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**Welcome to the March issue of Team Connections:** A newsletter for service team members. If your team members aren't receiving Team Connections, it may be because they are not registered for the 2010 membership year.

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Dear Service Teams:

March is a time to celebrate! First we look to our past by recognizing Girl Scout Week, March 7 – 13, with Girl Scout Sunday on March 7, 2010, and our Girl Scout Birthday on March 12, 2010. The Girl Scout Sabbath is March 13, 2010.

Next, we look to our present with the awesome results of the Cookie Sale Program. Our girls worked hard and earned over \$790,000 in troop profit! Cookie booths are happening all over the council. If troops need help in getting one scheduled, please refer them to the information listed below under product sales managers. And again, THANK YOU to our product sale managers who worked hard for the cookie sale by training leaders, handing out paperwork and shuffling cookies. They truly are the backbone of our Cookie Sale Program.

And lastly, we look to our future: the future of Girl Scouts. It starts with spring registration for the coming year. It continues with our incredible day and resident camp program that serves girls throughout the summer. And it all revolves around our troop leaders and the support they receive from you the service unit. Thank you for being that support system for troop leaders. Without your efforts our girls would not be receiving the awesome program that they are.

In an effort to continue updating our methods, we continually ask for your feedback. If you receive a survey, or a question, please take a few minutes to reply. I can't thank volunteers enough for attending SUD meetings, filling out surveys, and sending me e-mails giving me great feedback. We take everything you say and try to apply it in ways that will lead to easier processes and procedures and, ultimately, a better program for our girls. So thank you, and keep telling us what you think!

Sincerely,  
Brenda Lloyd, Vice President of Membership

### **Forever Green Project Spotlight**

We want to see what you are doing for Forever Green projects! We have a **Flip video camera in each Girl Scout Service Center** that you can check out and film your girls working on their Forever Green projects! Contact your local program managers for more information!

### **FYI (For Your Information)**

**Did you know that your service unit can offer girls the opportunity to pay for a service unit event with their cookie program credit?** It's easy; [follow this link to the appropriate form](#). After the event, fill out the form and submit it to the finance department along with the cookie program credits that you collected. Your service unit will receive a check.

Recently I attended a service unit meeting and the service unit started their meeting with the Girl Scout Promise and Law. A request was made that we publish both on the front page of this newsletter for convenience.

So, here you go... ☺

#### **Girl Scout Promise:**

On my honor,  
I will try, to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

#### **Girl Scout Law:**

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

**Are you a leader or volunteer of girls grades 6-12?** Are you trying to figure out how to complete a journey with your troop? Do you have an individual girl who wants to do complete a journey? We have an awesome event coming up for you! We want you and your girls to attend the **Raise Your Voice-Take Action event!** This amazing event will take place from **June 18-20** at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa. Girls will complete one of the "Its Your World-Change It!" journeys according to their grade level. Adults will have an opportunity to learn how to work with older girls on Take Action projects, so you can work with girls on earning their Girl Scout Silver Award or Girl Scout Gold Award. Look for more information coming in the mail soon, or contact Angela Grunder at [AngelaG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:AngelaG@GSEIWI.org)!

**Changes are coming!** GSUSA is rolling out a new council data base system called Personify. This new system will streamline our internal processes and result in a more accurate data base for our membership. We are in the process of the transition so if you are accustomed to utilizing e-council, there will be a point in time where you will not be able to access any information. Our "go live" date for the new system is April 12. We are hoping that this new system will allow service unit registrars and service unit directors to access their member information by service unit but at this time this is still not complete. More information will be coming to you as we move forward but wanted to keep you up to date with information as we get it. Please refer any questions to me, Brenda Lloyd at [BrendaLI@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaLI@GSEIWI.org).

