

**Welcome to the May 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.

Dear Service Teams:

April was a busy month! We had leaders being recognized; a really awesome volunteer appreciation event, spring registration packets were distributed and Girls Go Global 2010 was fantastic!

For those of you who missed the volunteer appreciation event on April 10, here are some highlights: More than 300 people gathered in Coralville to view some of America's favorite chefs but more importantly to honor 12 volunteers for all their hard work. There were 10 appreciation pins, an honor pin and a Thanks Badge. There were also more than 65 older girls and their families present to celebrate the girls' achievements and be recognized for receiving their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Spring registration is under way and packets were distributed in April. Remember, service units that have 70 percent or more of their girls participate in spring registration will receive a pizza and ice cream party. One other note to remember is that we CANNOT use cookie program credits this year for membership dues.

Thanks again to all service team members for your incredible work this year supporting leaders and providing program to girls. Have a great and safe summer!

Brenda Lloyd,  
VP of Membership

#### The 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.

#### The 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.

### Service Unit Director

You've done a great job on holding service unit meetings each month for your troop leaders.

Your regional membership manager will be meeting with your service team in the months of June and/or July to review your service unit plan of work, work with you on any questions or concerns that you may have and to plan for the coming membership year. We also will begin plans for the service unit kick off to be held in either August or September.

Team Connections will continue throughout the summer. The August and September issue will be combined because some service units begin meeting in August and some begin in September.

Kickoff will have a little different look next year. Because the focus is to get troop leaders excited about next year, we want to have as many attend as possible. What we have found is that people

are not always willing to travel. By having each service unit host a kickoff at their first service unit meeting of the new membership year, it will allow more troop leaders to participate. This meeting can either be held in August or September. When your RMM meets with you this summer, she will discuss in details what this will look like. It won't be much more than a regular service unit meeting, but we will have returning troop packets to distribute along with other materials that were normally handed out at the council wide kickoffs. We will want to market the importance of this first service unit meeting to each troop to make sure that each troop is represented. More information also will be coming in the June and July Team Connections.

Thanks to all of you who already completed the service unit director evaluation. If you haven't, [there's still time and your input is greatly needed.](#)

## Registrar

Spring registration reminder:

- Packets were distributed in April.
- Packets are due in to the council office by June 11.
- You should have already received your spring registration patches to hand out to troops that participate. If you need more, please contact Holly Bark at [HollyB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:HollyB@GSEIWI.org).
- Service units that achieve 70 percent of girl participation will receive a pizza and ice cream party.
- You also should have a supply of camp overnight certificates to give to troops that participated in spring registration. If you run short, please contact Holly Bark. Troops can utilize these certificates from Aug. 15, 2010, to May 15, 2011.
- Girl and adult Juliettes will be receiving their spring registration mailing in early May. If they turn them in to you, please give them their spring registration patch. However, we did ask in the letter that they turn them in to the West Burlington office because not everyone knows who their service unit registrar is.

## Treasurer

Each service unit is asked to complete [an end-of-year service unit finance form](#). Please turn this in to your regional membership manager by the end of August.

## Forever Green Project Spotlight

Girls in Troop 8532 from the Davenport Boys & Girls Club recognized the need for better air quality at their club. Girls are working to improve the oxygen they breathe by putting plants at the facility, and making "green" cleaning supplies to replace the harsh bleach that the club currently uses. These girls, along with eight other outreach troops in the Quad Cities area are striving to make our world a better place!

## Mobile Market Coordinator

Troop Year End is upon us! In all council shops you can find "Bridging Kits" supplying the essential year-end items and an option of a "Journey" of your choice.

Camper Care Package selections will be in all shop locations to preview and order for that special Girl Scout in your life during her camp stay. Again this season, there are two packages available at \$15 and \$25.

Council shops are open the first Saturday of May and the Cedar Rapids shop only on the third

Saturday of May. Hurry in for those year-end purchases.

Trading Posts will be open at all of our council resident camps during the resident camp session. Great new merchandise items have been selected to add to the fun of the camp experience.

Be sure to visit the new GSEIWI Online Shop at <http://shop.gseiwi.org> and remember local purchases through the council shops and GSEIWI online shop support the council.

## Juliette Coordinator

Do you have any Juliettes in your area? If so, please help us spread the word to Juliettes and families about our four resident camps. It's not too late to register for resident camp. Call any of the Girl Scout service centers to get the information you need to register for camp this summer!

Juliettes, both girl and adult, will be receiving their spring registration mailing early in May.

