



# Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas Leaders Notes – October, 2009

www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

## Community Participation

**UNITED WAY MONTH** - October is United Way month. United Way helps make Girl Scouting possible for all of us. Girls and adults can help by distributing posters, stuffing envelopes and reminding friends and relatives to contribute. Ask your friends and relatives to list that they are giving in support of Girl Scouts.

## Membership

**MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:** Service Unit Registrars should be aware of the status of troop registrations within the service unit. Have all the returning troops from your area registered? Are the new troops underway, and have they registered? Please include in the minutes of your meeting a list of troops that are registered and a list of troops that have not yet registered but that plan to do so.

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:** Be sure that all information, including address, contact numbers, parent/guardian information, birthdates, ethnic background, troop numbers, etc. is completed on each membership form. As we switch over to a new membership system, this will make things flow much more smoothly.

**MOVING?** Diamonds Council will be sending newsletters, camp brochures, and other information to all registered individuals during the year. If girls or adults move, please be sure to send the new information to the nearest Girl Scout Service Center in writing.

## Program

**COUNCIL EVENTS & MULTI-LEVEL TROOPS:** Activities for council program events are planned for the specific grade level listed in the event description. Even though they may operate under one troop number, multi-level troops should only register the girls at the specified grade level for that event. For example, a troop with Brownies and Juniors should only bring the Brownies to a Brownie event; only Juniors to a Junior event. The Program Staff and COMPASS Teams ask for and appreciate leaders' cooperation and understanding on this issue.

**PROGRAM UPDATE LINE REMINDER:** Volunteers can now call the council number, then extension 3114 to check for the latest updates or cancellations of council events. Keep in mind that this is an information-only line, and messages left on this extension will not be returned. The recorded message will be updated weekly, or as needed.

**PICK-UP PACKS:** The PUPs are here! Please see special handout and refer to page 9 of the *Program Essentials* book for complete details.

**PROGRAM EVENT T-SHIRT UPDATE:** A special t-shirt will be available to order for each core council event. The order form is at the bottom of the event registration forms. However, the sizes youth medium and youth large were inadvertently left off this form. These sizes are available at \$8 each, and may be written in on the forms.

**BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD AWARD INFORMATION:** The new requirements, council forms, reporting guidelines and deadlines are now posted on the Diamonds website. Girls who begin working towards any of these awards after Sept 30, 2009 should use the new GSUSA requirements. Girls who began their work towards these awards prior to Oct 1, 2009 may complete using the Bronze Award requirements found in the Jr Handbook, the "Go For It – Silver" packet or the "Go For It- Gold" packet. Girls, along with their leaders/advisors and parents are encouraged to register and attend one of the informational workshops scheduled in each region of the council (Check the *Program Essentials* book for dates and other details). For more information, contact any member of the Program staff (Meagan Adams, Linda Archer, Mindy Baird, Beth Corbin, Autumn Crowell or Debbie Franks)

### **SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

- **UPDATE:** Fabulous Fifties Family Sock Hop located in the Carnes City Park, in Camden, AR on October 24. The registration deadline has been extended to October 14.
- The Dazzling Daisies ~ Olympics originally scheduled in Jonesboro on Sept 26, 2009 has been **rescheduled** for March 27, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines will be:

○ Early registration (by Feb 24)	\$6 per girl	\$2 per adult
○ Regular registration (Feb 25 – March 3)	\$9 per girl	\$5 per adult

Registration deadline: March 3, 2010.

All other information will remain the same as on page 18 of the *Program Essentials* book.

- The Dazzling Daisies ~ Olympics originally scheduled in Crossett on Sept 26, 2009 has been **rescheduled** for February 27, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines will be:
  - Early registration (by Jan 27) \$6 per girl \$2 per adult
  - Regular registration (Jan 28 – Feb 3) \$9 per girl \$5 per adult
 Registration deadline: March 3, 2010.  
 All other information will remain the same as on page 19 of the *Program Essentials* book.
- The Jr Jewels ~ CSI: Diamonds originally scheduled at Camp Kemp in Texarkana on Sept 26, 2009 has been **postponed** to a later date to be announced soon.
- As a service to the community, girls registered for the Oct 16 Meet the Stars Astronomy event in Fort Smith are asked to bring dry dog food, dry/canned cat food or clay cat litter to be donated to the Sebastian County Humane Society.
- The format for Make A Difference Day in Texarkana on October 24 has changed: There is NO charge for this event; there will not be a patch or t-shirt. Lunch and snacks will be provided-all that is need are tools and GREAT attitudes as we clear trails and improve Bringle Lake. Registration deadline is extended until October 9, 2009. Please contact Beth Corbin at 1-800-632-6894 ext. 2016 or [bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) for more information.
- Corrections for the Father/Daughter Event at Logoly scheduled in McNeil on November 7: There is **no charge for the adults**, only the **\$7** (early registration) or **\$9** fees for the **girls**.
- The Fayetteville region's Girl Scout Art program scheduled for November 14 has been **cancelled** due to a scheduling conflict on the part of the facilitator. There is a possibility that it will be rescheduled in the spring.
- Remember to check the *Program Essentials* book and the Diamonds website for exciting opportunities each month. As new events are scheduled throughout the year, they will be added to the website and in the following "Additional Program Opportunities" section of monthly *Leaders' Notes*.