### **Service Unit Director**

#### **Resident Camp – the real deal...**

Girl Scouts provides unparalleled camp experiences, where money is never a reason that a girl cannot attend camp. Our new three-tiered pricing structure allows us to continue to provide this type of experience to as many girls as possible while giving families the chance to support Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois summer camp at a level at which they are comfortable. **This program is voluntary, confidential, and will not in any way affect a girl's experience at camp.**

Tier A is our full fee, covering many of the direct costs (staff, maintenance, food, programs, supplies, wear and tear) for a camper to participate in the camp session. We ask families to pay this amount if they have the financial means to do so.

Tier B is partially subsidized by GSEIWI and is for those families that cannot afford the full fee, yet still want to support camps.

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Tier C is the lowest-priced tier. We encourage families to use this tier if this is the most affordable. This is the most heavily subsidized fee and what we have offered as camp session fees in the past.

Please help us provide a consistent message to parents and troop leaders alike regarding this system. We are confident that it is fair and that we can still offer a wonderful resident camping experience to every girl that wants one. [Follow this link for a letter](#) from Debby Stork our Summer resident camp coordinator.

### **Service Unit Director Tips**

- **March is SUD meeting month.** Please remember to invite your service unit registrar, as we will be discussing spring registration.
- **Summer Camp Guides** were mailed out in February but if you know of someone that didn't receive one, please let us know. We have extras! Ask your RMM to bring them to your next service unit meeting.
- **Now is the time to be thinking about outdoor training for your troop leaders.** Under the Safety Zone is a link for a flier that lists the upcoming training schedule. There are also lines on this sheet for troop leaders to indicate a need for training. [Please print this out](#) and take it to your next service unit meeting, pass it around to get an idea of who needs training, and give the information to Claudia at [ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org). She can work with your service unit to schedule something if what's offered isn't working for the volunteers.
- **Is your service unit planning an event** that girls can use their cookie program credits? If so, you will need to use [this form](#) for getting reimbursement from the council. If your not sure if your event qualifies, please contact your regional program manager and she will be able to help you.

### **By Lora Wright, SUD – SU 897, Galesburg Community Information Coordinators. Who needs them?**

As Service Unit Directors, part of our job is to fill the team positions. The position of Community Information Coordinator is one that I have enjoyed in the past. I'll be honest. It's easy. Once you've looked up the e-mail addresses for all the local papers, radio stations and TV stations, you're good to go. Set up a distribution list in your e-mail

address book so anything addressed to the "Press Release" distribution list goes to everybody and most of your work is done.

Now the fun begins. When you attend Service Unit events, council events or unique troop happenings, take pictures and a few notes, get a quote from a girl, a leader or a parent and then when you get home, write a quick e-mail, attach the pictures and hit send. We all go to almost every event anyway and most of us take our cameras and have pictures already. Why not send these 3 minute e-mails and get the community to realize what's happening in Girl Scouts?

Sometimes I feel like we're the best kept secret in town. And I'm not one to brag or call attention to good deeds done just for the sake of getting recognition. I just honestly believe that Girl Scouts all over are council are doing amazing things and no one knows about it. The communities and schools need to realize how terrific it is for the community to have Girl Scouts around. We're amazing leaders, organizers, and doers. We not only talk the talk, we walk it, some run it! ☺

So talk to your Service Unit Director and see if you have a Community Information Coordinator. If so, volunteer to send her pictures of an event she couldn't attend. If not, volunteer to send an article or two. It can't hurt. All it can do is make Girl Scouting a more valuable organization in the community and get more support for our girls, not to mention the other good ideas we might inspire in others.

**Thanks Lora for sharing why Community Information Coordinators are so important!**

### **School Organizer**

February – April are when most of the Kindergarten Round-Ups happen. This year we are again using the Daisy Petal Power program that was piloted last year with great success. Please contact your RMM with your schools round-up date and ask her for more information regarding the Daisy Petal Power program. [Follow this link to a flier relating to the program.](#)

### **Leader Mentor**

**Resident camp registration is in full swing!** Be sure to talk to new leaders about the benefits of camp for the girls in their troop. Camp is such a great experience, and by spending time at your troop meeting looking through the camp guide, leaders can get girls excited about camp and encourage them to attend a summer session. If you have questions about camp, be sure to talk to

the Program Manager for your area ~ she will be sure to answer your questions.

