



GSSI held their 2nd Annual Dancing With OUR Stars fundraiser, which was presented by Enterprise Rent-A-Car on Aug. 21 at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon. After Community First Bank tallied the votes, the Mt. Vernon Junior Women's Club (pictured above) emerged victorious! All 11 team members were former Girl Scouts. ➔ See more pictures from the event

The **Link to Leaders** is published monthly with important information and programmatic updates that Leaders and volunteers will find helpful while providing programs, services and opportunities to girls. It is published by the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, a United Way supported not-for-profit organization. For more detailed program and membership information, visit our website at www.gsofsi.org. Direct comments, suggestions, story ideas, and feedback to Erin Johnson, LTL editor at 618.692.0692 or by e-mail at ejohnson@gsofsi.org.

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Girl Scout Mission:

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place!

Visit our website at
www.gsofsi.org

► Dixie Travelstead of DuQuoin Named GSSI Board of Directors Chair

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) is pleased to announce that Dixie Travelstead from DuQuoin has been named GSSI's Board of Directors Chair. Dixie brings not only a love of Girl Scouting to GSSI, but also outstanding leadership and team building skills and business expertise. She is an experienced community fund raiser, business manager and teacher. Ms. Travelstead replaces Rebecca A. Clark.



Dixie Travelstead

“We are pleased to have Dixie as the Board of Directors Chair and believe she will play an important role in making GSSI even better and stronger for our girls and adult volunteers,” said Villie M. Appoo, GSSI Chief Executive Officer. “I am confident that Dixie will provide outstanding leadership to GSSI just as Rebecca had done during the Girl Scouts’ historic transformation and realignment to the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois last year.”

Dixie, who served as the President of the DuQuoin Youth Club Board for many years, currently serves on the Boards of the United Way of Southern Illinois and Women for Health and Wellness of Southern Illinois, and is involved in many civic and youth organizations. In addition, Dixie has had "hands-on" Girl Scouting experience, having served as Service Unit Cookie Chair and troop leader for ten years and is a member of the Shagbark Alumni organization.

► Girl Scouts’ National CEO Featured in *Bloomberg Businessweek*

Bloomberg Businessweek recently published an outstanding feature about Girl Scouts of the USA’s CEO Kathy Cloninger. Due to an extended illness, Cloninger literally lost her voice -- a real challenge when you’re leading an organization with over 3 million members and 10,000 employees. However, she learned some lessons on what it really means to be a leader, and most importantly, gained insight into the experiences of those young people who find themselves set apart from the crowd. This thought provoking piece by journalist Rick Wartzman is a must read!

➡ Read the *Businessweek* article: “A Bold Management Strategy: Keeping Quiet”

► Tech Savvy Volunteers -- Share Your Skills With GSSI’s Online Community

We’ve been getting a few requests from volunteers asking if the Communications & Marketing department could provide steps for building their website. Unfortunately, we cannot ... but we can make it easier for volunteers to share tips with each other!

There are so many different ways to make a website or social media page that GSSI cannot endorse a single platform over another. Also, we are so busy trying to make sure we serve the girls as effectively as possible that we simply don’t have the time to do all of the research. However, as “social media” is a tool designed to help us connect to those near and far ... we’d like for the GSSI community to share their best hints and practices with each other.

► Tricia Briggerman, Debra Hodge & Tammy Klapetzky Join GSSI Staff

GSSI is pleased to announce that Debra Hodge has been hired as the Volunteer Development Assistant/Registrar for GSSI. Debra has extensive customer service and record-keeping experience and will work out of the Regional Service Center in Mt. Vernon.

GSSI is also pleased to announce that Tammy Klapetzky has been hired as the new Accountant. Along with her financial skills, Tammy brings an extraordinary Girl Scouting background. In fact, she was a recipient of the prestigious Honor Pin at GSSI’s first Annual Meeting in March.

In addition, GSSI is pleased to announce Tricia Briggerman to our Membership Department staff. Tricia comes to GSSI with a background in marketing, sales and program management. Tricia has also been a volunteer with Girl Scouts for the past five years. Tricia will be out-based from Charleston and will serve the following areas: SU 511- Effingham County, SU 521- Western Coles County, SU 521- Eastern Coles County, SU 531- Edgar County, SU 533- Clark/Cumberland County and SU 544- Crawford/Jasper County.