## Outdoor Program Coordinator

**It's not too late! There still are plenty of resident and day camping opportunities available.**

In particular, please let all leaders of girls in grades 4-5 know about a really special camping program. Space Explorers will be held at all four camps:

- L-Kee-Ta: July 11-16
- Little Cloud/Conestoga: July 18-23
- Tahigwa: July 25-30

This program is unique for many reasons. We are the first council in the nation to pilot this program for NASA. Trainers Michelle Weber, Marcy Seavey and Debby Stork traveled to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, last May to learn about the program in order to bring it back for our girls. This is an amazing opportunity for the girls of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

**Don't forget about camp open houses.**

Following are the dates and times at each of the four locations:

- Camp Little Cloud – May 2, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Camp Tahigwa – May 16, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Camp L-Kee-Ta – May 23, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Camp Conestoga – June 6, 1 to 3 p.m.

## **It's not too late to have a SU Camp Rally!**

Please contact [Hailey Workman](#) if your service unit is interested. Girls who attend a rally will receive a \$5 coupon for their session fee.

A lot of troop leaders have requested camp information in a different format. Check out the [camp fliers listed by age level!](#)

## **Leader Mentor**

Well, you are eight months into walking a new leader through her first year. I have heard from some of you about what a good experience this has been for both you and the new leader. It always feels good when you help someone else!

I am sure that you are receiving questions regarding Spring Registration and what that is all about. Help them to understand that Spring Registration is the very best way to prepare for the coming year. It also is very important to remind them about completing their Leader Review and Year-End Troop Financial reports. They probably will have questions about those forms. If you need help, just give your Regional Membership Manager a call.

Encourage new leaders to continue being active with their troop this summer. A family picnic and an outing in the park will help keep both girls and families connected to Girl Scouts.

I will be emailing an evaluation form to you in the next month or so. Please be watching your e-mail for it, and be thinking about ways that we can make this program better for both you and the new leaders. If you have questions, or would like to chat about it, please contact Kim Hull at [KimH@GSEIWI.org](mailto:KimH@GSEIWI.org).

## **Adult Learning Coordinator**

One year is close to ending and we need to begin to think about next year and how to best serve our volunteers. We would like to offer Getting Started on a regular basis from someone in the Service Unit – once, twice or even three times a month in September, October and November or depending on how many new leaders you get each year or the size of your Service Unit.

Is there a Getting Started Facilitator in your area? If not, can you think of someone that could be that knowledgeable person to get new leaders off to a good start? The Adult Learning Department will give all the training needed to the facilitators and give them the packets needed.

How great would it be to be able to say we will have Getting Started training on the third Tuesday of the month for anyone who needs it. Think of how much quicker we could get our new leaders

up and going. Call Claudia at 1-800-798-0833 or e-mail her at [ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ClaudiaR@GSEIWI.org) for more information.

## **Safety Zone**

Summer is coming and there are so many fun outside activities to do with your troop. Please remember if you want to take the girls swimming, that you have the appropriate number of lifeguards and watchers present. See Page 120 of Safety-Wise for all the details. Double check at any aquatic center that their ratios are the same as ours! Other things to think about when taking girls to any water-related activities that they need to be protected from the sun by using sunscreen (continually), hats, etc.

Another fun activity to think about is being a part of your town's Fourth of July parade. But remember, there are precautions to think about when having the girls being a part of a parade. There is usually a cost. Will the girls wear their uniforms or all have matching T-shirts to be able to keep an eye on them? Will they be walking? How far is the parade – will it be too long for younger girls? Consider where you have to park at the start of the parade and where it will finish. Will there be a designated spot for parents to pick up the girls afterward? There also are specific guidelines for having a float and being on a float. See Pages 132-133 of Safety-Wise for more details. Enjoy the summer!

## **Recognition Coordinator**

As service teams are completing their plan of work for this year, don't forget to remind them about the President's Award. This is a council recognition awarded to service units that meet certain criteria. The work they have done this current year could make them eligible to receive the award next year. If you have any questions about this award, please contact your regional membership manager or Deb Boyd.

Lora Wright in Galesburg came up with a great idea to not only recognize volunteers but help them develop their skills through training. She noticed there were several volunteers who only needed Camp Skills training in order to earn their Leadership Development pin. Lora e-mailed them personally to tell them how close they were to earning this award, and to give them information on how to sign up for training. What a great way to think outside the box! How might this idea work in your area?

We want your input! We are putting together an evaluation so you can tell us how the recognition process went for you this year. Were the forms

easy to use? Was the training adequate? What could we have done different? The fillable evaluation will be e-mailed to those of you having e-mail; all others will be sent in the mail. Please take about 10 minutes and let us know how we are serving you and the volunteers.

Have you returned your home study training questions yet? We are still waiting to hear from many of you. Until we get those back, your training is not logged. Please contact Deb Boyd at [DebB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:DebB@GSEIWI.org) for questions regarding your training.