**Cookie Delivery** is also going hot and heavy right now. PLEASE be sure to talk to your new leaders about the best ways to handle cookie payments. Most important tip: Be sure that you ALWAYS count cash and checks in front of the parent when they are turning in cookie money and give them a receipt. If you are \$50 short of what they say they have given you and you didn't count it in front of them, who makes up the difference?

**This is also a great time to visit with new leaders about troop money.** It is important for girls to have the opportunity to spend the money they have earned through product sales on events and activities during the year they earned it. Of course, if they are saving for a bigger trip, that is fine, but leaders should understand that the girls should get the benefit of their hard work. There have been lots of questions about how much money troops can carry over to the next year. Troops are NOT required to have a \$0 balance ~ it is good to carry some funds over for next fall's activities. Most importantly, be sure that you have a plan for your finances.

**Remind them of how important it is** to keep parents informed about troop money. They should be sure to give parents an accounting of the money earned and spent. A copy of the troop year-end financial report can be given to parents or at the very least be available at a court of awards or cookie incentives party. Parents who are kept informed are much more likely to be parents who participate, because they truly feel like they are a part of the troop.

I hope that you have completed the **Leader Mentor home study training** and that it was helpful for you. If you did not receive one, please be sure to let me know. You can reach me at [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org). We plan to do a survey for Leader Mentors and the new leader mentees so that we can improve the program for the coming year. Please be looking for that and be sure to send us your thoughts.

### **Registrar**

**Spring registration is coming quickly.** There are a few key changes from last year:

- Rosters will be simplified.
- Pre-printed forms will not be distributed.
- Registrars will receive their service unit's spring registration for distribution based on your needs.
- Timeline for troops to turn in registrations to you the registrar is set by YOU and your service unit's needs.

- Registrations are due to the council service centers by June 4.
- Girl will receive spring registration patches.
- Troop leaders will have the option of utilizing a camp overnight certificate or another option (to be determined.)
- Service units can host spring registration events to encourage troops to spring register (follow link to ideas for events.)
- Each service unit is asked to set their goal for troop and girl participation in spring registration.
- Your help is IMPERATIVE for driving and marketing a successful spring registration campaign and we truly appreciate your efforts!

### **Fund Development Coordinator**

#### **"Drive the Spirit" Golf Tournament**

Join us for a fun day of golf at Spirit Hollow Golf Course in Burlington, Iowa on **May 7, 2010**. Registration is set for 12:00 noon and the shotgun start is at 1:00 PM. Prizes, games and surprises on each hole make this tournament one you shouldn't miss!

Sponsor a team, a tee, donate a prize or volunteer for the event. (No golf experience required to volunteer!)

Contact Joyce Vance at 319-752-3639 or [JoyceV@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JoyceV@GSEIWI.org) for a sponsorship or to register.

#### **The 2010 Woman of Distinction Announced**

Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois will honor Terri Dowell at its 2010 Woman of Distinction Celebration on **June 10** at the Burlington Golf Club beginning with a social at 6:00 PM.

The Woman of Distinction Celebration recognizes a member of the community who represents the ideals of Girl Scouting and our mission. Girl Scouts chose Terri Dowell for the Woman of Distinction award based not only on her countless leadership roles and volunteer hours, but also for her advocacy for Girl Scouting.

Join us in celebrating Terri's achievements. To register for this special event, contact Joyce Vance at 319-752-3639 or [JoyceV@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JoyceV@GSEIWI.org).

