversary Camporee at the York Expo Center