

## Leaders Very Important News E-Letter

January 27, 2012

### Membership

The Membership department would like to remind everyone that girls must be registered to participate in Girl Scout programs, including the Cookie Activity! If you have any questions about who is registered in your troop please contact your Membership Specialist for a troop roster.

Adult recognitions are due February 15th! We know that each Service Unit and troop have dedicated volunteers who make Girl Scouting possible, nominate someone today for a Council recognition! More information on the Adult Recognition page of the Council's [website](#).

Get ready for the Year of The Girl! On January 31, Girl Scouts of the USA will kickoff a new movement for girl's leadership. Click [here](#) to sign up for more information!

**TWO  
THOUSAND  
TWELVE  
IS THE  
YEAR  
OF THE  
GIRL**



## What did your Girl Scouts do this year?

In recognition of the Year of the Girl we would like to invite Service Units to share what their girls are doing for this historic year! We're asking Service Teams to design a table top display for the Girl Scouts – Diamonds Annual Meeting to be held on July 21st to show off the amazing things our girls are doing around the Council. Get creative! Displays may include photos, girl projects, slideshows\* and more!

New for this year! Pick one of the categories below and compete for best display! Meeting attendees will vote throughout the day and top winners from each category will receive a free set of the It's Your Story – Tell it! Journey series. (That's all six adult and girl books in the series, one for each level!)

The categories are:

Service Projects: How have your girls given back this year?

Focus on 100! How have your girls celebrated this year?

Events Showcase: Show us your Service Unit events!

Each participating Service Unit will receive two free tickets for Saturday's event! Deadline to register your display is June 1st!

\*Please provide all electrical equipment needed. Displays must be in place by 8 am Saturday July 21st and must be removed by 4 pm. Displays may be set up Friday evening. Limit one display per Service Unit.



## Product Sales

# The Cookies Are Coming! The Cookies Are Coming!

Thank you, your girls and their parents for the work you have done so far but we are not done yet.

Girls can continue to take orders – talk to friends, family, neighbors that have not been contacted. New girls can take orders from her family, friends and neighbors. Additional cookies will be available to fill these orders.

Delivery/Pick-up days are fast approaching.

Service Units will be receiving deliveries between February 18 and 25. They will notify troop leaders of the date, time and location to pick up troop cookies.

Pick up troop cookies and get to girls ASAP – customers are anxious to receive their order.

Troop leaders stay in contact with your Troop Cookie Managers - they may need your help.

If for some reason the troop has not set up a bank account get it done now, do not wait until the cookie payment is due.

Encourage families to turn in money often - make deposits into the troop account immediately.

There is less chance of problems when money is collected frequently.

Absolutely do not hold on to cash & checks. Deposit, deposit, deposit!

Troop Leader Reminder: Your Service Unit Cookie Manager has or will be setting up Booth Sale locations, dates and times, contact her to get your troop a spot.

Booth sales should be a supplement to, and not a replacement for, individual girl sales.

Booth sales reach those who: do not have girls come to their door as well as those wanting more cookies because their original order has been eaten.

Booth sales are great PR opportunities - the public always notices a group of girls dressed in their distinctive Girl Scout uniforms. It's a great forum for sharing their dreams, goals and knowledge of Girl Scouting.

Put up posters in businesses, if allowed, to let the customers know when the troop will be there.

PLUS – your troop can enter the Bling My Booth contest. See the [flyer](#) on the council website.

Remember to check out the new Financial Literacy and Cookie Business Badges for all levels in the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Also check out the Cookie Activity Pin (requirements can be found on the website). It's amazing how many activities are completed without the girls realizing it and while we all know that recognitions/awards are not our sole purpose, parents often view these items as visible evidence that their daughter is learning something while she is having fun.

As always, your Product Sales Team is here to help in any way we can.

# Adult Development

It is almost time for the deadline; don't forget to reward your leaders! Check out our NEW AND IMPROVED Adult Recognitions – complete with new forms, and instructions. While we have retired some of the previous awards – we also have some new ones for 2011-12! Check out this section of the website to see how you can nominate someone who deserves to be REWARDED! The deadline is February 15, 2012. This year we will not be able to accept any nominations after the deadline, so be sure to recognize your leaders.

