

Leader Update

Program/Training Information and much more

Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc.



Girl Scouts®

March 2008

Opening Message

Dear Girl Scout Volunteers:

Welcome to another edition of Leader Update, one of the many ways we communicate, with our key volunteers. Plans towards realignment continue to move along, and every effort is being made to create programs, opportunities and procedures that are in the best interest of all of the girls and volunteers that will comprise the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey. By bringing together our collective talents our aim is to provide the optimal Girl Scout experience to the over 25,000 girls we currently serve and reach even more girls and adults than ever before.

As things change, the more they remain the same....that said, in this edition of Leader Update you will find a complete listing of trainings being offered between now and September, news about our summer Day and Resident Camp programs and other opportunities for young and old alike. With an eye towards the future, you'll also see news on Troop Led programs and how you can start getting ready now for yet another exciting year of Girl Scouting.

The Search for the Ultimate Service Unit is hurtling towards the finish line and I'm overwhelmed by the many successes and gains demonstrated by all of our Service Units, you have done a truly outstanding job!

Finally, I hope that I can see every Service Unit represented at the Silver and Gold award dinner scheduled for April 29th. Please join me in saluting the outstanding contributions of some of our extraordinary volunteers, for without their time and service we could not do the many things we do for girls.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Donna M. Dolce, CEO

New Opportunity on the Horizon for the GSHNJ

This fall the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey is giving older girl troops an excellent opportunity to earn money by creating, planning and implementing programs for younger girls! This new Troop Led Programming is open to Cadette and Senior Girl Scout troops who participate in the 2008 cookie sales, nut sales, and the Family Giving campaign and who are currently registered Girl Scouts.

A Troop Led Program is girl driven and must be based on a Daisy Petal, Brownie Try-It or Junior Badge. Once a program idea is conceived, interested Cadette and Senior troops must complete the Troop Led Program Proposal form available at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts by April 16, 2008 in order to be considered for advertisement in the GSHNJ program calendar.

To take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Susannah Arnold (908-232-3236 x1212) or Melissa Boronkas (908-232-3236 x1211) for further instructions.

Spring Registration Information

Start planning for next year, now! Troops will be receiving their Spring Registration packets, be sure to review the information carefully and have your troop registered soon to be ready for a fun-filled year when September rolls around.

Things to remember

1. Register as many of your girls and adults as possible but remember you don't need to wait for them all. You can add girls/adults later if necessary!
2. Spring Registration will help you get your troop started quicker in the Fall.
3. All girls whose registration is in the GSWRC office by July 15, 2008 will receive the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey Council ID strip for their uniforms at no cost. Strips will be distributed after October 1st.
4. To insure your girls will get their ID strips, check with your Service Unit Registrar for the date *she must receive* your registrations to have them in the council office on time.

If you need more information about Spring Registration or if you do not receive your registration packet by May 15th, contact your Membership Specialist.

End of the Year Reminders

A special thanks to all of our leaders who help girls in their troops develop courage, confidence and character so they can make the world a better place. As the year comes to an end here are a few reminders for you.

- Be sure to get your troop registered as part of Spring Registration.
- Return all registration forms to your Service Unit Registrar even if the girl/adult is not reregistering.
- Complete and turn in ALL year end reports; financial, adult evaluation and service hours.
- Make an appointment with your Consultant /Service Unit Manager to do your Year End Assessment.
- Inform your Service Unit Manager of any changes in your troop leadership.
- Be sure to follow all procedures for trips and troop activities during the summer. Your Membership Specialist is available to assist with this if your Service Unit Manager is unavailable.
- Prepare your troop budget for the 2008-09 year.

