



Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

Leaders Notes – August, 2009

www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Governance

- **INCLUSION CEREMONY: MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION COMMITTEE.** A one-year birthday party, a time to connect with other volunteers and with Board Members, and a time to take advantage of great training opportunities will all coincide during the first ever Membership Connection Committee gathering on September 19. Watch for your Diamonds Newsletter to learn details of the meeting and to sign up.
- **OFFICE CLOSING.** All Diamonds Council service centers will be closed August 14 for a council-wide staff meeting and September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Program

- **Introducing 2009-2010 Program Essentials:** The *2009-2010 Program Essentials* book is your key to almost everything you need to know regarding council programs and procedures for Girl Scout – Diamonds! Not only is it a great reference tool – containing program staff contact, must know information and **all** confirmed council events as of July 1st – but also contains a calendar in the back for keeping track your troop’s schedule! Each troop will receive one copy per the leader’s request as stated on the spring surveys (choices were hardcopy, CD or website). Those who did not respond to the survey are encouraged to “think green” and download the book from the website, but we will also have some extra hardcopies on hand. Please remember, **one per troop**.

Leaders should take time to read and become familiar with the informational material in *Program Essentials*, as it contains the procedures and guidelines we will follow in regards to council programs. You will notice changes in the registration process, deadlines, cancellations and more. In order to offer consistency throughout the council, the new processes will be strictly adhered to.

- **Additional Program Opportunities:** Through collaborations and/or requests, new opportunities will arise throughout the year that did not make it into *Program Essentials*. The additional opportunities will be promoted with informational flyers distributed through monthly *Leaders’ Notes* and the council website. (Please note that there will be no flyers produced for events listed in *Program Essentials*.)
- **Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards:** GSUSA has recently revised the requirements for the top three awards girls can earn in Girl Scouting – Bronze (Juniors), Silver (Cadettes) and Gold (Seniors & Ambassadors). The new requirements along with council guidelines and deadlines will be available by mid-August, and there are information workshops scheduled across the council. Girls, leaders/advisors and parents are encouraged to register and attend one of these workshops.

Key pieces of information to keep in mind:

- Girls who began working on any of these awards using the materials available before Aug 1, 2009 (Junior Handbook, “Go For It - Silver” packet or “Go For It – Gold” packet), may complete their projects using those requirements.
- Girls who will begin after August 1st should use the revised information
- Council has set reporting deadlines for each of these awards. These deadlines should be adhered to in order to ensure girls are properly recognized for their achievements.
- Work on Silver or Gold projects should not begin until written permission from council staff advisor and/or Gold Award Committee has been received.
- Project applications should be submitted at least six weeks prior to projected start date to allow time for review and follow-up.

Calendar of Upcoming Program Events:

When:	What:	Who:	Time:	Where:	More Info:
SEPT 11	Bronze Award Workshop	J	6 pm	Fort Smith	Program Essentials
12	Discovering Bugs	D-B	9 am	Crossett	Program Essentials
12	Watching Wildlife	B	9 am	Russellville	Program Essentials
12	Your Outdoor Surroundings	J	1 pm	Russellville	Program Essentials
12	Silver Award Workshop	C	9 am	Fort Smith	Program Essentials
12	Gold Award Workshop	S-A	11 am	Fort Smith	Program Essentials
12	Greers Ferry/Little Red River Clean-up	All	8 am	Greers Ferry	Program Essentials
19	Inclusion Celebration	C-A, & adults	9:30 am	Little Rock	Program Essentials
26	Dazzling Daisies ~ Olympics	D	9 am	Jonesboro	Program Essentials
26	Dazzling Daisies ~ Olympics	D	10 am	Crossett	Program Essentials
26	Girl Scout Olympics	B-A	2 pm	Crossett	Program Essentials
26	Junior Jewels ~ CSI: Diamonds	J	9 am	Texarkana	Program Essentials
26	Scouting for the Cure	J-A, & adults	10 am	N. Little Rock	Program Essentials
26	In the Pink Workshop (In conjunction w/Scouting for the Cure)	C-A		N. Little Rock	Program Essentials
27	GS Day @ ASU Lady Red Wolves Soccer Game	All	1 pm	Jonesboro	Program Essentials