**If your service unit has a great fund raising idea for your area, please contact Nancy Renkes at 800-798-0833 or email [NancyR@GSEIWI.org](mailto:NancyR@GSEIWI.org).**

### **Mobile Market Coordinator**

The Mobile Market 'Shop' is a fun and exciting accent to any Girl Scout Event. The process to take merchandise and coordinate at events is quick and easy. You may reach me to discuss or do on the phone training at [LindaH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:LindaH@GSEIWI.org)

The Mobile Market Shop will have a booth at "An Evening with Olympic Gold Medalist Shawn Johnson," on Thursday, March 25, 2010. A wide selection of merchandise will be available, including but--not limited to--T-shirts, flip-flop/tote sets, eco-friendly water bottles and bags, as well as a special purchase item: "I'm a Gold Medal Girl Scout" T-shirt in honor of Shawn and the event. This event special T-shirts will sell for \$10-12 (based upon size.)

### **Juliette Coordinator**

Please make sure that your Girl Scout Juliettes have the following opportunities:

- Cookie booth sales
- Summer Camp Program Guide
- Invitations to service unit events
- Spring registration event invitation (if your service unit hosting one)
- Information regarding the Girls Go Global event.

Your help is greatly appreciated in making sure our Juliettes aren't missing out on any great opportunities.

### **Event Coordinator**

The second annual **Girls Go Global event** is coming up on **April 24, 2010**, at the Coralville (IA) Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The theme this year is "It's Easy to Be Green." Last year, we had over 1400 registered Girl Scouts attend and this year it's going to be better – thanks to all of your great feedback. Included in this year's activities will be a chance for your girls to do SWAPS. Not sure what SWAPS are? Check out the [SWAPS Brochure](#), this is a great piece to share with your troop now to prepare for the GGG event. You can make SWAPS at your next meeting and have them ready to trade when you get there, or you can come and make one there, or you can do both!

**Thanks to everyone that attended the World Thinking Day event on February 6.** We had a great turnout and understand that some of you felt there were not enough activities. We listened to your feedback and are already making plans and changes for next year. If your troop or service unit would like to host a booth next year, please contact Kathleen at 800-798-0833 or [KathleenM@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KathleenM@GSEIWI.org).

## **Outdoor Program Coordinator**

**Your service unit can help promote Girl Scout camp!** The council runs an awesome resident camp program June through August for all ages of girls. You can get girls excited about attending camp by having a CAMP RALLY! If you are familiar with a cookie rally, this is the same thing, only about camp. The council has come up with an awesome camp rally kit that will make planning easy. [Click here to request your camp rally kit](#) or email Hailey Workman at [HaileyW@GSEWI.org](mailto:HaileyW@GSEWI.org).

## **Upcoming Horseback Riding Opportunities**

- **Spring troop horseback riding programs** are available on weekends from mid-April through June at Camp Conestoga for Girl Scouts in grades K – 12.
- **Mother-Daughter Trip to Wisconsin** will be offered May 28 – 30, 2010 for girls in grades 6 – 12 and their mom or other adult female.
- **Colorado Horseback Riding Adventure** will be offered July 24 - 30, 2010, for girls entering grades 8 – 12 in the fall of 2010.
- **Women's Horseback Riding Camp** will be offered August 20 – 22, 2010, at Camp Conestoga for Girl Scout adults who meet riding requirements.

For more information about these and other horseback riding opportunities, please visit our or contact Joanne Dumar at [JoanneD@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JoanneD@GSEIWI.org) or call 563-349-6149.

## **Treasurer**

**These next two paragraphs were included in the Leader Mentor section; however it is good information for all leaders. If the Leader Mentor did not go over this, please take some time to do so. THANKS!**

**Cookie money is coming in, making this a great time to visit with leaders about troop money.** It is important for girls to have the opportunity to spend the money they have earned through product sales on events and activities during the year they earned it. Of course if they are saving for a bigger trip, that is fine, but leaders should understand that the girls should get the benefit of their hard work. There have been lots of questions about how much money troops can carry over to the next year.