► 2010 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program Update

Cookie selling time is almost here & we hope you are all excited to be a part of this year's program "Starting Today!" We truly appreciate each and everyone that helps support our program and makes it great for every girl within southern Illinois! Check out our the Product Sales section of our website at www.gsofsi.org for the most up-to-date information. There will be several resources & links for each of you to use throughout the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program! For more information, contact Jessica Stanley, Product Sales Manager, at 618.242.5079 or e-mail jrstanley@gsofsi.org.

- Go to GSSI's Product Sales Page
- Check Out Little Brownie Bakers' website

Important Cookie Sale Dates

Cookie Caravan: Sept. 24- 26 • Cookie Rally: Oct. 1 • Traditional Girl Order Taking: Oct. 2- 16 • Cookie Delivery: Nov. 5- 11

New This Year! Online Marketing Tools

GSSI and Little Brownie Bakers are working hard to provide Girl Scouts with cool new resources for marketing cookies online. Watch our website, www.gsofsi.org, for tips and tools for promoting cookies on the web.

- Get the scoop on online marketing regulations with GSUSA's "The 411 on Online Marketing" guideline sheet

► "Smart Selling" Tips for Cookie Caravan (Sept. 24-26)

Many troops will be getting a jump start on the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program by participating in Cookie Caravan during the last weekend of September. Remember, you must have the appropriate permission from site authorities and GSSI before the sale. Application forms must have been submitted to the Product Sales Department by Aug. 26 to participate in the Caravan sale. For those of you participating, share these tips with your troop to come up with a master selling plan!

1. Budget for promotional materials as a troop. Ask girls which strategies they think would have the biggest impact and which strategies they think would help them make the most profit. Help them choose a plan that will "use resources wisely" by being both effective and cost-efficient.
2. Consider posting flyers that promote your Cookie Sale on community bulletin boards, such as those found at libraries and store foyers.
3. Use text messaging, e-mail and social media to let friends and family know the location of your Cookie Caravan. Be creative and create "hype" about the event. Always abide by the guidelines of each service provider and GSSI's Social Media Policy. Visit GSSI's Facebook Page for cool "Girl Scout Shareables."
4. Keep your Caravan/Booth area attractive and organized. Create a table display to gain customer interest. Remember to make a cookie poster to hang up or for girls to wear as a "walking billboard." Look sharp by wearing your Girl Scout uniforms! Also, display a team goal poster and pictures of activities in which you have participated or would like to participate in.
5. Remind customers that they are not just buying boxes of delicious cookie, but also supporting the world's premier leadership organization for girls. Check out the Product Sales section of our website, located at www.gsofsi.org, to learn some quick facts to share about the Girl Scout Cookie Program.
6. To encourage multi-box purchases, suggest that girls bundle 3 cookie packages with a ribbon, and attach gift cards and/or recipes that use the cookies. Handmade cards such as "Happy Birthday" or "Thank You" will be especially meaningful to customers.
7. If some varieties are not selling, open a box (which your troop must purchase), break them into bite-sized pieces, and let customers take a sample. This sample will likely spark interest among customers and increase your sales.

See additional tips & much more on the Product Sales section of our website at www.gsofsi.org. Check back often -- tons of new resources will be published in the immediate future!

► September GSSI Council Shop Updates

September: Basics in a Bag...contact your local GSSI Council Shop Manager for details and pricing. This promotion will be offered while supplies last.

September 11: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., we will celebrate Grandparents Day. All grandparents can come in and receive 20% off one full priced item of their choice.

September 25: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Come celebrate the first day of autumn with us! Pick a leaf for a special discount on that day. Rake in the savings with our one day leaf sale.

Extended Fall Hours

Sept. 2: 8:30 a.m. -7:00 p.m.; Sept. 9: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sept. 11: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sept. 16: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m; Sept. 23: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sept. 25: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sept. 28: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sept. 29-30: Closed for Inventory; Oct. 16: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

► Introducing the Newest Journey Series -- It's Your Story—Tell It!

Available in December 2010, the "It's Your Story—Tell It!" leadership journey series uses a storytelling theme in a fun and grade-level relevant way for girls to better understand themselves and their potential. Building a strong sense of self is an underlying goal of the series, which was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Dove Self-Esteem Fund. The journeys give girls opportunities to develop leadership skills through fun and engaging content and activities. On this journey, an emphasis is also placed on media literacy and creative expression. All along the journey, girls have opportunities to engage in a variety of arts, including performing, visual, culinary, and news media, to tell their stories and take action to make the world a better place.

