

L-VINE Leaders Very Important News E-Letter

Membership

Leader's Notes is now known as the L-VINE (Leaders Very Important News E-Letter). The L-VINE will be published on the 15 and 27 of the month. If that day falls on a weekend it will be posted the following weekday.

The Membership staff is so excited about the 2011-2012 Program Year! We are having a great response to our recruitment efforts. We are still working to start new troops and place girls into existing ones. The staff has really appreciated the help and support of our existing volunteers to make this a successful recruitment season. Service Units are up and meeting again and as always one of the primary responsibilities of the Membership staff is to serve as a liaison between the Troop/Volunteer and the Council. Our job is to help you find the resources you need to provide the best possible Girl Scout program to your girls. We work collaboratively with all departments to inform you of updates and opportunities at the Council level. We are so grateful for the volunteers that work alongside with us that bring the Girl Scout Mission to life. And we are looking forward to working with our new volunteers in continuing on that tradition. For any questions, concerns, or general program feedback please contact a local office and speak with your Membership Specialist.

Good News About GSUSA Program:

These are exciting times in Girl Scouts – times when our program is receiving a make-over to make it relevant to today's girls. GSUSA is working hard to develop programs that will be fun and exciting, and that will help girls learn skills that will make success as adults an easy target. GSUSA is promising the release of new books in the fall of 2011 called "A Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting." There will be a separate Guide for every program level. Guides will be a combination handbook and badge book that will complement Journeys.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about how badges will work in the future:

What's happening with badges? Skill-building badges remain an important part of the Girl Scout program. As promised, Girl Scouts of the USA is working on new badges for Brownies-Ambassadors, and new content for Daisies to enjoy as they earn their petals. The new badges will offer a great mix of tradition, variety, fun, and challenge.

When will the new badges roll out? The new badge activities will be published in The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, along with updated handbook information. Girls at each of the six Girl Scout levels will have their own edition of The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. These six publications will launch in October 2011, giving lift to the start of our 100th Anniversary membership year.

How will leadership journeys and the new badges work together? Journeys engage girls in exploring Girl Scouting's three keys to leadership. Badges provide skill-building opportunities in a variety of topics that are part of the Girl Scout legacy (like nature, art, cooking, sports, first aid and more) and topics girls love like photography, design, animals and car care. The new badges will have fun ideas about how earning them links to journey experiences (similar to the current examples highlighted on the journey route maps posted on www.girlscouts.org).

Recruitment:

The Diamonds Membership staff is in the middle of full-out recruitment so as many girls as possible in every region can be served! Please let your Membership Specialist and/or Service Unit Director know if you are accepting new girls! Service Units and Membership staff are working together to recruit girls and adult volunteers into girl scouting! Our efforts are paying off, with a very strong response to our efforts. The mission of our Membership staff is to grow Girl Scouts! With the help of our awesome Volunteers, more girls than ever will be served during the 2011-2012 program year!

Updated Materials:

Be looking out for a completely updated and revamped Volunteer Essentials! This updated version should hit the Diamonds website sometime in October 2011, so be looking for it! This is a great resource for Volunteers and staff alike.

Troop Bank Accounts:

Reminder that Troops must turn in last year's Troop Financial Report to be eligible to participate in the Fall Product Sale and the 2012 Cookie Activity. New Troops should receive instruction from their Service Unit Treasurer and/or Membership Specialist about Troop financial guidelines, policies, and practices.

Registration Status:

Service Unit Registrars, Service Unit Directors, and Membership staff should work together to ensure that all Troops, Juliettes, and returning members are registered for the 2011-2012 Program Year! Volunteers and staff are welcoming new Girls and Adults to our program. Ask yourself the following questions: Have new Leaders been invited to attend a Service Unit meeting? Are the new troops underway, and have they registered? Do they know how to correctly fill out the registration form? Remember that you cannot participate in a Council sponsored Product Sale without being registered for the current membership year.

Communications

Put your creative talents to work: design a patch that girls will earn by learning about and celebrating the history and future of Girl Scouting!

Please write your name, age, contact information and Troop Number on the back of your original artwork. The parent/guardian permission slip needs to be attached to the art work. All submissions must be delivered before October 14th, 2011 at 1:30pm to:

Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas
Attn: Amanda Loggins
615 West 29th Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Calling all photos!

The Communications Department is requesting everyone to submit photos to be used in publications! Post them to Facebook and tag us, send them to a regional office or email them to online@girlscoutsdiamonds.org. We want to see the girls discovering, connecting and taking action around the council!

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



Program

Leaders, please don't forget to check our Program calendar on our website for upcoming events and program opportunities. Did you know that you do not have to attend council events as a troop? Individual girls can attend with their parent or guardian, so make sure all of your parents have the program information and can determine if they want to attend.