**Additional Program Opportunities** (Not listed in *Program Essentials*):

- Brownie Girl Scouts – come explore the world of animals at the **Animals Try-It Workshop** from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm at Lake Poinsett State Park in Harrisburg on **Saturday, November 21**.
  - Early registration fees (by Oct 28): \$6 per girl.
  - Registration fees Oct 20- Nov 4: \$8 per girl.
 Registration deadline: Wednesday, Nov 4. No Tag-alongs, please.  
 Brownies will complete the requirements for the Animals Try-It (cost included in fee) Adults should be prepared to stay with their troop and assist as needed with activities. Contact Debbie Franks, 870-932-2833, ext 3105 or 800-632-6894, ext 3105 for more information.
- Lake Poinsett State Park (Harrisburg) will also host **Finding Your Way** for Junior GS from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm on **Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**.
  - Early registration fees (by Oct 28): \$6 per girl.
  - Registration fees Oct 20- Nov 4: \$8 per girl.
 Registration deadline: Wednesday, Nov 4. No Tag-alongs, please.  
 Girls will complete the requirements for the Finding Your Way Junior Badge (cost included in fee). Adults should be prepared to stay with their troop and assist as needed with activities. Contact Debbie Franks, 870-932-2833, ext 3105 or 800-632-6894, ext 3105 for more information.
- **Kids Science Challenge:** Third to Sixth Grade Girl Scouts have been invited to participate in Kids Science Challenge – a free, fun way to turn kids on to the world of science! For complete information on this season's science fields and how to get involved, go to [www.kidsciencechallenge.com](http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com).
- **Canoe Training Opportunity for Adult Volunteers AND Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts!** Become certified in Small Craft Safety from the American Red Cross.

On Sunday, October 18, at Lake Ouachita State Park, Girl Scouts Diamonds will be holding an American Red Cross Small Craft Safety course. Price: only \$25 per person! This certification satisfies the Safety Wise certification requirement for adults taking a troop flat water canoeing for day outings on lakes or ponds or single-day floats on flat water rivers (not multiple-day canoe trips). Purpose of the course: To provide individuals with the information and skills necessary to prevent, recognize, and respond to small craft emergencies. Course participants must already have basic canoe-handling skills and be able to swim at least 25 yards both with and without a life jacket and either float or tread water for one minute. Certification is valid for three years. Ask your MMS for more details!

## Service Opportunities:

- Join us October 17, 2009 as we cheer on participants in the Texarkana Affiliate Race for the Cure! Girl Scout Troops are being asked to support and encourage race participants. The race starts at 8:30 am but we are asked to be in place by 7:30 am. Please contact Beth Corbin at 1-800-632-6894 ext. 2016 or [bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) for more information.
- The Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society will hold their annual Buddy Walk on Saturday October 31, 2009 from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm at Bobby Ferguson Park at the Four States Fairgrounds. Older Girl Scout Troops (Cadette- Ambassador) are being asked to work in shifts and help the walk participants play games. Please contact Beth Corbin at 1-800-632-6894 ext. 2016 or [bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) for more information.
- Runnin' WJ Ranch in Texarkana is seeking volunteers to assist as Horse Leaders/Side Walkers with their Therapeutic Horse Program. Needed are adults and/or mature 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders who can volunteer Monday – Saturday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. For more information, contact Beth Corbin at 800-632-6894, ext 2016 or [bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org).
- Like to **sew**? The headquarters building at Camp High Point is in need of new curtains. If you have the talent and time to provide this service, please let us know. Window measurements will be given to a suitable seamstress once identified. For more information, contact Beth Corbin at 800-632-6894, ext 2016 or [bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org).

## Council Shops

### **CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS, JULIETTE LOW'S & DIAMONDS COUNCIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!!**

This month we are celebrating our Founders Birthday and our Councils 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday! You are invited to come and help us celebrate *Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday*. In appreciation to our loyal customers, October 19 through the 30 will be **Customer Appreciation Days!!** During this special time we will have various specials in the shops for you to take advantage of. **There will gifts with purchase, percentages off, drawings and more!** This is no "TRICK" but a "TREAT" We look forward to helping you and your Girls Scouts with all your Troop and Holiday needs. Check out the **New "Cookie Merchandise", "Holiday Gifts" "Adult Gifts" "New Fun Patches" Shop Flyers now on the website.**

### **NEW COUNCIL MERCHANDISE!**

We are excited to announce that we have **several New "Diamonds" Merchandise items** designed for both girls and adults. During your next visit to the shop ask to see all the new Tees, gifts, and especially the **NEW Diamonds Council Patch**. The patch was designed by one of our own girls this past year. The cost is \$2.50 and will make a great addition to everyone's patch collection. The patch can be seen on our website. **Service units or troops buying the patch in quantities of 25 or more we will discount the price to \$2.00.** We are also trying new and old promotions again like **\$5 Grab Bags** a great surprise or gift for any girl with a retail value of \$12. Groovy Girl Parties will be back announced in November just in time for Christmas parties and spring events. We are also looking into customer frequency cards.