Titles and Themes

Daisy: 5 Flowers, 4 Stories, 3 Cheers for Animals!

Daisies learn just how much they can care for animals and for themselves—and just how good that makes them feel.

Brownie: A World of Girls

Stories teach Brownies clues about how they can create positive change in the world—change that affects girls.

Junior: aMUSE

Juniors learn how many roles are open to them in the world and the possibilities those roles open for them.

Cadette: MEdia

Cadettes look for the ME in media and learn how they can shape media—for themselves, their community and the world.

Senior: MISSION: SISTERHOOD!

Seniors learn how widening their network broadens their world, and benefits the world as well.

Ambassador: BLISS: Live It! Give It!

Ambassadors learn to dream big, now and for their future, and begin their legacy as leaders who help others achieve their dreams too.

TIP

You can download handouts on GSUSA's website that will help Leaders build enthusiasm for the upcoming "It's Your Story -- Tell It!" Journey. These sneak peeks provide sample activities for each grade-level. ➔ Check out the new Journey "teasers" now!

A Tribute to the 2010 Day Camp Volunteers!

Each winter through spring volunteers meet and begin the planning process to bring our membership a quality and affordable day camp program. Most of these volunteers are already involved with Girl Scouting through a service unit or troop function. Many are employed outside the home and take vacation time to come to camp year after year. And some volunteer at more than one day camp! As a tribute to their countless hours of planning, organizing, cooking, teaching, hiking, crafting, nurturing, fire-building, girl planning, and etc, GSSI extends a huge THANK YOU to our dedicated volunteers of Day Camp 2010.

Belleville Day Camp - Going Green Around the World / Freedom Farms – June 14-18, 2010

Director: Angie Downard / Co-Director: Heather Fischer / Registrar: Tammy Hickey

Adult Staff: Stephanie Anderson, Kimberly Bagby, Becky Bennett, Becky Braun, Melissa Carver, Lisa Dixon, Rosmarie Edwards, Malachi Fischer-Porter, Jessica Gavin, Rosemary Gruber, Jodie Herbstritt, Lori Libby, Maria Nihells, Susan Pederson, Sarah Peters, Don Porter, Kimberly Powell, Cheryl Ruesink, Ashley Sexton, Heather Tapen, Angie Updike, Erin Way, Lisa Witkus. Girl Helpers: Bailey Fischer-Porter, Sonja Fitzwater, Alyssa George, Alaina Hickey, Patty Libby, Katie McGinty, Lynn Riddells, Paige Schwoebel, Paige Stemm

Bethalto Day Camp - Groovy Days at Camp/ Camp Chan Ya Ta – June 7-11, 2010

Director: Sue Ellison

Adult Staff: Stephanie Barnes, Danielle Conn, Becky Depping, Debbie Dillinger, Linda Emshousen, Valerie Frank, Shelley Graham, Sarah Hahn, Dawn Haring, Cyndi Kinder, Pam Krauss, Catherine Odeleher, Anna Oesterle, Carolyn Oesterle, Laura Oesterle, Mollie Ray, Nancy Robeen, Joy Rosales, Jamie Schneider, Connie Schott, Whitley Simmons, Carrie Smolar, Maggie Stinson, Dawn Taylor, Deanne Unterbrink, Belinda Warren, Diana Williams, Susan Woelfel, Amy Zajac. Girl Helpers: Kirstyn Brooker, Jessica Champlin, Tasha Dillinger, Sarah Dhue, Kaylee Georgeoff, Pauline Hapgood, Leandra Hillman, Kenan Keller, Madeline Kohlberg, Taylor Koonce, Hayley Krauss, Catie McGaughey, Eliza Pauk, Hannah Robeen, Kelsey Schott, Sidney Simmons

Collinsville Day Camp – Sailing the Seven Seas/ Camp Torqua – July 12-16, 2010

Director: Jodi Becker / Co-Director: Jennifer Finley / Program Director: Sheila Kampmeyer

Adult Staff: Tracy Barnes, Kristie Becker, Shelly Blaies, Dawn Burkhart, Allyson Burr, Trisha Clevenger, Amanda Dotzert, Laura Keiser, Krista Lucas, Allyson Messina, Lori Messina, Marjorie Riddell, Ericka Rosenburg, Emily Siemer, Emily Stanley, Linda Tennant, Sara Tipton, Christy Way, Leslie Wood. Girl Helpers: Cherish Finley, Jen Hylla, Liz Hylla, Gaby Kampmeyer, Alexa Keiser, Natalie Messina, Emily Migalla, Lynn Riddell, Tera Sparks

