




girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

It was great to see approximately 1,800 girls turn out for the regional Cookie Rallies and Cookie Colleges in all five of our council's regions last month. Initial orders are in, and within a couple of weeks the Girl Scout Cookie Booths will begin appearing at locations around the region. This year we've already had wonderful press coverage about the Cookie Program in many local papers throughout the Council.

Girls are learning so much from this program – making budgets, planning to use their proceeds, and learning how to pitch their product to complete strangers. We really want to thank you for making this experience possible for the girls. We know full-well that GSHPA volunteers are contributing an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes training and organization to make it happen. And then there are the hundreds of leaders on the front lines—outdoors with girls at the Cookie Booths. Thank you for your attention and hard work on the Cookie Program – our core financial literacy activity.

As you will read in this newsletter, there is a lot going on in our council right now. Older girls are in the thick of Gold Award projects, Service Units are unrolling Forever Green and 100th Anniversary

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Find out how your girls can become Summer Camp counselors and how you or

projects, and troops have a myriad of activities underway. None of these activities could take place without your help and dedication. For that, you have our thanks.

Sincerely,

Kate Crowley Jane Ransom
Board Chair President & CEO

Kicking Daisies on the Docket for August 2012 Camporee

Plans are well underway for the 100th Anniversary Camporee on August 10 – 12, 2012 at the York Expo Center. In addition to a variety of 100th Anniversary and Forever Green-themed activities, a kickball tournament to crown the council-wide champions in the younger and older girl categories and much, much more, GSHPA is pleased to announce that Radio Disney's Kicking Daisies will be visiting our council once again.



Greeted by almost 1,500 fans during their initial appearance at the Forever Green Kick-off event back in May 2011 (see photo above), the band is excited to make a repeat performance on the evening of Saturday, August 11 at the Camporee! No girl should miss this event! Registered Girl Members may attend Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday along with a parent/guardian and/or with her troop. Registration will open on April 22 and will cost \$10/person for Friday, \$25/person for Saturday or \$35/person for the whole weekend. Overnight accommodations will be limited to those who want to bring their own tents and tent space will be available for \$20/tent/night (no open flames, please). The per day and per weekend rates

someone you know can work at a GSHPA Camp this Summer!

[Regional Governance Meetings Set](#)

Pick a date to attend the Spring Regional Governance meetings (aka Delegates Meetings)

[Around the Council](#)

See what's happening throughout GSHPA!

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Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates!

will include all activities and food will be available to purchase for an additional fee. Many more details to follow in the months ahead!

Forever Green Updates

Candy Wrapper Recycling Project a Huge Success

Thank you to all the girls and troops who came together to help GSHPA collect candy wrappers for our Every Wrapper Counts council-wide recycling effort. Thanks to your efforts, GSHPA collected more than 22 large boxes overflowing with individual candy wrappers, large candy bar wrappers, candy bags and multi-pack candy wrapping back to Terracycle.

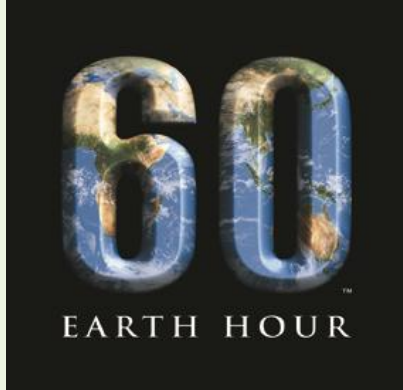
Terracycle is a company that collects items we normally throw in the trash and finds ways to turn them into new products such as pencil cases, purses, and backpacks! "Back in October, 2011, we told our girls about this project and that every wrapper counts, and they took the challenge head on," said Lori McCracken, GSHPA Program Coordinator. "The girls saved their own candy wrappers, their friend's candy wrappers, some of them even set up candy wrapper collections in their schools."

GSHPA sent a total of 115 lbs. of candy wrappers back to Terracycle as a result of this initiative. With the average weight of one candy wrapper being .009 lbs., that adds up to a very substantial amount of recycled materials. Just take a look at the photo below for only a small amount of the wrappers we received from troops.



"We were thrilled with the enthusiasm our girls showed throughout this initiative," McCracken added.

Get Ready for Earth Hour!



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, 2012.

GSHPA troops are encouraged to start now and go "Beyond the Hour" with these ideas.

Discover ways to use less energy in your home or meeting place. Visit <http://www.girlscouts.org/geforevergreen/Earth-Hour.asp> and select "Want to Learn More" for ways to get involved.

Then connect other people with your eco-friendly ways and Take Action to convince others to be Forever Green.

Watch your email inbox for an upcoming Eblast with ideas and resources from GSHPA to help get girls excited about Earth Hour.

Council Store is on the Road Again!