Facilitators & Volunteers – we have gone green on our evaluation forms for all Adult training classes. After each class you attend, please go to this link and complete the evaluation form online. [http://girlscouts.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9LALJBc033FAJCI](http://girlscouts.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9LALJBc033FAJCI)

Venture Out I - this class is now available online as a home study course. The fee has dropped beginning February 1, 2012 from \$15.00 to now \$10.00 for the green Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting Book only – and may be purchased from the Council Shops. If you already have access to this book – there is no fee for the course. The Venture Out I book is now available online only. If you need a printed copy (for those who do not have access to a computer), the fee is \$5.00 for printing from your regional office. The Venture Out I Exam may be completed online only at [http://girlscouts.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_bHL7DbI6tf9rOMI](http://girlscouts.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bHL7DbI6tf9rOMI)

## Spring Adult Development Classes:

### **Wed February 29, 2012**

6:30pm-8:30pm New Leader Fundamentals-Fayetteville Region-Rogers Public Library (Glantzbecker Room)

### **Thur March 15, 2012**

6:30pm-8:30pm Our Girl Scout Journey- Jonesboro Region-Jonesboro Regional Office

### **Sat March 24, 2012**

6:30pm-8:30pm New Leader Fundamentals-Fayetteville Region-Rogers Public Library (Glantzbecker Room)

9:00am-6:00pm Venture Out II-Camp Karlton Kemp-Texarkana Region-Texarkana

### **Sun March 25, 2012**

9:00am-12:00pm Optional Venture Out II-Camp Karlton Kemp-Texarkana Region-Texarkana

### **Wed March 28, 2012**

6:30pm-8:30pm Our Girl Scout Journey-Fayetteville Region- Rogers Public Library (Glantzbecker Room)

### **Thur, March 29, 2012**

6:30pm-8:30pm New Leader Fundamentals (emphasis on financials)-Jonesboro Regional Office

6:00-7:00pm New Leader Fundamentals-Fayetteville Region-Baxter Regional Medical Center(Mt. Home)

7:00pm-9:00pm Our Girl Scout Journey-Fayetteville Region- Baxter Regional Medical Center (Mt. Home)

### **Sat, March 31, 2012**

9:00am-6:00pm Venture Out II-Camp NoArk-Fayetteville Region-Huntsville

9:00am-6:00pm Venture Out II-Radford House-Little Rock Region-Hot Springs

Greetings, Girl Scouts, and Happy New Year from Merry England!

My name is Dr. Deborah Lafferty and I am a Girl Scout and an American historian living in England.



I have been here researching the history of American Girl Scouting's roots in the British Girl Guide Movements.

Though I work mainly with British Girl Guides these days, I still visit my former home Girl Scout council (then the legacy Council of Mount Magazine and now Girl Scouts - Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas). I lived in Pocola, Oklahoma and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Our council has a very special link with the Girl Guides in West Sussex, England, and we have been exchanging patrols of girls since 1980. That's how I made my first trip to England in 1996 as a leader for one of these patrols. The Guides invited me back to work for them at several camps. At one of those camps, I learned that we have been sisters to the Guides from the very beginning. Juliette Low was a Girl Guide before she started the Girl Scouts!

I love sharing the things I've learned about Juliette Low and historical places I've been with other Girl Scouts so, in the run up to the Centenary, let's explore some of that history, a trans-national history (that means one that reaches across many nations) of the American Girl Scouts and how you, in Pocola or Little Rock or Texarkana, keep the Girl Scouts strong even a hundred years later. Without you, there would be no reason to celebrate.

Yours in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting (YGGGS)

Dr D

[Click Here for a Link to Juliette's Blog](#)

## 100th Anniversary Birthday Bash Spectacular! Activities

### Saturday Program Rotation

- Tour the 100th Anniversary GS exhibit in the Clinton Library,
- Learn about the Work of the First Lady
- Imagine Life in the White House
- Café 42 – Distinguished Café 42 chefs - culinary demonstrations and healthy creations
- Become a Naturalist–William E. “Bill” Clark Presidential Park Wetlands,
- Get Moving! Alliance for a Healthier Generation leads fun activities
- Heifer Project International – Global Village - right next door.

### Sunday Program Rotation

- Incredible Journey –Play a game where YOU become a water molecule and travel through the environment – watch out! Participants will make and keep a beaded bracelet that represents their own particular journey.
- Wake Up Little Birdy– When birds wake up in the morning, they call and claim their own little bit of the environment. Learn common bird calls and how the birds relate to the environment.
- Archery on the Lawn– Using National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) equipment and teaching techniques, participants will learn a bit about the safest way to use archery equipment along with an opportunity to “hit the bull’s eye”. (Brownie level and up)
- Master Gardeners and Composting –Master Gardeners.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: The Three R’s –Recycling experts will present a program about those famous Three Rs.
- Migration Madness–Take on the role of migrating birds working their way north in Spring. Along the way they you encounter favorable, unfavorable, or even dire circumstances. Will you make it “home”? Not every migrant does.

Head home to celebrate with regional Promise Circles on March 12!