Columbia Day Camp – Happy Birthday CDC / Columbia City Park - June 21-25, 2010

Director: Pam Krauss / Co-Director: Mary Jo Thoma

Adult Staff: Becky Dhue, Sarah Dixon, Sue Ellison, Tammy Fleming, Arryn Groom, Rickey Hacker, Tracey Holmes, Sheila Kampmeyer, Kendra Koonce, Roberta LaSalvia, Sandy Nelson, Pat Rice, Jenny Schmidt, Dawn Taylor, Andrea Weatherford. Girl/Boy Helpers: Abbi Altnether, Mallory Burrow, Debra Dhue, Sarah Dhue, Anastasia Fundis, Sara Garmer, Anna Goodnight, Kelly Hacker, Gaby Kampmeyer, Ted Kampmeyer, Liz Klein, Taylor Koonce, Hayley Krauss, Jamie Lanman, Samantha McCann, Jessica Nelson, Lynn Riddel, Brianna Self, Samantha Shuler, Jesse Taylor, Caroline Thoma

Edwardsville Day Camp – A Week at the Movies / Camp Torqua - June 21-25, 2010

Director: Renee Stephenson / Registrar: Kim Hood

Adult Staff: Kimberly Barrios-Ogle, Diane Brooks, Denise Coad, Nicole Crumer, Judy Dickover, Laura Dietzen, Karen Draper, Donna Floyd, Danielle Frisse, Diann Frisse-Jurgena, Linn Fullington, Lois Green, Norma Hammer, Kat Hatton, Heather Hood, Larry Hood, Barb Hunter, Dina Lochmann, Mary Lou McDermott, Christine McGlasson, Janet Munzert, Christine Nelson, Luther Pike, Stacie Pope, Kari Roniger, Barb Stamer, Tonya Stephenson, Jeanne Swanner, Vicki Thalmann, Lealia Williams, Amy Zajac. Girl Helpers: Gabrielle Eltabar, Maddie Farrar, Natalie Floyd, Eleanor Green, Sydney Hood, Elizabeth Hylla, Jennifer Hylla, Madeline Kohlberg, Breanna McIlvoy, Eliza Pauk, Maggie Puchner-Hardman, Hailey Reinders, Anna Stamer, Dorothy Stamer, Katie Taylor, Libbi Thalmann, Amelia Williams

Effingham Day Camp – Super Soakin’ Camp Wassatoga / Camp Wassatoga – June 21-25, 2010

Director: Dawn Quicksall / Registrar: Kim Lucy

Adult Staff: Deena Ballard, Terry Ballman, Dana Chasteen, Ronda Golden, Kristina Hemrich, Hannah Hodge, Kathy Hoene, Christy Jones, Robin Klaker, Marla Krueger, Angi McDaniel, Kim Mills, Angie Moeller, Jan Osborn, Niki Probst, Debbie Raddatz, Rita Rhodabarger, Jacki Whitacre, Lisa Will, Marea Yagow. Girl Helpers: Patricia Campbell, Caitlyn Hoene, Leah Kelly, Kayla Krueger, Sylvia Maxey, Destiny Miller, Jessica Quicksall, Meranda Shaw, Emma Weishaar, Brianna Yagow

O’Fallon Day Camp – Whodunit? / Horner Park - June 14-18, 2010

Director: Andree Swanson / Co-Director/Registrar: Karlene Hoefener

Adult Staff: Chelsey Banaskavich, Mary Buchanan, Crystal Clements, C Cronin, Jodi Dormire, Doris Economou, Stephanie Fournier, Amy Fults, Darren Fults, Susan Heide-Wexell, Samantha Hoefener, Brittany Howard, Amy Johnson, Eric Johnson, Victoria King, Jill Koch, Tamara Martin, Courtney Meek, Shelly Parsons, Penny Pekja, Brenda Prothe, Susan Snoots, Kelsey Swanson. Girl Helpers: Kaylynn Clement, Kristina Cornuet, Caitlin Cronin, Michaela Hawk-Frey, Jordan Massey, Emma Scott, Abby Snoots, Eden Sell

Waterloo Day Camp – Survivor Girl / Camp Vandeventer – June 7-11, 2010

Director: Steve Bushong / Co-Director: Teresa Bushong / Co-Director: Mary Anne Hopper / Registrar: Dottie Heimos