The GHSPA Council Store is hitting the road again this spring. The mobile version of the Council Store has been a huge hit among volunteers in all regions of our council, and we are scheduled to visit a total of five locations giving almost everyone in our 30-county service area access to a modified version of the Council Store within an approximate 1 ½ hour drive.

Plan now to check-out a variety of Girl Scout and GSHPA items at one of the five dates and locations listed below which is most convenient for you in March and April.

- **Saturday, March 3** - 11 am – 2 pm at the York Service Center – 1213 Carlisle Road, York, PA
- **Saturday, March 10** - 11 am – 2 pm at the Hazleton Service Center – 426 Airport Road, 12 Beltway Commons, Hazle Township, PA
- **Saturday, March 24** - 11 am – 2 pm at the Scranton Service Center – 1444 East Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA
- **Saturday, March 31** - 11 am – 2 pm at the State College Service Center – 1040-1 Benner Pike, State College, PA
- **Saturday, April 14** - 11 am – 2 pm at the Montoursville Service Center – Parkview Center, Suite 1, 999 North Loyalsock Ave., Montoursville, PA

Look for more information in future issues of the volunteer newsletter. Need something now? Remember there's no need to wait for the Traveling Trunk, the online store is available 24/7 at www.gshpa.org/shop.html.

Gold Award Spotlight

In celebration of our 100th anniversary, we will shine the spotlight on the best and brightest members of our Council, the Girl Scout Gold Award recipients. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. By earning the Gold Award, each recipient demonstrates a 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.

On the third Friday of each month, we will highlight a new 2011-2012 Gold Award Recipient on the Gold Award Spotlight page who will help

set the stage and inspire a new generation of Girl Scouts as we prepare for our next 100 years. [Click here](#) to see who was in the Gold Award Spotlight and check back month to see who is in the Spotlight!

Did you know...

That in 1917, Iona Paxson, a 12 year old girl in Schuylkill County worked together with the pastor at her church, St. Matthew's, to form the First Girl Scout Troop in Schuylkill County? She also partnered with a local steel mill to have 100 Girl Scout medals for members of Girl Scouts and the St. Matthew's. The last medal was given to the Jeannie Johns, daughter of Girl Scout Volunteer, Pat Johns in 1968 by Iona herself.

Application Deadline for GSHPA College Scholarships Quickly Approaching

Girl Scouts in the Heart in Pennsylvania will once again offer a number of \$500 - \$1,000 scholarships for eligible girl members who are currently seniors in high school. To apply, interested girls should complete and submit a complete application by logging onto www.gshpa.org/girls/scholarships.html. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2012.

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who meet the criteria listed for each of the following categories:

Gold Award Scholarship:

- Gold Award Recipient required
- Graduating Senior who will attend an institute of higher education – either college or technical school qualifies
- Academic excellence
- Strong commitment to community service activities

Schuylkill County Scholarship:

- Schuylkill County graduating senior who will attend an institute of higher education

- either college or technical school qualifies

- Active participant in Girl Scouts
- Academic excellence
- Strong commitment to community service activities

Graduating Senior Scholarship Criteria:

- Graduating senior who will attend an institute of higher education - either college or technical school qualifies
- Academic excellence
- Strong commitment to community service activities
- Active participation in Girl Scouts

In addition to these local scholarships, graduating Girl Scouts are also eligible for scholarships across the nation. Please also encourage girls to check the GSUSA Web site for a complete listing of scholarship opportunities.

2012 Summer Camp Guides Are Here!

The 2012 GSHPA Summer Camp Guides were mailed to every girl member on Friday, Jan. 27 and should be arriving in mailboxes very soon, if they haven't already. The 2012 Summer Camp Guide is loaded with information about this year's summer camping season, and we're counting on you to get our girls excited about Girl Scout Camp!

The guide also contains dates and times of Information Nights and Open Houses where volunteers and parents can learn more about this year's camping experience. Check out the online version of the Summer Camp Guide by [clicking here](#) or ask your membership associate for a hard copy. Should you, your girls or their parents have specific questions about camp, please email camp@gshpa.org.

Encourage Your Girls to Become Camp Counselors!

Do you know a girl who is in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and is interested in becoming a camp counselor? You should encourage her to enroll in one of

GSHPA's Counselor in Training (CIT) Programs. Our CIT programs help 10th, 11th and 12th grade girls transition from campers to counselors, offering them the opportunity to hone their skills by challenging themselves with new responsibilities.

For consideration into the CIT I or II Program, girls should submit a CIT Registration form and Program application by April 30, 2012. For more information and eligibility requirements for the CIT Programs, [click here](#) and scroll to pages 19 and 20 of the 2012 GSHPA Camp Guide. Girls are only eligible for the CIT II program if they have already completed the CIT I program.

Camp Staff Positions Are Still Available for 2012 Summer Camp!

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania has two outstanding Sleep Away Camp locations this year: Camp Furnace Hills in Lancaster County and Camp Archbald in Susquehanna County. And we are always looking for hard working, dedicated people to fill a number of camp staff positions to help make the camping season a huge success for our girls.

