

June, 2012




girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

Be Connected

Monthly Newsletter for GSHPA Volunteers

Dear Volunteers,

Congratulations on helping girls grow in leadership and self-confidence through another year of the Girl Scout leadership experience. We hope you have made some plans for a little rest and relaxation this summer—maybe after the Sing Along!

Thank you to the 93 GSHPA service units who were involved in the tree planting effort this past month in our year-long Forever Green initiative. Girl Scouts planted 13,150 trees across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in celebration of the 100th anniversary. Of those, 4,071 trees were planted by girls from our council.

Please note the announcement in this newsletter that the GSHPA Camporee scheduled for August 10-12 has been canceled. [Click here to see the announcement.](#) We are sorry this had to be, but we have learned many valuable lessons from this effort that we will apply to future event planning.

KICK-OFF, AUGUST 11th

In light of the Camporee cancellation, we are planning our annual council volunteer kick-off for Saturday, August 11th at Camp Small Valley, from 10 am to 3 pm. We'll be discussing projects and initiatives that tie to the theme of *Bridging to the Next Century of Girl*

IN THIS ISSUE:

[State-wide Tree Planting](#)

See how many trees girls from our council planted to celebrate the 100th Anniversary!

[Camporee Canceled](#)

Click here for more information

[2012 Volunteer Kick-Off](#)

Click here for brief details about our 2012 Volunteer Kick-Off event in August!

[GSHPA Spotlight](#)

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

[Forever Green Mini-Grant Event A Success](#)

Click here to see how one Service Unit out their Forever Green Mini-Grant to use!

[Volunteer-Led Trainings](#)

There's still time to sign up for these two great volunteer-led trainings set for this Summer and Fall!

[Did You Know?](#)

Check out our 100th Anniversary fact of the month!

[Gold Award Spotlight](#)

See who's in the Gold Award

Scouting. Workshops and presentations will include:

- GSUSA's national membership strategies
- GSHPA's strategic plan and FY13 operating plan
- The latest on Girl Scout Camp, including our new Adventure Bound programs for older girls, as well as progress on improving camp facilities
- Our new initiative—Girl Scouts' Healthy Promise—our next signature programming effort focused on nutrition and exercise
- Service Unit mini-grant opportunity
- How to use the Amaze journey, and more

Look for your official invitation to arrive in your inbox soon!

While canceling the Camporee was not an easy decision, we are excited by all of the 100th Anniversary events, camporees and celebrations that volunteers have played such a pivotal role in organizing! We both will be at the Girl Scouts Rock the Mall National Sing A Long next weekend, and hope to see you there in a sea of singing Girl Scouts.

Thanks for all you do,

Kate Crowley Jane Ransom
Board Chair President & CEO

Girl Scouts' Statewide Tree-Planting Initiative was a Huge Success!

Girl Scouts all across Pennsylvania joined together to celebrate our 100th Anniversary by planting more than 13,150 trees in the month of May!

The trees were planted as part of Girl Scouts' PA Tree Planting Initiative, in which all three of Pennsylvania's Girl Scout councils are participated. The goal of the Tree Planting Initiative was for Girl Scouts to Plant 10,000 trees throughout the state this year in honor of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting.

"Thank you to all the girls and volunteers from our council who teamed up with our sister councils for this wonderful initiative as another way to help celebrate

Spotlight!

[Around the Council](#)

See what's happening throughout GSHPA!

[Save the Date](#)

Mark your calendars with these important upcoming dates!

our 100th Anniversary," said Jane Ransom, GSHPA President and CEO. "It's great to see our girls get excited about giving back to their communities while benefiting the environment."

Each of Pennsylvania's three Girl Scout councils received more than 3,300 trees for girls to plant within their respective service areas. Trees will be planted at schools, community centers, local parks and various other locations throughout the 30 counties GSHPA serves.

Check out the photos below submitted by girls from a couple of troops in our council who planted trees in their communities:



Pictured here are girls from Troop 70174 from Leola planting their seedlings at Lancaster Labs.



A few girls from Daisy Troop 31122 in Frackville are pictured above preparing their seedling for planting.