Troops are NOT required to have a \$0 balance at the end of the year ~ it is good to carry funds over for next fall's activities. Most importantly, be sure that you have a plan for your finances.

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should be sure to give parents an accounting of all troop money earned and spent. A copy of the troop year-end financial report can be given to parents or at the very least is available when cookie incentives are picked up. Parents who are kept informed are much more likely to be parents who participate, because they truly feel like they are a part of the troop.

## **Adult Learning Coordinator**

Girls really enjoy the idea of making SWAPS and then going to an event and sharing them. This month's **Short and Snappy** is about what SWAPS are, some etiquette about them, how they are made and a sample that you can do with your SU. There is also a brochure that will give the participants good take home information. Girls Go Global will have a SWAP booth this year. There will be a SWAP area for girls/troops to

share SWAPS they have brought, there will be a display board of SWAPS that troops have made, and will have a "Make and Take" table for those wanting a SWAP for participating at this event.

## **Safety Zone**

**Spring is the perfect time for troops to go camping.** Now is the time to start planning with the girls for that camp-out to make it fun for all. Remember that you need at least one person in your group that has had Overnight/Troop Readiness, and if sleeping in tents and cooking over a fire, they will also need Camp Skills. Check the [training calendar](#) for dates and locations in your area. A first aider also needs to be present. Check on page 36-37 of *Safety-Wise* to see what the requirements are. It is always good to check with *Safety-Wise* for suggestions when hiking, camping, outdoor cooking, and other activities that are offered at our various camps. Start at the index in the back of the book to see what pages will cover the activities that you want to do. Being prepared is the best way to ensure everyone's safety while having a good time.

## **Product Manager**

**Did your troop earn as much money in the Cookie Sale Program as what you needed for activities throughout the year?** If not, your troop can still hold a cookie booth. Cookie booths are fun for the girls while providing lots of great skills that will benefit their program experience. For more information on cookie booths consult your Cookie Connections Guidebook or visit our web site cookie page.

**Troop cookie sale checks are to be postmarked no later than March 24.**

Troop recognition orders should be committed no later than 11:00 p.m. CST on March 24.

## **Recognition Coordinator**

### **Girl and Adult Appreciation**

*Bon Appreciation! Recipes for Success* is the theme for this year's Girl and Adult Appreciation event, **Saturday, April 10, 2010**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Coralville Holiday Inn. As you may have guessed from the theme, cooking is going to play a big part in our program and we may have guest appearances from several of television's top chefs! Here is our menu:

11-11:45 a.m. Registration, lunch buffet, games

11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Girl awards

12:15-1:00 p.m. Adult awards/Girl time

The lunch buffet will consist of a baked potato bar with soup and two kinds of salad. Stations will be set up in the corners of the room for everyone to make their own dessert. After the girl awards, girls will adjourn to their own room for some fun, while adults enjoy their awards.

Invitations are going out in early March. Don't forget to RSVP by sending in the reservation card included with the invitation, along with your payment of \$10 for lunch. Award winners will receive their own invitation to the event. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org).

### **Leader's Day**

Girls are going to get an opportunity again this year to send their leaders a "thank you" card in honor of Leader's Day. The spring issue of *Momentum* will contain a tear out post card for girls to write a note to their leader. This can be handed to the leader at a meeting or dropped in the mail.

If you have girls of your own in another troop, encourage them to do this for their leader. It means so much to them and is a simple way for girls to show how much they appreciate everything their leaders do.

### **Recognition Tips**

This month's issue of [Recognition Tips](#) will give you ideas to celebrate Girl Scout Week, March 8-14, 2010. There are some ideas for your next Service Unit meeting, along with ideas for troops. Please pass these ideas on to the leaders in your Service Unit. Also included is information on how to get your copy of the [Girl Scout Recognition Celebration Event Planner](#). This booklet is full of ideas to plan your own event, along with information on what to include and how to do it. You won't want to miss out!