www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts

Training Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
April				
Thu.	3	7-9 p.m.	Cadette/Senior Leader Training	Council Service Center
Thu.	3	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Sat.	5	9 a.m.-5 p.m.	First Aid and CPR	Council Service Center
Sat.	5	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Dining Hall/Kitchen Management	Camp Hoover
Sat.	5	2 p.m.-5 p.m.	Challenge (Ropes) Course	Camp Hoover
Sat.	5	9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	First Aid and CPR Review Course	Council Service Center
Mon.	14	7-9 p.m.	Encampment Director Training	Council Service Center
Wed.	16	7-9 p.m.	Junior Leader Training	Council Service Center
Sat.	19	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp Letico, Roselle, N.J.
Sat.	19	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp Letico, Roselle, N.J.
Sat.	26	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	The OVAL, South Orange, N.J.
Sat.	26	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	The OVAL, South Orange, N.J.
May				
Thu.	1	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Sat.	3	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp DeWitt, Hillsborough, N.J.
Sat.	3	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp DeWitt, Hillsborough, N.J.
Sat.	10	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	The OVAL, South Orange, N.J.
Sat.	10	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	The OVAL, South Orange, N.J.
Sat.	17	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp Hoover
Sat.	17	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp Hoover
Sat.	31	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp DeWitt, Hillsborough, N.J.
Sat.	31	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp DeWitt, Hillsborough, N.J.
June				
Thu.	12	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Sat.	14	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Dining Hall/Kitchen Management	Camp Hoover
Sat.	21	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp Hoover
Sat.	21	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp Hoover
July				
Tue.	15	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Tue.	22	7-9 p.m.	Cadette/Senior Leader Training	Council Service Center
Wed.	23	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
August				
Wed.	6	9 a.m.-12 noon	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Mon.	25	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Tue.	26	7-9 p.m.	Daisy/Brownie Leader Training	Council Service Center
Thu.	28	7-9:30 p.m.	Junior Leader Training	Council Service Center
September				
Tue.	16	7-10 p.m.	New Leader Training	Council Service Center
Wed.	17	7-9:30 p.m.	Cadette/Senior Leader Training	Council Service Center
Tue.	23	7-9:30 p.m.	Daisy/Brownie Leader Training	Council Service Center
Thu.	25	7-9:30 p.m.	Junior Leader Training	Council Service Center
Sat.	27	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 2	Camp Letico, Roselle, N.J.
Sat.	27	1-4:30 p.m.	Outdoors and Overnight Step 3	Camp Letico, Roselle, N.J.

How to Register for Programs and Trainings

- ✓ Download Registration Form from www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts and return to the Council Service Center at 201 Grove Street East, Westfield, NJ 07090 either in person during the Council Service Center's regular business hours, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, via the mail or by fax to 908-232-4508.
- ✓ To register for Outdoors and Overnight Training at the Oval, contact the registrar at the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties at 973-746-8200. To register for Outdoors and Overnight at Camp Agnes DeWitt, contact the registrar at the Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council at 908-725-1226.
- ✓ For weather-related cancellations call 908-232-3236 ext. 1234.

Camp Corner and Council News

From Camp Hoover

Camp Lou Henry Hoover will soon be filled with hundreds of girls each week to enjoy yet another summer of camping fun. Summer camp registrations are still being accepted for the resident camp season. A variety of programs are available for girls in grades 1-12, the brochure can be found on-line at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts. Camp Hoover is located on Swartswood Lake in Sussex County and campers have the opportunity to participate in speciality programs of their choice and enjoy all the fun that camp has to offer.

Other camping opportunities are also available to enjoy: The end of August has been reserved for friends and family at Camp Hoover. **Family Camp** is your chance to enjoy nature, spend time swimming and boating, cookout, participate in group activities and reconnect with family and friends. Download a copy of the Family Camp brochure at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.



Troop Camping at Camp Hoover is available from August 22-August 27, 2008. Stay for just the day or for 1-5 nights. Your program can include waterfront activities under the supervision of certified life guards. For complete information and an application go to the Camp Hoover section of the GSWRC web site or contact chay@gswrc.com.

October 10th to 12th has been reserved for **Octoberfest** at Camp Hoover. Workshops for this all-adult weekend revolve around the idea of "Life is Good;" massages, manicures, basket making, reconnecting with nature through painting, canoeing, healthy eating, woman's finances and more await you on this weekend adventure. A brochure describing this year's event will be online in June.

The following programs will be taking place at Camp Hoover in the upcoming months: **Daisy Day** and **Brownie Try-It Day** on May 24 and **Dad and Me Day**, open to Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts on June 14.