GSHPA Camporee Canceled

With only 39 girls and 31 adults registered for an event

that we had hoped would attract more than 2,500, we have decided to cancel the Camporee that was originally scheduled for August 10 – 12 at the York Expo Center. This was a tough decision, but based on all of the feedback we received from volunteers and staff about this event, we cannot be confident that our numbers will grow enough to support committing thousands of additional dollars, countless more hours of volunteer and staff time and even more council resources into something that does not appear to appeal to our membership in the manner we had hoped. We have, however, learned a great deal from the planning and preparation that has gone into the Camporee and plan to incorporate these lessons learned into future council-wide events.

While canceling an event is never something we hope and/or plan to do, it is exciting to know that thousands of our girl and adult members have already participated in and/or are scheduled to participate in a variety of 100th Anniversary-themed events including local Service Unit camporees and celebrations, troop activities, the GSHPA tree planting weekend and the upcoming Girl Scouts Rock the Mall National Sing A Long, just to name a few. The success of these events, thanks to many of you, gives all of our girls and adults a variety of ways to celebrate the past century of Girl Scouts and embark on our next one hundred years together. With approximately six months left in our anniversary year, our council's commitment to celebrating the 100th has been extremely impressive thanks to all of the hard work of our volunteers, parents, staff and girls – thank you for all that you have done, have in the works and will do between now and December 2012 to make our centennial a year to remember!

Early Bird Drawing Prize Changes

All troops who re-register 75% or more of the members by June 30 will still be eligible for a drawing despite the changes to our plans for the Camporee. The winning troop will receive a free weekend at the camp of their choice to be used between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013. Some restrictions apply and will be shared with the winning troop when the drawing takes place on July 10.

Plan Now to Attend 2012

Volunteer Kick-Off in August

On Saturday, August 11, 2012, volunteers of all experience levels are encouraged to attend the annual GSHPA Volunteer Kick-Off event at Camp Small Valley from 10 am – 3 pm. Complete with a special 100th Anniversary theme, mark your calendars now for an event that will both energize and excite you about our efforts Bridge to the Next Century of Girl Scouts with the start of the 2012-2013 Girl Scout year. Check your inboxes in the next few weeks for your official invitation complete with a link to register online.

Volunteer Receives Grant From Employer to Benefit GSHPA

Congratulations to Laura Weber, longtime GSHPA volunteer who recently received a \$10,000 grant on behalf of GSHPA through a volunteer incentive program offered by her employer. Laura received the grant after applying for the Exelon Energy for the Community Award, which her employer began offering this year. The program offers grant money to Exelon employees who volunteer for organizations dedicated to providing service within their communities.



Pictured above is Laura Weber, with GSHPA board member Katie McGinty at the Exelon Energy for the Community Awards Luncheon.

The \$10,000 received from the award will go toward the improvement of the outdoor experience and camp properties throughout our council per Laura's request. "Since I was a girl, the experience of Girl Scout Camp was something that has always stuck with me," said Laura. "It's what got me hooked on Girl Scouting, and anything I can do to help make sure today's girls can have that experience, I am more than happy to help."

Laura is a Senior Chemist for GENCO East at Three Mile Island in Middletown, PA, an affiliate of the Exelon/PECO Corporation. Laura has been involved in Girl Scouts for more than 31 years, eight as a girl and 23 as an adult volunteer. "When I learned about this awards program offered to Exelon employees who volunteer in their communities, I couldn't wait to apply," Laura said.

As a leader for high school-aged girls, Laura has helped the girls run their troop and plan events related to the Girl Scout program, service projects, the outdoors and just for fun. In 2011, Laura and a few of her co-workers led a Nuclear Science and Technology Interest Patch program at the Three Mile Island Training Center for more than 80 teen girl scouts. There program included workshops on radiation and shielding, fission and nuclear science history/timeline, security, a nuclear medicine professional and a career panel discussion including a talk from the NRC resident on nuclear safety.

Laura has always found volunteering for Girl Scouts to be a rewarding part of her life. "With my daughter in Girl Scouts now, I've been the leader from the youngest level to the oldest and it has been very rewarding to watch the girls grow and mature," Laura said.

Laura was honored at the Exelon Energy for the Community Awards Luncheon in Philadelphia on May 2, 2012. Jane Ransom, GSHPA president and CEO and Katie McGinty, GSHPA board member accompanied Laura to the event. "We can't thank Laura enough for her commitment to Girl Scouts and for earning this award for GSHPA, which will be a great help to our

ongoing efforts to improve the outdoor experience for our Girls," Ransom added. "We encourage all our volunteers to inquire within their own places of employment to see if their employers offer similar programs to assist them in their volunteer services."