# 100th Anniversary Birthday Bash Spectacular! FAQ's

## 1. What are some of the program topics?

- **Saturday:** Tour the GS exhibit in the Clinton Library, learn about the Work of the First Lady and Life in the White House, Award-winning Chefs from Café 42 will appeal to your curiosity with culinary demonstrations, healthy creations, and new food ideas, Become a Naturalist – learn about the William E. “Bill” Clark Presidential Park Wetlands, Staff from Clinton partners “Alliance for a Healthier Generation” will get you moving with fun activities, visit Heifer Project International – Global Village - right next door.
- **Sunday:** Archery on the Lawn (Brownies and up) – “Hit the Bull’s Eye”.  
**Water Molecules** – “The Incredible Journey” – earn beads and take your bracelet with you.  
**Birds- “Migration Madness”** Take on the role of migrating birds working their way north in Spring – will YOU make it? and **“Wake Up Little Birdy!”** Learn common bird calls and how birds relate to the environment.

**2. What we do during free time?** At the end of the program day, there is an off-site break from 4:00pm – 6:30 p.m. During this time, you may tour the River Market district, visit restaurants and shops, return to your hotel, etc. There is no programming during this time period.

**3. Will girls need extra spending money?** There will be a GS shop with 100th Anniversary items on site. The River Market district in Little Rock is home to many shops, restaurants, fascinating museums, and galleries – many offer free admission, some have an admission fee, many have gift shops.

**4. What is included in the \$25 fee?** The 3- day program, and all food listed, plus a t-shirt, goodie bag, and event patch are included in the registration fee of \$25. Friday night snacks, Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening heavy hors d’oeuvres (party food) and Sunday sandwich lunch are included in the price. There will be bottled water available in marked locations on the library campus.

**5. Who is invited to the Alumnae tea?** All Girl Scouts 18 and over are invited to the Alumnae tea.

**6. What is the service project?** Bring birdseed for the Witt Stephens Nature Center. Bring either mixed bird seed or black oil sunflower seed

**7. Do we wear our uniform the entire weekend?** Vests and Sashes are encouraged for Saturday. You may dress comfortably and for the weather.

**8. Is a t-shirt and a patch included in the price?** Yes. Registered participants will receive an event t-shirt and a very cool special event patch.

**9. What is the event registration deadline?** Registration deadline is Feb. 17th.

**10. Will the girls have any opportunities to earn a badge?** Programs will meet some requirement elements for some badges and Journeys.

**11. How many girls can stay in a room at the partner hotels?** Answer varies by hotel and room type. Contact the hotel you are interested in (make sure to tell them you are with Girl Scouts), ask about room types available. Some have a limit of 4 per room, some hotels have larger rooms and suites that will accommodate more girls, some will allow sleeping bags etc. –work with the staff- they are there to assist you as a guest to help you have a great weekend!

**12. What about Girl Scout Sunday?** The Girl Scout Sunday Ceremony (non-denominational) will be held at the Whit Stephens Nature Center at the beginning of the program day on Sunday.

# Program

From the desk of Debbie Franks, Vice President of Program Services:

Happy Cookie Season and Year of the Girl, Everyone!!

I hope everyone is as excited about what's happening in Girl Scouts as much as I am! If you haven't already caught the 100th Anniversary fever, do so soon – you won't want to miss out on a second!

But, that's not the reason for writing this special message. I want to share some special news from the Diamonds Program Department. As you know, we've experienced numerous issues in our delivery of program services that have disappointed not only the girls and volunteers in every region, but also the staff. The issues stem from several circumstances – staffing, changes in direction of services, timing, technology, etc. Don't get me wrong, I am not making excuses; just the opposite!

I am pleased to announce that, as of January 23rd, we now have program staff in every regional office of the council. Why is this important? Without program staff in each region, it is nearly impossible to provide quality program services across the council. I am confident that my department managers have now chosen some amazing women for the major tasks ahead and have trained them well.

Each Program Consultant has been tasked with specific accountabilities focused on her service area, team initiatives for the entire council, and two will even serve as Camp Directors for the summer resident camp season. Included in the regional accountabilities are the responsibilities to execute events through the membership year for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes-Ambassadors and families, as well as ensuring that they meet specific deadlines for scheduling and promotion to our girls. The disparity of programs regionally as well as how and when we communicate program information has been a source of frustration for everyone. No one realizes this more than I! We now have a schedule of specific target dates for when troops will see program promotions. Within the next few weeks, this schedule will be posted on the program page of our website. Arming you with this information will assist staff in meeting or exceeding that schedule.

Huge "thanks" to our Communications Department for the exceptional job in building our new website, which now provides us with a very user-friendly way to keep our information up to date. The new Program Calendar format allows users to search program opportunities by each region or by entire council. We are also now able to link the beloved event flyers to each listing for troops to print off as they choose. What a team we have! And what amazing work we will be able to do with your help! I sincerely hope you all will feel free to contact the Program Consultant in your regional office to offer your support, ask questions, offer input, voice concerns, or to volunteer for her regional COMPASS Team.