Adult Staff: Emily Berenz, Rachael Berenz, Jennifer Bievenue, Julie Blanchfield, Mary Brand, Denise Chastain, Marcia Cooper, Tanya Daughterty, Allie Grace, Kevin Grace, Arryn Groom, Katerine Heise, Cherie Hill, John Hopper, Amy Johnson, Shanna Kreher, Robin Lengacher, Cindy Roeber, CJ Runyon, Stacey Schneider, Vickie Southworth, Rachel Steibel, Christine Stewart, Nora Sunman, Dawn Walker, Amie Williams, Dana Woods, Jamie Wratchford. Girl / Boy Helpers: Katie Albert, Emma Boothman, Kirsten Braun, Mallory Burrow, Ashley Bushong, Bridget Bushong, Justin Bushong, Katie Chatetain, Brooke Cobb, Erica Crawford, Kristin Crawford, Emma Eustis, Emma Groom, Nick Heimos, Lauren Heise, Mackenzie Hoxworth, Megan Kraus, Laura Kreher, Manuela Lenz, Samantha Matzig, Torie Morgan, Ashley Notter, Rachel Ostertag, Lindsay Pope, Veronica Southworth, Veronica Steibel, Haley Vernier, Hannah Vernier, Megan Walsh, Whitney Warnecke, Jonathan Williams, Shelby Wratchford

► Calling all girls 11-17! Your Input Is Needed!

We need your help in choosing the movie that will be shown at our Dive-In Movie on Nov. 5. Our Program staff has narrowed the choices down to our top four picks -- but we want you to choose the one you want to see! To vote, e-mail your top choice to Program Manager Angie Suhre at asuhre@gsofsi.org by Sept. 30. The movie that gets the most votes will be shown! Vote as many times as you like! Movie Choices: Princess Diaries , Elf, Haunted Mansion, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants.

► Share Your Stories! “Girl Scouts Making a Difference” & “Around the Council”

We know you’re all incredibly proud of your Girl Scouts! Don’t be bashful -- send us news about what your troop is up to. As we head into a brand new Girl Scout year, we will be put the *Link to Leaders* features “Girl Scouts Making a Difference” and “Girl Scouts Around the Council” back into full blast.

For new Leaders who are just joining us -- “Girl Scouts Making a Difference” tells the stories of GSSI troops who are going above and beyond to serve their communities and their world. “Girl Scouts Around the Council” is a place for leaders to share activities, troop trips, and service project ideas that they found fun and meaningful. “Around the Council in Photos” is a collection of snapshots that show what GSSI troops have been doing lately. Please limit your photo submissions to the 2-3 best photos per month.

Submit your stories to Erin Johnson, LTL editor, at ejohnson@gsofsi.org. While not every submission can be published, we try to reflect the diverse culture and interests of GSSI. *Looking forward to hearing from you!*

Program Updates

► Discover Scuba Date Correction

The program book lists the first Discover Scuba on Nov. 15, at the O'Fallon YMCA. This date is incorrect. The correct date is Friday, Nov. 5, 2010 at the O'Fallon YMCA. Sorry for any confusion! If you have questions about this program, please contact Emily Stanley at 618.692.0692 at ext. 111 or estanley@gsofsi.org.

► Girl Scout Night with the Lady Cougars Deadline Change!

The deadline for the Girl Scout Night with the SIUE Lady Cougars volleyball team has been changed to Sept. 30. Be sure to come out and help cheer on the Lady Cougars as they battle for victory! The game is Oct. 24 and the cost of the program is \$10 for Girl Scouts and \$13 for other participants. Girl Scout t-shirts will be given to all attendees.

► Clay Badge Workshop Date Change!

The date for the Clay Badge Workshop has been changed. The new dates are Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. AND Feb. 28 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Girls will need to attend both sessions to finish their piece. Girls will also complete all of the requirements to earn their Clay badge, which can be purchased from the council shop after the program. For more information, please contact Program Manager Angie Suhre at 618.692.0692 x 112 or e-mail asuhre@gsofsi.org.