Why do people stop volunteering for an organization? There are many surveys taken across our country asking that same question. The top 2 answers: they didn't feel utilized and **they didn't feel appreciated**. Your Recognition Coordinator position is vital to the morale and success of our volunteers!

Don't forget to check out this month's [Recognition Tips](#).

### **Community Information Coordinator**

The coming months are an exciting time for Girl Scouts, especially in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

Girl Scouts and GSEIWI will be unveiling a new brand for Girl Scouting this summer. The new brand includes a new logo, not only for Girl Scouts, but also GSEIWI. You'll be seeing more of this as the summer approaches.

With the new brand will come a retooled Web site for GSEIWI. We're currently working on the design and look for the new site and we hope to launch it with the new brand at the beginning of July. If you are interested in giving us feedback on the new site and being on the cutting edge of change, please contact Jen Busard at [JenB@GSEIWI.org](mailto:JenB@GSEIWI.org).

If you have the ability to promote camp, please do so. Sessions at our camps can be posted on online calendars to help generate interest. You can copy and paste information from our website onto these online calendars.

If your service unit doesn't have a Community Information Coordinator appointed, please identify a volunteer to take on the role. We need help in getting the word out about the good things in Girl Scouts. Contact Chuck Gysi, vice president of marketing and communications, at 309-283-2359 or [ChuckG@GSEIWI.org](mailto:ChuckG@GSEIWI.org).

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

877 – Mercer County

625 – Bremer County - Janesville

### **Kudos Korner**

Many thanks go out to the volunteers on our Adult Recognition Committee: Debbie Wordehoff, Theresa Dunkin, Rachel Stewart, Darby Grundstrom, Tina Black, Peggy Crew and Linda Kennedy. The committee selected the volunteers nominated for council awards and the Girl of Courage, Confidence and Character awards. This can be a daunting process with so many wonderful candidates, but they always put their best foot forward and come together to ensure our volunteers and girls get the recognition they deserve. This committee also worked very hard this year on the appreciation event held on April 10, 2010. From planning the event, to making table decorations, to securing donations, to writing skits, they went above and beyond to ensure the girls and adult had a great time. What a fabulous team!

### **Personify Project**

It's official. Our new database went live on April 13. While there are many benefits to the system, there are a few minor drawbacks. The one that will affect registrars the most is that registrars will NOT be able to access their service unit information as they did with e-Council. We are working on internal procedures to make sure that we have a way of getting updated rosters/reports to service unit registrars. We will continue to keep you informed of upcoming changes. As of right now, we're not sure when we no longer will have access to e-Council, but please know that the data in e-Council is no longer up to date as we had to stop entering data in as of March 19.

### **Service Unit Director Tips**

- If you need additional help planning a ceremony, please contact your RMM.
- It's not too late to plan a camp rally. We need to increase our attendance at all four of our Girl Scout camps.
- Review your service unit roster and plan of work at the end of May to prepare for your meeting with your regional membership manager.
- Some areas to focus on for the fall: school organizers for every school and at least one

leader mentor for each age level (especially Daisy and Brownie).

- Check with your service team members to see who is returning next fall.

### **School Organizers**

Gold star schools should be wrapping up this month. Thanks to all of you who helped to plan and implement a gold star cookie party and for helping to make your school a gold star school.

As we wrap up this current school year, we begin reviewing our processes for next year. If you have some thoughts for how to make the school organizer position even better, please [follow this link to answer a few key questions](#). Your input is greatly appreciated. An updated training for school organizers will be planned this summer.

### **Who's Who**

**This Month we introduce you to our Dubuque Area Service Center staff.**

**Regional Vice President – Stacy Conforti** has worked for Girl Scouts for 4.5 years. She began her career as a regional membership manager, then as the director of outreach before taking her current position as VP of Dubuque. Prior to working at Girl Scouts, Stacy was a volunteer and then worked at Camp Conestoga as an assistant camp director. She enjoys spending time with her two children and husband of 16 years. Stacy also enjoys gardening, reading and cooking.

**Ranger/Site Manager – Mike Capek** joined Girl Scouts almost three years ago and works at Camp Little Cloud. Mike has two children, Megan, 16, and Nathan, 12. Mike spends most of his free time being a Boy Scout Leader and camping with his family, motorcycling, reading and various church activities.

### **Regional Membership Managers**

**Senior Program Manager – Angela Grunder** has worked for Girl Scouts for the past 3.5 years. Angela began her career as a regional membership manager and then switched to the program department. Angela loves traveling and Dumpster diving, but mostly enjoys being creative and coming up with awesome programs for girls.