Day Camp Rocks

Registration is now open, don't miss out! There are still spaces left in both Camp Juliette and Camp Sinawik for the 2008 summer. Campers will get the chance to discover, connect and take action during fun filled theme weeks that focus on fashion design, acting, art and so much more! Choose from two exciting camps, Camp Juliette located at the Westminster Academy in Elizabeth or Camp Sinawik located at the Jerseyland Community Center in Scotch Plains. What's more, we're hiring! Camp Juliette is looking for top notch counselors, 18 and older, to laugh and play with girls this summer. For a brochure or employment information, please contact Melissa Boronkas at 908-232-3236 x.1211 or mboronkas@gswrc.com.

Troop Camping at Eagle Island Camp

Eagle Island Camp, operated by the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex & Hudson Counties, is offering troop camping this summer. So come jump into the Eagle Island Camp experience with your friends from your troop and try everything camp has to offer. This is sure to be a fun-packed weekend, rest up and bring your troop! This is a great year-end trip. This year's excursion is from June 27-July 1. For complete information contact Renee Jackson, (888) 746-8200, ext. 141 or rjackson@gscgehc.org.



Congratulations Are In Order

The talents of four girls from within GSWRC's 25-community jurisdiction rose to the top as they were recently named winners in the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey Patch and Name Contest. Over 125 girls, volunteers and staff members from GSWRC, the Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council and the Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties took their best shot at coming up with a name and logo design for the new council. When it was all said and done, the name Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey was decided upon. **Heather Braun** (Kenilworth), **Christina Dziejic** (Union), **Kaeley Hay** (Clark/Garwood/Winfield), and **Sierra Heuvelman** (Warren) (pictured) were selected by the Communications Sub-Committee of the CRC as winners. The girls will receive cash prizes that can be used for GSWRC programs or in the Council Shop. All Name and Patch contest entrants will receive a complimentary patch when they become available in late summer.



Shop News

The GSWRC Council Shop is gearing up for your end-of -the-year needs. In addition to insignia and uniforms, we stock items for gifts for volunteers and girls for end of the year ceremonies. Orders can be placed in person, via telephone at (908) 232-3236 ext 1232 or via email at councilshop@gswrc.com. Be sure to make your order early.

April May and June Store Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Saturdays: April 5, May 3 and June 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tuesdays: April 8, May 13 and June 10 until 7:30 p.m.



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Looking Towards the Future

The following items are excerpts from the March edition of Realignment News. Be sure to check out the publication in its entirety only at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

News on the Numbers

The Membership Task Force of the Service Delivery Sub-Committee recently presented two of its proposals to the Council Realignment Committee (CRC). It was determined that all Service Units throughout the new jurisdiction will be numbered east to west. It was also decided that troops throughout all three councils will retain their numbers and simply attach a prefix to their existing troop number. The prefixes will be assigned according to which county the troop is in. Troops will still be able to refer to themselves by their current number and use their current troop numbers on all uniforms pieces. However, when filling out official paperwork (bank records, program and training registrations, etc.), they will need to use the new number. Numbers and prefixes for Service Units and Troops will be assigned in the fall.

Closer to a Reality

The Website Task Force of the Communications Sub-Committee has been busy recently, working feverishly towards their charge of launching a transitional website on May 15. The group has contacted prospective vendors and is in the process of producing a website usage survey which will be posted on GSWRC'S

homepage. The purpose of the survey is to effectively gauge the needs and wants of the current audience with the ultimate goal of unveiling a robust, interactive website that best meets the needs of everyone involved.

The More Things Change, the More They'll Stay the Same

When the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey begins operations on October 1, 2008, all three current service centers as well as all four camp properties will continue to operate as normal. In addition, all three council shops, housed in the three service centers will continue to service the needs of the Girl Scout Community. The two satellite offices in Newark and Jersey City, currently operated by GSEGEHC, will remain open for business as well.

Save the Date

The Official Merger Vote and ensuing celebration to recognize the formation of GSHNJ will be held on **Saturday, September 6**. Representatives from all three councils will come together and make it official by casting their votes to merge during the first part of the proceedings. Then, the mood will turn festive as a celebration will take place. The site, time and further details of this celebration are in the processes of being determined and will be provided when available.

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