



Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas Leader's Notes – September, 2009

www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Property

The Camp Crossed Arrows (CCA) renovation campaign is off and running. We are abiding by all United Way black out periods but want to share our campaign. In the attached flyer you can see the plans for Camp Crossed Arrows. We are building a barn for the horses that were at Camp Storeywood. Of course pasture land is also being prepared. A new pool and shower house is going to be built for the girls to enjoy the water sports. There will be upgrades to the kitchen and dining hall as well as some of the camp cabins. The base goal is \$465,000 with the challenge goal being \$800,000. It is an exciting time for girls. All of the girls in the council will have the opportunity to participate in CCA programs next summer. Even if CCA is not close to you, please remember that it is definitely possible that some of your girls will attend this camp. Please be a "sister to every Girl Scout" by donating to this important program. We need donations from all over the new council. Maybe your troop could count pennies for each of the girls' height or make a donation out of your product sales income. Maybe leaders will want to pledge over a three year period. Every penny counts, so please think about how you can be a part of renovating this facility. Please think about the Girl Scout Promise..."On My Honor I Will Try"... and be an important part of this fine program. We know that you will help – We know that we will succeed. Please complete the pledge/gift card at the back of the Flyer and send it in today!

Program

Updates to 2009-2010 Program Essentials: If you received the *Program Essentials* book in hard copy, please be sure you also received the "Updates & Corrections" handout to go along with the book. If you received a CD version of the book, please make sure your copy either contains the corrections document along with the entire book, or that you receive the "Updates & Corrections" handout to go along with your disc. (Available from your MMS). The book and the corrections document can also be downloaded from the Diamonds website (www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org)

New Program Staff Member: Girl Scouts – Diamonds is happy to welcome Linda Archer of Mountainburg to the Program Team! Linda has a long Girl Scout history with the Mount Magazine legacy council and will serve as Program Specialist/Nature Center Coordinator in the Fort Smith office.

Revisions to Council Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards Information: GSUSA has recently revised the requirements for the Bronze (Juniors), Silver (Cadettes) and Gold (Seniors & Ambassadors) Awards. The new requirements along with council guidelines and deadlines will be discussed at upcoming regional workshops scheduled throughout the council. Girls, leaders/advisors and parents are encouraged to register and attend one of these workshops. For more information, contact any member of the Program staff (Meagan Adams, Linda Archer, Mindy Baird, Beth Corbin, Autumn Croswell or Debbie Franks)

Special Notes About Upcoming Programs:

- The Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards workshops scheduled for September 11 and 12 in Fort Smith have been postponed until a later date yet to be announced. Girls who will be working on Bronze, Silver and Gold will be required to use the new criteria if prerequisite work has not begun on the old requirements by October 1.
- The registration deadline for the Camp NOARK Carnival has been extended to Wednesday, September 23. This family or troop event will be held on October 3.
- Quapaw Weekend for all members of the Ouachita Quapaw Tribe of Camp Storeywood and Camp Storey will be September 25-27. Eligible girls will be receiving their invitations soon! If you know of girls who are members of the Quapaw Tribe but who don't receive invitations, please encourage them to contact Mindy Baird, ext 6225.
- 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*):

- **Farewell to Storeywood:** Calling all former Storeywood campers, counselors and volunteers! There will be a final farewell celebration on Sunday, September 27, 2009 from 2-4 p.m. at Camp Storeywood. We will be displaying camp photos from the past, as well as from Camp Ouachita and Camp Storey. Guests will have an opportunity to share special camp memories or experiences, followed by the passing of memorabilia to the four resident camps in the Diamonds Council for future campers to enjoy. The celebration will end with our final campfire and the passing of ashes from Storey and Storeywood to the Diamonds Council camps for inclusion in their opening campfires in 2010. Those planning to attend should RSVP to Mindy Baird, ext 6225.