Here are some upcoming events (please check the [calendar](#) for more details):



September 30 – October 2- Camp Fear Factor @ CCA

October 1 – CCA Carnival

October 1 – Launch parties – Various Locations

October 8 – GS Patch Day at Mid-America Science Museum (register /RSVP through the Museum)

October 11 (Tuesday and Thursdays) – October 27 – Show Me the \$ - open to all girls 6-12 grades – Jonesboro

October 15 -16 – Western Roundup @ CCA

October 15-16 – Animal Adventures @ Governor Mike Huckabee Delta River Nature Center

October 22 - Scout Day at the Arkansas State Fair \$3 Gate Admission!

October 22 – Adventures in Aerospace @ Arkansas Air Museum – Fayetteville

October 23 – Dig, Set, Spike @ Barnhill Arena – Fayetteville

October 28 – 30 – Castles at Cahinnio @ Camp Cahinnio

October 25 (every Tuesday) – November 29 – Show Me the \$ -open to all girls 6-12 grades – Texarkana

Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards: The requirements along with the current GSUSA and Diamonds Council guidelines for Bronze (Junior), Silver (Cadette) and Gold (Seniors & Ambassadors) are posted on the council website. Girls, leaders/advisors and parents are encouraged to register and attend a workshop in their area designed to assist in learning about the new guidelines for earning these awards. BEFORE girls begin work on these awards, leaders should make sure that the CURRENT guidelines are being used. All packets from previous years should be discarded, as they no longer apply. We are working on getting these workshops scheduled in all areas. As of December 17, the Bronze training will be available on YouTube.

Fund Development

Express Your Creativity by Thanking Our Donors

Now that fall weather is upon us, believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the Christmas season! Each year we like to thank our Girl Scouts – Diamonds donors by asking Troops to get creative and make Christmas cards to send to them. Our donors are very important because their contributions make Girl Scouting possible!

To participate, Troops should fold 8 ½ x 11 paper (construction, stationary, colored, bordered, etc.) in half and then in half again – making the total size ¼ of the original. Decorate with crayons, markers, stickers, colored pencils, etc. Make sure that NO glitter is used and make sure that NO last names are included (feel free to sign first names). Be sure to write Happy Holidays and include a sweet message – something like the following: Happy Holidays! Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts! – (first name of girl) (Troop #). Mail cards by Monday, November 17, 2011, to Carolyn Eastham, 615 W. 29th St., North Little Rock, AR 72114.

During the month of October, round up your purchase to the nearest dollar amount. The extra funding will go to the Council's Girl Scholarship or Campership Fund. Everyone who participates will get their name on a daisy that will be displayed in the shop.



Product Sales

2011 Fall Product Sale - Sale Dates: September 30 – October 23

Is your troop ready for the Fall Product Program?

- Troop Fall Product Manager trained?
- Girls registered for 2012 membership year?
- Registration turned into the council office?
- Have Signed Permission Slips from all girls participating in the Fall Product Program?



The Troop Fall Product Manager must receive training and all participating girls must be registered for the 2012 year.

In Girl Scouting product sale activities are a very important part of program. Girls learn skills they will take with them throughout their lives. Many business women of today credit Girl Scouts with setting them on their path of success. The Fall Product Program is a good place to start practicing these skills; especially since it is designed for family and friends. By asking those potential customers that the girl already knows she will be more confident asking others when cookie time comes.

Remember the new “Share” program that is for our men and women in military service. The Product Sale team wants to encourage every troop to take part in this worthwhile activity.



Should you have any questions or concerns about the fall product program be sure and contact your Council Product Sale staff. We are here to help in any way we can.

Other

Camp Taloha Grand Opening

On Saturday, September 10th, after a lot of preparation and anticipation, Girl Scouts – Diamonds staff hosted over 100 girls, leaders, volunteers and community members for the Camp Taloha Grand Opening in Pine Bluff. Camp Taloha was the traditional camp for girls living in the southeastern portion of the council. This property was recently given back to the Diamonds council, and facilities have been updated to house the business office for that region, as well as, serve as a program site for girls.

Camp Taloha features screened cabins and two troop houses for sleeping, as well as a large dining hall, a 25-acre lake – Lake Pogo – and two pavilions. Lake Pogo was named after the late Myra Vinson – the former Executive Director of the Arkansas Post Girl Scouts Council. Marty Cope, daughter of Mrs. Vinson, attended the Grand Opening along with her daughter, granddaughter and Aunt Janie.



The Grand Opening had an agenda packed with fun events for kids and the opportunity to reminisce about the early years of the beautiful camp. The crowd gathered around the flag pole as Troop 1263 performed a flag ceremony, followed by brief messages from staff and volunteers, including Girl Scouts – Diamonds Council CEO, Denise Stewart, and Board 1st Vice Chair, Deborah Jones. Troop 1269 provided entertainment by leading attendees in a sing-a-long, followed by self-guided tours of the property. Throughout the Grand Opening, attendees swapped stories about their memories of Camp Taloha while looking through old photo albums and news archives.