Would you or someone you know like to become a part of GSHPA's Summer Camp team? For a complete listing of open camp staff positions and information on how to apply, [click here!](#)

Dates Are Set for the 2012 Spring Regional Governance Meetings (aka Delegate Meetings)

Mark your calendar to attend one of the GSHPA Spring Regional Governance Meetings (formerly known as Spring Delegates Meetings). We are changing the name of the Delegates Meetings to the Regional Governance Meetings to more accurately reflect their purpose.

All Service Unit Delegates and/or Alternates must attend at least one of the Spring Regional Governance Meetings and all volunteers are welcome to attend these meetings as well. Please see the list below for various meeting dates and locations throughout our council during the month

of March. All meetings will be held from 6-8 pm. Click on one of the links below to register:

- [Monday, March 5](#) - Harrisburg Service Center - 350 Hale Ave., Harrisburg, PA
- [Tuesday, March 6](#) – Montoursville Service Center – Parkview Center, Suite 1, 999 North Loyalsock Ave., Montoursville, PA
- [Wednesday, March 7](#) - Scranton Service Center – 1444 East Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA
- [Thursday, March 8](#) – York Alliance Church - 501 Rathton Rd., York, PA
- [Tuesday, March 13](#) – State College Service Center – 1040-1 Benner Pike, State College, PA
- [Wednesday, March 14](#) – Webinar

For more information, contact Shelly Sprenkle at ssprenkle@gshpa.org or 800-692-7816, x1002.

Around the Council

Girls

- Troop 10622 from SU 156 (Enola, Cumberland County) held its Silver Award Ceremony this past Sunday. The girls collected material and worked with their FCS teacher to make hand-made pillow cases for Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. In all they made over 100 pillowcases for hospitalized children. Each girl's family was in attendance to help to celebrate this accomplishment.
- Junior Girl Scout Troop 41230, in Port Matilda, had an *It's Your World—Change It!* Completion Ceremony and Awards Night on Tuesday, January 24. The ceremony was designed and presented by the girls. It included instrumental music, songs, a PowerPoint presentation, and refreshments. They highlighted their Take Action project for the Journey, which featured a mini-THON all-night dance at their school, Gray Woods Elementary in State College. The mini-THON promoted

pancreatic cancer awareness and generated support for groups working to combat the disease. The troop's next effort is to begin work on earning their Bronze Awards.

- Girls from Junior troop 60102 out of Sunbury sent GSHPA's north region staff thank you notes letting them know how much fun they had at the cookie rally held in Milton. The girls are currently working on their Social Butterfly patch and had decided to send us their handwritten notes of thanks to help fulfill the requirements. Below are some of their comments:

We enjoyed the morning and hope that you continue with the program.

My favorite part of it was getting to decorate a cookie booth. Our troop was the first ones to finish. We made lots of packages and balloons that would stay afloat.

My favorite part was when we got to watch the cookie stacking competition. We got to see little kids and some adult too.

I liked getting the stuffed monkey at the end.

We really enjoyed the rally a lot and hope that you have it again next year.

Volunteers

- During the recent holiday break, Montoursville Girl Scout troop leader Denise Beltz decided to take her troops to Hawaii, well not literally but figuratively. Denise spends many hours searching for different activities for her troops to do and recently she found a badge from the council in Hawaii for them to work on. It helped also that one of the girl's in her troop has a mom who is from Hawaii. The girls started the night out by learning to say the promise and law in Hawaiian. They

learned about many different traditions in the Hawaiian culture, tasted Khalau pork, haupia (coconut pudding) and several different fruits from the islands. They also tried their hand at making banana poi, flower and candy leis. Candy leis are made in Hawaii for special occasions such as birthdays and weddings. The girls all had a great time and have a few more items to do before they have officially earned the badge.

- On a recent snowy Saturday afternoon, Girl Scout adults from across the South Central Region came together to explore our Girl Scout heritage and learn how they could share our history with their girls and others at a "Girl Scout Heritage Road Show." Facilitators Brenda Long and Mary Winslow had encouraged participants to bring along Girl Scout treasures and provided information on how to gain clues for dating and identifying items as well as helpful recommendations for storing and preserving uniforms and other heirloom fabrics. The group enjoyed the opportunity to share their treasures and the access to resource materials to help them identify their pieces.

Save the Date!

- **March 12, 2012** – Girl Scout Birthday
- **March 31, 2012** – Earth Hour
- **April 21 - 22, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Furnace Hills
- **April 28, 2012** – 2012 GSHPA Annual Meeting (held via live webcast)
- **May 5 - 6, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Louise
- **May 5 - 6, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Small Valley
- **June 2 - 3, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Archbald
- **June 1 -2, 2012** – Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Golden Pond
- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-A-long

- **August 10 – 12, 2012** – 100th Anniversary
Camporee at the York Expo Center

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