- **Save the Date:** Although activity details are pending, Lake Poinsett State Park in Harrisburg will host two Brownie Try-It and Junior Badge-earning workshops on November 21. The Brownie workshop will be from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm; Junior workshop will be from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Complete details will be posted on our website as soon as they become available from Park Interpreters, or for more information you may call Debbie Franks, ext 3105.
- **Spirit of Giving Campaign:** Girl Scouts – Diamonds is partnering with the Food Alliance in its annual “Spirit of Giving” food drive. Food collected will be donated to local agencies throughout the council. Helping others is fundamental to Girl Scouting, but as an added incentive to giving, troops collecting the most pounds of food will be awarded. Troops who register to participate in this food drive will receive packets containing the information needed to participate. Contact Sarah Clements, ext 6226, for further details. LET’S SHOW OUR LOCAL AGENCIES WHAT GIRLS CAN REALLY DO!
- **New Scout Patch Program:** The Arkansas State University Museum, Jonesboro, has written a unique patch program for Girl and Boy Scouts focusing on the “Portals of the Soul” collection in the new “Our Awesome Ancestors” museum exhibit. Admission to the museum is free. Interested Girl Scouts may request the patch questionnaire upon arrival, complete during their visit and have one of the ASU Museum staff sign for completion. Patches will be available for purchase from the Jonesboro Regional Office of Girl Scouts – Diamonds for \$1.25 each. The signed document from ASU is required in order to purchase the patch.
- **The Great Crater Cleanup (*invitation from the Crater of Diamonds*)**
Each fall, thousands of Arkansans remove tons of litter from our state’s roadways, shorelines, parks and public areas during the [Great Arkansas Cleanup](#), the statewide community-improvement campaign. In conjunction with the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, the Crater of Diamonds State Park will be holding a Great Crater Cleanup on Saturday, September 26 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Our rain day for the event will be Saturday, October 2 at the same time. After a summer with hundreds of visitors, our diamond search area is in desperate need of a Shine. Our answer to this problem is to invite our friends, neighbors, and visitors to scatter over the diamond search areas and pick up all of that ugly litter. Who knows what kind of interesting ?artifacts? will turn up!

To sweeten the day we will be giving out door-prizes, including a grand prize for the greatest amount of litter (by weight) picked up by one person. We also will be furnishing cold drinks and water. All you have to do is show up. We will furnish the bags and the scale to weigh your haul of litter. Oh yes, if a visitor happens to find a diamond while he or she is participating in our litter pick up, then the same rules apply and [that visitor will keep the diamond!](#)

When participating in any liter pick-up project, be sure to follow the guidelines in *Safety-Wise*, page 43.

- **CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER? Here’s a fun service project:**

It is never too early to start planning how to say thank-you to everyone who makes Girl Scouting possible! Throughout Diamonds Council, individuals, businesses and organizations make gifts to Girl Scouts that allow us to provide program and membership services for girls. Girls in your troop can help us say thank-you by making Christmas Cards for these donors. For a handmade card, please follow these instructions:

- Fold an 8 ½ x 11 inch piece of paper (colored, construction, etc.) in half, then in half again. Decorate with markers, crayons, stickers, etc.
- No glitter!
- Sign the card with first names (no last names).
- Write both Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays.
- Be sure to include a sweet message like this:

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!
Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts
-- Hannah, Troop 4127*

Collect the cards and mail by November 16 to Trish Woodward
2080 East Joyce Blvd.
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Trish will match cards with donors and send them out in time for Christmas.

- **President’s Volunteer Service Award**

We are pleased to announce our participation in the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD program as a Certifying Organization. This AWARD is a Presidential honor that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers nationwide who answer President George W. Bush’s call to serve others through their current volunteer activities or lifetime service. As a Certifying Organization, we will identify eligible recipients, verify their service hours, and distribute the AWARD to outstanding volunteers.

We invite you to apply for this AWARD, if you meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the table below. Complete and submit the information form at the end of these notes or by contact Jani Ceasear at 870-773-2151 or jceasear@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Given your ongoing service activities, many of you may already meet the requirements to receive the AWARD. To qualify, girls and adult volunteers simply submit a record of their service hours to Girl Scouts – Diamonds and we will verify the service and distribute the AWARD.

Additionally, eligible volunteer service hours are not limited to those performed on behalf of Girl Scouts – Diamonds. In fact, service hours can be accumulated through work on a variety of projects throughout the year. The only requirement is that the hours be completed within 12 months (January – December); recipients can qualify for a new AWARD each year.

All types of service that “strengthen community” qualify for this award, with the exception of paid service, religious instruction, conducting worship services, working on any kind of political campaign and all lobbying, and efforts to change federal, state or local laws. Volunteer hours that are in the areas of youth achievement, parks and open spaces, healthy community and public safety and emergency response can be used. Hours from Girl Scout leadership awards and service projects associated with Girl Scout insignia CAN be counted towards the receipt of the President’s Volunteer Service Awards. The hours information form may be submitted to the council office at any time during the year. Awardees will receive a certificate, letter from the President and a pin that may be worn on the Girl Scout Uniform. Complete all the information on the form below and send with a check or money order in the amount of \$9.00.