- **BUTTERFLY PROJECT: REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST.** “Children were neither just the mute and traumatized witnesses to this war, nor merely its innocent victims; the war invaded their imaginations and the war raged inside them.” – Nicholas Stargardt in *Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis*. In an effort to remember the children who endured the Holocaust, the Holocaust Museum Houston is collecting 1.5 million handmade butterflies. For details about how to participate in the project, which will culminate in a display in 2012, please go to <http://www.hmh.org/minisite/butterfly/index.html>.

Membership

- **RE-REGISTRATION**

Early Bird Registration Deadline is **August 31, 2009**. GSUSA Annual Membership Dues increased to \$12.00 for the 2009-2010 membership year. Pre-printed forms for most established troops are in and should be handed out to troop leaders at the August Service Unit leaders' meeting. Please remind leaders that Girl Scout insurance expires **September 30, 2009**. If the troop is not registered by this date, members are not covered by insurance.

Camping Services

- **LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and found items from Camp High Point and Camp Kemp can be picked up at the Texarkana Regional Service Center during normal business hours. Lost and found items from Camp Cahinnio can be picked up at the Ft. Smith Regional Service Center. Items from Camp NOARK can be picked up at the Fayetteville Service Center. Items from Camp Storeywood can be picked up at the North Little Rock Service Center. If girls went to a camp far away from the service centers, parents are urged to phone for information regarding lost and found items. These items will be held until August 31.

Council Shops

- **SHOP NEWS**

We would like to welcome you back for another fun year of shopping. We would also like to introduce you to a new addition to our Texarkana shop sales force. Karen Calvert was hired to greet you on the phone and to help you when you come in to purchase all your Girl Scout needs including registration. New leaders, we look forward to meeting you and helping you get your troop outfitted with everything you will need. Please note the shop will be open a few Saturdays through the year on the first Saturday for your shopping convenience starting in August and September. Saturday shop openings and special dates will be posted in the shop and in future leaders notes. We

are very excited to announce that we have **new age level uniform components** from GSM. We have also restocked some fall favorites from last year. We are also working on marking down more items to make room for new merchandise. We are continuing to build our email base and would like to ask for your help in spreading the word to your parents and co-leaders. Our email membership will receive advanced notice on new merchandise as well as advanced notice on discontinued items and markdowns. Simply send your information to kcalvert@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

- **BRIDGING KITS STILL AVAILABLE**

If your troop is bridging in August or September the shop has bridging kits to make your job as a leader easier. The kits are sold in individual girl envelopes with everything each girl will need to advance to the next Girl Scout program level. Just add the girls' name to the card on the outside of the kit envelope and you will be ready to present these items at your ceremony. Each kit includes the girls bridging patch, membership star and disk, bridging certificate and a little surprise. The Bridge to Brownie kit also includes the Daisy ending certificate and the Bridge to Junior kit includes Brownie Wings. Prices for the Brownie and Junior kits are \$5.50 and the Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Kits are \$4.50.

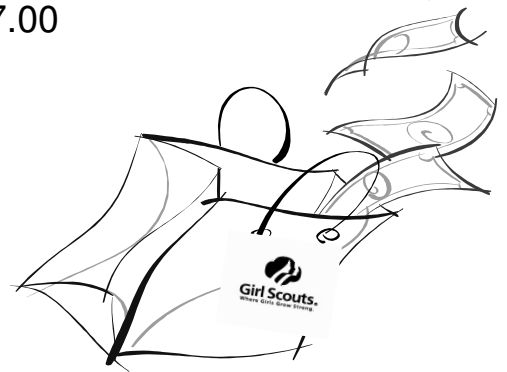
- **BASIC IN A BAG STARTER KITS ARE HERE!**

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 with the purchase of the starter kit you will receive a **FREE TOTE BAG** designed just for this promotion. Plus this year we will be offering a 20% ticket to use when you buy two or more original priced uniform components. Flyer attached or you can contact any shop manager or sales associate in your local shop. For more information in the Texarkana office you can contact Karen or Jani.