## **Community Information Coordinator**

Girl Scout Week is March 7-13, beginning on Girl Scout Sunday on March 7 and ending on Girl Scout Sabbath on March 13. This is a great opportunity for you to help get out the word in your communities about Girl Scout Week. There are so many things to do to create visibility throughout the weeklong celebration: decorate the windows of businesses, have a display in the public library, talk about Girl Scouts in your community on local radio stations – and more!

Another way you can help get out the word is with [worship bulletin inserts](#) that GSEIWI can provide. You can download them from our Web site or request copies from your closest GSEIWI service center. Some churches prefer to print them on their own. In any event, it's an excellent opportunity to spread the word of Girl Scouts in your community.

Don't forget to promote Girl Scout Cookie booth sales in your area, too. Go to [www.GirlScoutCookies.org](http://www.GirlScoutCookies.org) and enter your ZIP code. Find the list of local sales on a week-by-week basis and post these sales on local online community calendars such as community Web sites, as well as those run by radio stations and newspapers. Many times, just by posting your local booth sales on radio station community calendars, these events also will be promoted on the air!

If you have questions, please contact Chuck Gysi, vice president of marketing and communications, at 309-283-2359 or 800-798-0833, Ext. 716, or by e-mail at [ChuckG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ChuckG@GSEIWI.org).

## **Service Unit Spotlight**

**SU 810, Linn County** under the leadership of Robyn DeFord and Lynn Hanna have an outstanding service unit. They have a full service team, have hit their membership goal this year, put out a great newsletter each month for their leaders and are going for the president's award!

Shelly Bell, the event coordinator for the service unit, is truly an asset to the leaders in that service unit. At their January service unit meeting, Shelly taught leaders how to swap and taught the leaders a song. Their service unit is planning great events for girls. Thanks Shelly for supporting the troop leaders and girls in your service unit.

Kim Kacena, the leader mentor for the service unit, is one of the main components to this year's success. She does a fabulous job following up with new leaders, attending their first meetings and just being that hand to hold while helping new leaders

(and a few seasoned leaders) get thru their first and/or most challenging year. Building strong leaders now will mean this Service Unit has a great future!

All around this Service Unit has pulled together to make this a great year for their volunteers and girls!

### **Service Unit that hit their membership goal since last month!**

All of the following service units deserve huge congratulations on hitting their end of year membership goal. I would love to share more information about each of them and what makes them such a great service unit but it would take another 6 pages of text! Nice work service units!

607 – Black Hawk County

608 – Winneshiek County

622 – Buchanan County

627 – Grundy County

740 – Jo Daviess County

803 – Iowa County

810 – Linn County SW

811 – Linn County Marion

841 – Jackson County Maquoketa

846 – Clinton County Clinton

857 – Scott County Bettendorf

858 – Scott County LeClaire

923 – Henderson County

Of the council's 70 service units, 28 of them have hit their end of year membership goal. Thanks for being such great service units and for giving every girl the opportunity to be a part of Girl Scouts.

### **Kudos Korner**

Many, many thanks to our fabulous group of volunteers from the Recognition Committee who work very hard to ensure volunteers get the recognition awards they deserve. They are Tina Black, Peggy Crew, Rachel Stewart, Theresa Dunkin, Linda Kennedy, Darby Grundstrom, and chair, Debbie Wordehoff. Not only do they look over the adult awards, but they have the daunting task of choosing just one girl for each of the Girl of Courage, Girl of Confidence and Girl of Character scholarships. Plan on coming to the Girl and Adult Appreciation Event and you are sure to see their ideas and hard work with this event as well.

### **Coming Next Month:**

- Troop Bloopers – send your best to [BrendaL@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaL@GSEIWI.org)
- Leader appreciation ideas
- Service unit celebration ideas

What do you want to see in the April issue? Email [BrendaL@GSEIWI.org](mailto:BrendaL@GSEIWI.org) with your topics.