<p>To be eligible to receive the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, Applicants’ service hours must be confirmed by a registered Certifying Organization.</p> <p>There are three levels of the AWARD varying by hours of service completed within a 12-month period (January –December):</p>	
<p>Girls - 14 and younger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze Award 50 - 74 hours • Silver Award 75 - 99 hours • Gold Award 100 or more hours 	<p>Adults - Ages 26 and up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze Award 100 - 249 hours Silver Award 250 - 499 hours Gold Award 500 or more hours
<p>Older Girls & Adults - Ages 15 - 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze Award 100-174 hours • Silver Award 175 - 249 hours • Gold Award 250 or more hours 	<p>Families and Groups (two or more people)*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronze Award 200 - 499 hours Silver Award 500 - 999 hours Gold Award 1,000 or more hours <p>*Each member contributing at least 25 hours towards the total</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD</p> <p>Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more volunteer service hours over the course of their lifetime are eligible to receive the PRESIDENT’S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD.</p>	

Membership

MAKE NEW FRIENDS . . .

Membership staff and volunteers are working hard to recruit in the schools, and will find MANY new girls who want to be Girl Scouts. With your help, we will find leadership teams to serve most of these girls. Please let your Membership and Marketing Specialist and your service unit know if your troop open to "new girls" – as we work through the fall on registering and placing girls in troops

THANKS TO RETURNING VOLUNTEERS – WELCOME TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

This time of year is very exhilarating as we find new volunteers who want to make a difference in the lives of girls and welcome them into our family! This is a shout out to all of you who are returning volunteers – THANKS for all you do in creating a fun, exciting, educational program that encourages our girls to become leaders. Many of you will be directly involved with recruiting this fall, and you especially deserve a thank you for your ability to be good role models and provide encouragement to the new volunteers.

RECRUITMENT PAPERWORK

In an effort to make sure the adults we place in leadership positions are the people we want to have in those positions, Diamonds Council will require completed volunteer applications with a release to do a background check, a photo ID, and references. Paperwork should be completed for all volunteers who work directly with the girls: leaders, co-leaders, assistant leaders, anyone who handles money or helps during troop meetings. The requirement does not extend to episodic volunteers who only work with the troop for a limited time and never in an unsupervised capacity.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Be sure to check our online resources! Go to our website at www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org for council news and updates. You can also find Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas on FACEBOOK!

NEW FACES

New Membership and Marketing Specialists have been hired to serve volunteers in our council. Please welcome the following ladies:

- Sarah Hiatt – North Little Rock
- Toia Phillips – North Little Rock
- Kasi Hill – North Little Rock
- Jarnisha Savage – Texarkana
- Leandrea Larry – Texarkana

NEW TRAININGS

New trainings for volunteers have been scheduled since the release of the Training Essentials book. Here are the new dates, times and places:

Training	Date	Time	Place
Volunteer Essentials	September 10, 2009	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Christ the King Church 4000 North Rodney Parham Road Little Rock
	October 6, 2009	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA
	November 12, 2009	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	TBA
Daisy & Junior Level Training	September 17	6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Christ the King Church 4000 North Rodney Parham Road Little Rock
	October 10	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	TBA
	November 14	9:00 am – 12:00 noon	TBA
Brownie & Older Girl Level Training	October 10	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	TBA
	November 14	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	TBA

Council Shops

ON SALE!

This month has been very exciting in the shop with the arrivals of new merchandise and our **first ever National Campaign in our 2009-2010 Girl Scout Catalog**. It's a perfect time to visit any local Girl Scout – Diamonds Council shop and stock up on girl and teen apparel items. **When you purchase two or more qualifying apparel items, you'll SAVE 20% on each of those items. Offer expires October 15, 2009.** So be a gem and head to your nearest Diamonds shop for the **BEST SELECTIONS!**

As an added bonus this month we have marked down discontinued items to make room for all our new merchandise. **Casual wear and Tees** have been **reduced to sell quick**. There are also **several markdowns on gift items**. Perfect for girls looking to spend **cookie credits** or Service Units and leaders looking for gifts for outstanding volunteers.

YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS HELPS THE COUNCIL

As always there are five ways to shop: by mail, fax, phone, email or just come see us. Please remember that when you shop with Diamonds Council instead of online at GSUSA **all dollars generated from purchases at your council shop remain in your council and HELP provide programs and services for your girls**. Plus we have cheaper shipping and if your Membership and Marketing Specialist brings your purchase to leaders meetings there is no shipping charge.

CLOSED FOR INVENTORY / SATURDAY OPENINGS

All council shops will be closed for inventory on Friday, October 2. There will be NO SATURDAY SHOP in October. Shops WILL be open on Saturday, November 7 and Saturday, December 5.