### **COOKIE MOM MERCHANDISE PREORDERS**

Diamonds shops will start taking pre orders for **COOKIE MOM** merchandise again this month. This year you have more choices of design and there is even an apron that you could order. These products will also make great **EXTRA COOKIE INCENTIVES** for adult leaders, volunteers and helpers. **Service units this would be a great way to get your leaders and volunteers ready for cookie booths. These Tees will be a great way to advertise our Exceptional Product. All service units buying 10 or more of one item will receive a discounted price on that item.** Get your preorder form from your MMS or SUD or go on line to get the form. Please send all forms to your local Diamonds shop.

### **SEVERAL SHOP FUN PATCHES ON CLEARANCE! NOW \$.25 TO \$1.00**

**Please remember anyone can buy FUN PATCHES!** Leaders and S.U.D.'s please remember after troop or service unit activities, outings and events to come by the shop to purchase your girls a related fun patch that can be worn on the back of their sashes or vest. Many have been **discontinued and priced to sell.** Investiture, Fly-UP, Sleepover, Camping, Early Registration, Day Trips, Movies, Pizza, Fire Department and Arts and Crafts are only a few of what we have to offer your girls. **Make sure on your next shop visit to see all the marked down FUN Patches.**

### **GIRL SCOUT SHOP ONE DAY SALE PRICES EXTENDED!**

Due to the HUGE success of our one day sale last month, we have extended the special pricing through October 30! Please let your parents know if they were planning on buying their daughter extra pieces of the official GS uniform or casual components **NOW** is the time. We even have our "Celebration" Tee on Sale for \$10.00 while they last. Many of our Tees are only \$8.00 this month only. This is a great time to get matching shirts for your girls and volunteers. **HURRY INTO** your local Diamonds shop while supplies last.

## Product Sales

### FALL PRODUCT SALE DATE REMINDERS:

- September 25 – October 11 Girls take orders from family and friends.
- October 28 – November 15 Girls deliver nuts/candy.

## Training & Recognition

### CORRECTION: PROGRAM LEVEL TRAININGS

In our *Volunteer Essentials* book, it is stated that Age Level or Program Level trainings can be completed as a home study, online, or in a live class. For this fall, we will only be able to offer these trainings in a live class. We hope to have trainings available online or as a home study by January.

### REGISTRATION FOR EVENTS OR TRAINING

Only those registered for training will be notified of a cancellation if there are not enough registrations for a training session. Don't show up without registering first. Please call if you must cancel.

When registering girls for a badge workshop you may register as a troop or girls may register as individuals. When registering as a troop, please list the names of all the girls attending so that certificates or patch coupons may be prepared in advance. When you register as a troop, the troop leader is required to stay for the workshop. Girls who register as individuals may attend without a leader or adult staying with them.

### VOLUNTEER ESSENTIALS

Current, returning leaders who have already been trained are not required to complete the *Volunteer Essentials* training, but it is strongly recommended that they do so. This includes the *Troop Module*. Each returning troop will receive one copy of these books at no charge. They are also available at the council offices for \$5, or they may be downloaded and printed from the website.

Chapters 5 and 6 of *Volunteer Essentials* comprise the Out and About training. Out and About is required before taking your troop anywhere away from the regular meeting place. The questionnaires for *Volunteer Essentials* and Out and About are also on the website. To access them click on Adults (on the left) and scroll down to *Volunteer Essentials*. When that page is displayed you will see where to click for any of the four. Please remember to send a completed copy of the quiz to your MMS and the Adult Development department. Until further notice, Laura Hixson will receive those questionnaires. Laura is in the Texarkana Regional office at 1811 Arkansas Boulevard, Texarkana, AR 71854. This training can be done as a home study or you may attend a scheduled training.

### GOLD & SILVER AWARD TRAINING

Training for the Gold & Silver Award will be November 14 at the Texarkana Regional Service Center. This training is for Cadette, Senior & Ambassador girls and adults. Time TBA.

## Other

### PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

Nominations are being sought for the 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. If girls have made a difference in their community by volunteering over the past year, she could win:

- Local Honorees receive a Certificate of Achievement from their schools or organizations. Those who qualify (50 hours of service for age 14 and younger, 100 hours for those older) also receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.
- State Honorees receive an award of \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expenses-paid trip with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for national recognition events.
- National Honorees receive an additional award of \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion, a crystal trophy for their schools or organizations, and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for a nonprofit, charitable organization of their choice.

Girls can apply online at [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit) or [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential). Applications must be printed out, signed and submitted to the Council no later than October 31, 2009. The Council will select one Local Honoree in grades 5-8 and one in grades 9-12 to represent the council at the State-level.

### RECYCLING

Make it a troop or Service Unit project and turn in your old non-usable phones to the GSSC. Don't forget the empty printer ink cartridges are also recyclable.