More Than 200 Girls and Adult Volunteers Participate in Forever Green Mini Grant Event



Pictured here are a few of the girls learning about the environment at one of the Leave No Trace Workshops, which were held during Service Unit 327's Forever Green Mini Grant Event at Sweet Arrow Lake in Pine Grove.

Girls from Service Unit 327 in Pine Grove and from surrounding Service Units in Schuylkill County participated in the *Leave No Trace* event on April 29, 2012. The event was held at Sweet Arrow Lake in Pine Grove PA and was held as part of the service unit's Forever Green Mini Grant. Girls learned how local companies and agencies can affect the environment in a positive way.

Girls who attended also learned how to take better care of the environment through activities and workshops delivered by the *Leave No Trace* instructors. Workshops for each of the seven Leave No Trace Principles were set up at various points along the lake.

"We hold a science-related event every year in April," said Joelle Bretz, Service Unit Manager for SU 327 who helped to organize the event. "Once we learned about the grant, we decided to plan our event around the environment and the Leave No Trace curriculum, so we could keep our traditional science theme and also align it with the Forever Green Initiative and apply for the

grant.”

The Forever Green Mini Grant helped to fund an all-day indoor/outdoor event where girls were educated and trained about the environment and also got the opportunity to hike and explore the beautiful surroundings at Sweet Arrow Lake.

“We opened the event all girls in our county and even some from neighboring counties,” Bretz added. “It was such a great way to help the girls to understand their impact on the environment and to introduce them to the Leave No Trace principles.”

Join GSHPA for Two Volunteer-Led Training Opportunities This July and August!

Outdoor Odyssey

The 2012 Outdoor Odyssey Adult Enrichment Weekend will be held at Camp Small Valley in Halifax from July 13-15.

The purpose of this weekend is to help adult volunteers gain fresh ideas through enrichment workshops and to share these new ideas with your girls and also to make new friends and maybe even reconnect with some old friends too!

[Click here for more information and to download a registration form for this training opportunity.](#)

Adult Volunteer Weekend 2012 at Camp Furnace Hills

Pine Mountain Service Unit 703 will host its annual Adult Volunteer Weekend at Camp Furnace Hills in Denver, PA from September 21-23. The theme of this year’s weekend will be Girl Scout Traditions: 100 Years of Inspiring Girls and Young Women.

This training weekend is open to all registered adult volunteers and will be jam-packed with workshops and activities for those of you who like to keep busy; however, you do not have to participate in all of them! If you want to relax and enjoy Camp Furnace Hills, work on your own crafts, play board games, socialize, etc., you are free to do so!

[Click here for complete details and registration information for this training weekend.](#)

Did you know?

Girl Scout members elected the first African American national Girl Scout President, Gloria D. Scott, in 1975.

Gold Award Spotlight

[Click here](#) to see who's in the spotlight this month.

Around the Council

Girls

- *What can a cookie do?* Well, Farmdale Daisy Girl Scout Troop 70473 from Service Unit 711-Hempfiled (Lancaster County) certainly understood that a cookie *could do more than you can see* when they devised their big idea to use some of their cookie proceeds to help a local food bank. The girls wanted to purchase food for individuals who did not have food or who could not afford to buy any food for themselves. After a conversation with St. Paul's Church in Columbia, PA, the girls shopped at Musser's Food Market in search of canned tuna, fruit, cake mixes/icing, and some special goodies for children which they could add to the basket. The girls' leader commented to Membership Associate, Vicky Miley, that it was truly inspiring that girls came up with this idea on their own. See photo below:



- Brownie Troop 80712 and Junior Troop 80722 from Service Unit 842-Codorus (Hanover, York County) recently held a sleepover at St. Matthew's Church. As part of the sleepover, the girls incorporated a service project aimed to beautify the environment. Dressed in orange safety vests and armed with trash bags, the girls went on a litter patrol of the neighborhood. The girls had a great time and expressed a great feeling of accomplishment. Following the project, some girls commented that people should not litter because it puts it on others to clean-up their mess, and that is not fair.
- Troop 80934 from Service Unit 837 in Shippensburg is in the final stages of their Silver Award project. When they were thinking about what issues matter to them, they identified animal welfare as one of them. They developed a project they call "Animal Hope."