Basics In A Bag Starter Kit ...

Each bag includes basic items a girl needs to begin her Girl Scout adventure!

Daisy Tunic Starter Kit	\$37.00
Vest Kit	\$38.50
Brownie Sash Starter Kit	\$39.00
Vest Kit	\$49.00
Junior Sash Starter Kit	\$41.00
Vest Kit	\$51.00
Ages 11-17 Sash Starter Kit	\$40.00
Vest Kit	\$54.00



We Got It Covered!

Dollars generated from your shop purchase helps provide programs and services to our girls.

Thank you for your support!

Product Sales

2010 Cookie Sale

This 2010 Cookie Season, Girl Scouts across the country will be inspiring change. They will **discover** how their sister Girl Scouts are making a difference right now. They will **connect** with people in their communities. And they will use the power of Girl Scout Cookies to **take action** in their own neighborhoods and far beyond.



Watch for more information about this exciting theme and the fantastic incentives in the coming months!

2009 Fall Product Sale

URGENT MEMO..... MEMORANDUM FOR ALL GIRL SCOUT VOLUNTEERS

SUBJECT: UNLOCK THE MYSTERY

GSI (Girl Scout Investigators) is an exciting new program for the 2009 Fall Product Sales that encourages girls to “Unlock the Mysteries” of day to day life. The sale will lead the girls through challenging and thought provoking activities that will encourage the girls to utilize the greatest tool available to them – their minds!

This year the sale will focus on teamwork. When girls work as a team, the final result of their effort is greatly multiplied. Activities in the sale will help girls realize the potential of teamwork on their journey to leadership.

Proceeds from the Fall Product Sale benefit Girl Scouts by providing troops with “start-up” money. We have 14 nut/candy items to sell – troops will make .75 cents from each item sold on these products AND 10% on the selling price of any magazine subscription (including magazines sold in the online learning activity)! The sale also provides troops with extra money for program activities, special trips or events and pursuing troop goals and interests.



Steps of the Program

Step 1 – Magazine Program

Step 2 – Address booklet

Step 3 - Ashdon Farms Nuts and Candy

Step 4 – QSP Online Program

Fall Product Sale Dates:

September 25 – October 11 Girls take orders from family and friends.

October 28 – November 15 Girls deliver nuts/candy.

**Troops will receive all information needed to sell at the
SEPTEMBER SERVICE UNIT MEETINGS**

Other

- **TEXARKANA UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING – SEPTEMBER 26TH** Day of Caring is a city-wide day of service during which volunteers from area businesses and organizations visit, assist, and complete projects at non-profit agencies. This year, the Girl Scouts will have projects at the Texarkana Regional Service Center and Camp Karlton Kemp. If you and/or your troop would like to participate, please contact Jani Ceasear at 870-773-2151 by August 20th.
- **Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas** is proud to announce that we will be celebrating our new council by burying a Time Capsule at each regional area. These Time Capsules will be buried in September and will unearth in 20 years (2029). Troops and Service Units are invited to participate in this wonderful and fun opportunity by submitting something “unique” to this time period. Ideas.....pictures, historical or Girl Scout memorabilia pop culture, newspaper articles, recipes....etc; or pictures of what might change in 20 years. Please have materials turned by September 14, 2009. As space is limited, please ask your membership specialist for details!
- We will have a Council Shop open at the Inclusion Membership Connection Committee Meeting on September 19. Be the first to see new council merchandise, and purchase the new Diamonds Council Patch at a one-time-only reduced rate. Because the shop will be open at the event, we will have no Saturday shop openings in September. Fall Saturday shop dates are October 3, November 7, and December 5.