Extreme "ONE" Day "BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION" Sale Saturday September 19, 2009.

The Diamonds Shop Staff would like to say, "**HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY GIRL SCOUTS – DIAMONDS!**" To celebrate our first year as Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas the shops are planning a **BLOW OUT SALE** on Saturday September 19, 2009 in Little Rock at the **Membership Connection Celebration Event (Inclusion Celebration)**. Come one come all the shop will be open throughout the day. **Be the first to SEE and BUY at a reduced price our NEW COUNCIL PATCH** (drawn by one of our very own girls). You will also be the first to see several NEW ITEMS that the shops will be caring this year. If that wasn't enough to bring you out we will have many items REDUCED just for that DAY. There will be clothing and gift items REDUCED TO PRICES YOU WILL HAVE TO SEE TO BELIEVE. Don't MISS OUT on all the festivities and fun. You can shop even if you are not attending the event. We hope to see you all there.

BASIC IN A BAG STARTER KITS ARE HERE!

Once again the shop is offering Basics in a Bag Starter Kits for both girls bridging to new age levels and for girls who are new to Girl Scouting. Each bag includes basic items every girl needs to begin her Girl Scout Adventure! Plus this year we will be offering a 20% coupon to use when you buy two or more girl or adult original priced components (excluding sashes and vest). Contact any shop manager or sales associate in your local Diamonds shop, or see the flyer online at www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org.

PATCHES AND PINS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

With all the age levels and hundreds of earned recognitions to choose from we tend to work on those that are right in front of us or easiest to find. Each age level has a badge book to work from, however there are several patches, pins and awards that are easy to earn but not always easy to find. For help go to http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/list/. Once there click on the desired age level and scroll down and choose one of the highlighted recognitions. The requirements needed to earn the badge will come up and may be printed. If you do not have access to the internet, request a copy from your local Diamonds shop staff. Some recognitions that are available are Ms President; Discover the World; Get with the Land; GS American Volkssport Association; Shape Up; and age level Safety Awards. All of these came into existence after the age level books were printed. Also in your GS handbooks you will find several awards that seem to have gone by the wayside like the **Community Service Bars** found in the Cadette and Senior handbooks. These awards are normally completed without the girl even knowing that she earned them. Look at page 128 – 129 of the Cadette handbook and on page 149 - 151 of the senior handbook. And starting on page 189 of the Junior handbook you will find additional awards you can earn. If you have any questions please contact your local Diamonds shop by email or web. www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Product Sales

NUTS, CANDY AND COOKIES ON THE INTERNET . . . YES!

Girls are online, and we need to be where girls are! The GSUSA Board of Directors has adopted a new policy that opens the door for girls to promote sales of cookies and other products, and also to take order commitments online. With parent/guardian supervision a Girl Scout can e-mail or text to friends and family. Neither girls, their parents or third parties can accept online payments for Girl Scout product sold through email or text, with the exception of Girl Scout magazines. The policy goes into effect immediately!

To learn more about the "can do" and "cannot do" concerning online marketing for Girl Scout Products go to www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org.

NEED MONEY TO DO TROOP ACTIVITIES THIS FALL?

It's not too late to participate in the Fall Product Activity. Girls sell to family and friends beginning September 25 through October 11. Contact your Service Unit Fall Product Manager to learn how your troop can participate in this easy activity and earn money for the troop. IT'S FUN, EASY, AND THE GIRLS EARN INCENTIVES!!!

Other

UNITED WAY

Local campaigns will be kicking off soon. Girls and adults can help by distributing posters, stuffing envelopes and reminding family and friends to contribute. United Way helps to make Girl Scouting possible for all of us! Please ask your local United Way if you can help.

WALMART “SUMMER OF SERVICE”

Walmart has offered all of its' associates an opportunity to benefit organizations that they volunteer time. This “summer of service” began on August 1 and continues until September 11. All Walmart associates that are volunteers for the Girl Scouts – Diamonds can log on to mywalmart.com using the VolunteerMatch tool to log in your hours. The ten non-profit organizations with the most Walmart associate volunteer hours logged will receive a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation.

From September 18 through 25, associates can log onto mywalmart.com to vote for one of the five organizations to receive an additional \$100,000!

What a great opportunity. Please encourage all Walmart associates in your families, troops, and neighborhoods who are helping with the Girl Scout programs log in their hours.

Thank you to all who volunteer and work with the youth in the Girl Scouting programs of Diamonds Council!