The "Animal Hope" event at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter features speakers, games, contests, music, and animal adoptions. To make sure that their project had a lasting impact, the girls also hope to increase awareness about animal cruelty and proposed laws that relate to this issue. They are collecting signatures on petitions relating to four different laws. The girls have learned a lot through this process. They have created flyers, made phone calls, set up meetings, had requests turned down, and have bounced back and found people who are willing to help.

Volunteers

- Service Unit 323 held a 100th Anniversary parade on Saturday, May 19th. There were nearly 350 girls and more than 100 adults present. The girls marched through the streets of Saint Clair, PA in green accompanied by parade floats that ranged from camp themed to birthday cake themed to daisy garden themed. Forty troops from all across Schuylkill County participated in the parade and the activities that followed. When the parade was over, the groups gathered to have a traditional opening ceremony, and citations presented by Senator David Argall, by Saint Clair Councilman Jack Burke from Representative Neal Goodman, Schuylkill County Commissioners George Halcovage and Gary Hess, and lastly Saint Clair Mayor Bob Maley. The girls that were the winners for the patch contest went up as recipients of the citations as they were handed out. Superintendent Mrs. Kindy Hinkle said a few words and the girls also got to hear speeches from two former Girl Scouts, Dr. Anita Vickers, and Dr. Mary Bonowitz, both professors at Penn State Schuylkill. A final part of the celebration was a county-wide bridging ceremony. More than 100 girls bridged to the next level of Girl Scouting in this special ceremony.
- The Bloomsburg Service Unit 303 Girl Scouts are Batty about the Environment Event was held at Kocher Park in Lightstreet, PA. The

Service Unit applied for and received a 100th Year Anniversary mini-grant from GSHPA. More than 130 girl scouts registered for the event, from Daisies through Ambassadors. Although it rained the entire afternoon, 102 girls attended the event. Of those 102, 10 girls were Seniors/Ambassadors who helped run the event. There were 21 troops represented, from the Bloomsburg, Danville and Berwick areas. The afternoon revolved around the topic of bats—learning about them and their importance in the environment, how they can help us lower insect populations, and how we can help them with their habitats. Speakers from the PA Game Commission, Danville High School, and Bloomsburg University spoke about the importance of bats in the environment—how they live, what they eat, and what a bat house looks like. See photo below:



- Volunteers from Big Cove Service Unit (Fulton County) recently hosted a banquet to celebrate Girl Scouting. More than 150 people attended the event at the Hustontown Fire Hall. During

the event, adults had an opportunity to bid on Girl Scout memorabilia-themed baskets as part of a Silent Auction. The proceeds were to be donated to the Family Partnership (a fundraiser for GSHPA). Each troop created a poster or display to highlight their troop and activities. It was great to see all of the creativity and the unique personalities of all the troops. After a hearty dinner, the girls in attendance enjoyed a Girl Scout trivia game and prizes were awarded for the most knowledgeable. The event concluded with recognition of volunteers for all that they do, with a special recognition time set aside for Marie Shimer who is celebrating her 50th year in Girl Scouts this year. A wonderful time was had by all and hopefully this will become an annual event.

Save the Date!

- **June 9, 2012** – Girl Scouts Rock the Mall 100th Anniversary Sing-A-long
- **June 23, 2012** – GSHPA Gold Award Luncheon at the C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference located on the Harrisburg campus of HACC
- **June 30, 2012** – Deadline to turn in all troop re-registration forms to be eligible for Drawing
- **July 13 – 15, 2012** – Outdoor Odyssey at Camp Small Valley
- **July 31, 2012** – Troop/Group Finance Reports Due
- **August 11** – 2012 Volunteer Kick-Off at Camp Small Valley
- **September 7 – 9, 2012** – GSHPA Fall Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Golden Pond
- **September 21 – 23, 2012** – Adult Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Furnace Hills
- **September 27 – 29, 2012** – GSHPA Fall Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Small Valley
- **October 5 – 7, 2012** – GSHPA Fall Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Louise
- **October 13 – 14, 2012** – GSHPA Fall Volunteer Training Weekend at Camp Echo Trail