**Jayme Ironside** has been with Girl Scouts for more than three years as a regional membership manager. She started out working in Scott County and then moved with her family to Dubuque. Jayme has two wonderful children, Ava and Henry, and enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with her family.

**Rachael Olsem** has been with Girl Scouts a year this May. Many people knew her as Aqua because of her many years as a camper and staff member at Camp Little Cloud, where she spent most of her time near or in the water. Rachael likes spending time with her family and eating leftovers.

### **Administrative Staff**

**Jan Firzloff** has worked for Girl Scouts for 25 years and is currently the office manager for the Dubuque Area Service Center. Jan is referred to as the cookie guru and works hard to keep the office running smoothly. Jan enjoys reading, crocheting and bowling two nights a week.

**Beth Splinter** is the receptionist/registrar and has been with Girls Scouts since December 2007. What Beth enjoys most about her job is helping people. Beth is part of a large family and enjoys spending time with all of them.

**Joey Fautsch** is the shop sales associate and has been with Girl Scouts for more than 6.5 years. She is married and has two grown daughters. In her spare time, Joey enjoys volunteering, especially for the Mercy Festival of Trees where she is responsible for planning and decorating many of the trees donated to the event. She also enjoys reading and gardening.

### **Troop Spotlight**

Troop 702 of St. Lucas, Iowa, had a Journey Leadership Retreat on March 5-6 at the Best Guest House in Fort Atkinson. We used the Junior Journey Book, Agent of Change.

We started the retreat with learning about Power of One. In this session, we made "I've Been Framed" pictures and added our powers and strengths around a picture of us. We also made individual trading cards of ourselves and then traded them with each other.

Next, we had five women speak to us about their careers in our community and why their job is important in keeping our communities running. We had a teacher, a principal, a veterinarian, a nurse and a newspaper owner. Holly Bark of GSEIWI and Nancy Bether (lifelong Girl Scout and leader) also spoke to us about future opportunities in Girl Scouts. After our interviews with these women, we started creating "Herstories" about them. Once these are finished, we will share them with the guest.

The Power of Team brought us into a human knot and we worked together to unwind it. During Operation Cooperation, we made individual quilt squares and then tied them all together to make a troop quilt.

After reading "SuperShelterMakers," a comic series from the Journey Book, we recreated the story as an introduction to the Power of Community. We looked at our individual communities that we belong to and then we looked at how they overlapped each other. We decided on two Take Action Projects that we will work on to earn our Bronze Award. Part of our troop will start a relationship with a local nursing home and the other part is working on a Farm Fun Day camp for other Girl Scouts in our area. Watch for more details to come on the day camp that we will be hosting in August.

Our troop enjoyed our retreat and we look forward to wrapping up our Journey Book with a ceremony in the fall to celebrate our accomplishments!

Nice work, Troop 702, and great creative thinking leaders!

### **Program News**

#### **"Making Council Connections" Pen Pals Program**

Make new friends in your own back yard through the *Council Connections Pen Pals Program*. Get matched with another troop to discover how alike – and different – other girls from across our council can be. Share your interests in sports, music, school and more, all while finding out cool information about your pen pals! For more information and to download a registration form, visit [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org).

#### **Go Red, Girl Scouts! Back & Better Than Ever!**

Through this patch program, girls will complete a series of activities and attend various events that will encourage girls to:

- ♥ Love their heart
- ♥ Make healthier choices
- ♥ Empower the women in their lives to do the same

Patch program activities and patch books for each level are available online at:

[www.GSEIWI.org/patches/GoRed.asp](http://www.GSEIWI.org/patches/GoRed.asp).

### **Troop Leader Tips**

#### **How do I get more parents involved? ASK!**

The No. 1 reason why people don't help is because they aren't asked. Be specific. Let people know what the specific needs are. Try to match up parents with jobs based on their skills.

#### **I have more girls in my troop than I can**

**handle?** Ask parents for help. The No. 1 reason why troop leaders quit is because they are burned out from trying to do too much. Don't do this to yourself. Become a good delegator. This is a skill that will serve you well in more than just Girl Scouts.

### **National Convention 2011**

Houston ~ Here we come! Houston, Texas, is the site of the National Convention in November 2011. This will be an exciting convention as it will be the kickoff to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Girl Scouts.

The very first thing that our council needs to do is to elect seven volunteers to serve as delegates to the convention.

Every volunteer in our council (over the age of 14 by September 2011) has the opportunity to apply to be elected as a delegate to the National Convention. If you are interested, [please click here for more information](#), or ask your Regional Membership Manager for an information flier. [Applications are available online](#) and will be accepted until Oct. 1.

We want to have representation from all corners of our council, so please consider applying.