I am making a personal promise that, with the enthusiastic support of our dedicated volunteers in each region, this will not only be the Year of the Girl, this will also be the Year of the DIAMONDS Girl! I am always available to hear your suggestions, address program issues, answer questions, etc, so please feel free to contact me at any time!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Debbie

The Program Department hopes that everyone had a safe and happy holiday! We have a lot of great program opportunities coming up so please check the website and our face book page for further details on already scheduled events and additional events that come up.

#### FEBRUARY 2012

4	(Cad)	Silver Award Workshop- Ft. Smith	Registration deadline: Jan 31, 2012
4	(Sr-Amb)	Gold Award Workshop- Ft. Smith	Registration deadline: Jan 31, 2012
11	(Cad)	Silver Award Workshop- Fayetteville	Registration deadline: Jan 31, 2012
11	(Sr-Amb)	Gold Award Workshop- Fayetteville	Registration deadline: Jan 31, 2012
18	(Br)	Brilliant Brownies Around the World- NLR	Registration deadline: Feb 8, 2012
18	(Jr)	Role With It- Queen City	Registration deadline: Feb 10, 2012
18	(All)	Nature Center Training Day- Ft. Smith	Registration deadline: Feb 15, 2012
25	(Cad-Amb)	Discover Scuba Day II- Jonesboro	Registration deadline: Feb 8, 2012

#### MARCH 2012

3	(All)	Girl Scout Week Celebration - Jonesboro	Registration deadline: Feb 15, 2012
24	(D)	Animal Adventures - Jonesboro	Registration deadline: March 7, 2012

More March events will be added soon!

Save the dates:

March 9-11	100th Anniversary Celebration at the Clinton Library in NLR
March 12	Promise Circles in each region, more details to follow
March 31	Earth Hour - turn your lights off from 8:30 pm - 9:30pm
April 13-15	100 tents for 100 years, regional encampments
April 20	Gold Gala
April 21	Recognitions Banquet
May 5	Regional Bridging Ceremonies, more details to follow
June 2	Regional Early Bird Events, more details to follow

Don't forget that you can register your daughter to attend most Council events, regardless of whether her troop is attending. A parent/guardian will just need to attend with her. Girls do not have to be in a troop to participate in Girl Scouts. She can register as a Juliette and still be able to participate in all that Girl Scouting has to offer!

## Fund Development

Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas will hold their Annual Meeting on July 21, 2012. Be part of the fun by putting together a "basket" of items for a silent auction to be held that day. All auction proceeds will go toward a new exciting project. Please look for more information to come in February. If you have any questions please contact Katie Wells at 479-695-1818 ext 5834 or [kwells@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:kwells@girlscoutsdiamonds.org).

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter and YouTube to stay up to date with council activities!





January 27, 2012

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1811 Arkansas Boulevard  
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Fax: (870) 773-0922  
870-773-2151/800-632-6894

[girlscoutsdiamonds.org](http://girlscoutsdiamonds.org)

Dear Girl Scout Family,

The mission of Girl Scouting is to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. As we celebrate 100 years of rich history, and look ahead to the next 100 years of providing the premier leadership experience for girls, we aim to stay true to our values – the cornerstones of leadership, sisterhood, and inclusion.

Visibility of Girl Scouts increases each year during the Cookie Program – which began January 14<sup>th</sup> for the Diamonds Council. We have received a great deal of positive media coverage from local markets across our council's 79 county coverage area. But, as many of you have seen, there have been some recent articles circulating through national and social media regarding the Girl Scout organization. Several of these articles contain false information, are one-sided and do not accurately represent local councils.

As such, the Diamonds Council wants to assure parents, volunteers, community partners and all the friends of Girl Scouting that we do not have any partnership or collaboration with Planned Parenthood, nor do we provide any financial support to this organization. We believe that health and sexuality are private matters for girls and their families.

In some areas, Girl Scout Troops or groups may offer information to girls on reproductive health. In all instances, these topics are discussed from an informative rather than advocative, point of view, and the parent or guardian of each girl is notified in advance. Some Troops may make girls and their families aware of the information and resources available to them on such matters.

Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas does not take a position on abortion or birth control, nor do we endorse or provide funding to those organizations that advocate on these issues. It is also important to note that funds from the Cookie Program stay local and benefit Troops and Service Units in the Diamonds Council by providing programs for our girl members and training/development for our volunteers. A more complete breakdown of how cookie proceeds are used in our council can be found on our website at <http://www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org/Cookies.aspx>.

We are sharing this information with you so that you may know what Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas stands for, and to make you aware of the articles currently circulating so that you can be adequately prepared should you face any questions from others. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Denise Stewart  
CEO

Barbara Bethell  
Board Chair