► New Program Opportunity: Veteran's Day Card Creations

Celebrate Veteran's Day by showing your appreciation for the men and women who serve in the military! Come join Laura Schmidt from Stampin UP to create some custom holiday greeting cards. Girls will make five cards each; donating two cards and taking home three cards. The cost is \$12 per girl and includes the cards, pizza and drinks. This event will be held at the Corporate Service Center in Glen Carbon on Nov. 11 from 6-9 p.m. (Pizza and intro start at 6 p.m; girls may be finished with cards before 9 p.m.). Adults are welcome to stay, but only girls can participate in this activity/service project. The minimum is 15 and the maximum is 20. The deadline to register is Monday, October 25 by 5:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Program Manager Emily Stanley at 618.692.0692 at ext. 111 or e-mail estanley@gsofsi.org.

► Girl Scout Cadette, Senior & Ambassador Bridging Award Updates

Great News, GSUSA has updated the guidelines needed to earn the "Bridge to Cadette," "Bridge to Senior," "Bridge to Ambassador" and "Bridge to Adult" awards. Guidelines to earn bridging awards for all grade levels can be found on the GSUSA website (www.girlscouts.org), Bridging Awards. Bridging patches remain the same and are available through council shops and the GSUSA online shop.

Bridging awards mark a girl's transition from one leadership level to the next. Girls gain a sense of continuity throughout the Girl Scout program by completing the activities necessary to earn the bridging awards and look forward to the ceremonial transition from one level to the next.

GSUSA, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Northern California and Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council, has aligned all grade level bridging awards with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These revised award requirements replace those in grade level handbooks.

Program Updates

► **Pack the Stadium! Oct. 30 is Kids Day at the EIU Football Stadium!**

Come out and cheer on the Eastern Illinois University Panthers as they battle for a victory against Austin Peay University. There will be a Halloween costume contest, a meet and greet with various mascots, and special recognition on the JumboTron. Girl Scout t-shirts will be given to all those attending! The event will be held on Oct. 30 starting at 1:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Oct. 18 and the cost is \$15 per person, which includes the t-shirt. For more information, please contact Program Manager Angie Suhre at 618.692.0692 at ext. 112 or e-mail asuhre@gsofsi.org.

► **HAUNTED CAMPS 2010:**

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Haunted Camps are events where Girl Scouts host Halloween program and activity stations for younger Girl Scouts at camp. While every year is a bit different, stations usually include a haunted house and trail, a craft, a song and game session and a snack break. Girl Scouts who volunteer are responsible for planning and hosting their station.

The events are scheduled for Oct. 16 & 17 at Camp Torqua and Oct. 23 at Camp Wassatoga. Troops are responsible for providing girls and adults to work a station for a full day. Participating troops may stay Friday and/or Saturday night at camp. For questions about Haunted Camp Torqua, contact Program Manager Carolyn Miener at 618.692.0692 at ext. 113 or e-mail cmiener@gsofsi.org. For Haunted Camp Wassatoga, contact Program Manager Emily Wilson at 618.692.0692 at ext. 110 or e-mail at ewilson@gsofsi.org.

There will be a planning meeting for the Haunted Camp Torqua from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 21, at Camp Torqua. At least one adult and no more than 3 girls from the troop will need to attend this meeting.

Haunted Camp 2010 Troop Volunteers Form

Leader's name _____
Address _____
Number of Girls _____
Grade level of troop _____

E-mail _____
Phone # _____
Number of Adults _____
Troop Number _____

Haunted Camp site & date(s) that we are volunteering to help – please check all that apply

Camp Torqua on 10/16 _____ and/or Camp Torqua on 10/17 _____

Camp Wassatoga on 10/23 _____

Yes No My Cad/Sr/Amb troop plans to stay Friday night. (Circle one)

Yes No My Cad/Sr/Amb troop plans to stay Saturday night. (Circle one)

We would like to help with the _____ Station.

Please mail completed form to: GSSI, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034, ATTN: Program Dept.

Program Updates

▶ **Attention Troops/Adults: We need your help for our AMAZING RACE!**

The Amazing Race for Girl Scout Juniors will be here soon! It is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Camp Torqua. At this event, Junior troops will be placed into teams and race against their peers while using both their mental and physical endurance through a series of challenges in a race to the finish! We need Cadette through Ambassador troops and Leaders to help run the challenge stations. Adult volunteers are also encouraged to lend assistance. If interested, please call Program Manager Emily Wilson at 618.692.0692 at ext. 110 or e-mail ewilson@gsofsi.org.

▶ **Holiday Celebration Around the Council**

Girl Scout Junior - Ambassadors Troops WE NEED YOUR HELP!

GSSI will be celebrating the holiday season with crafts, storytelling, card making, cookie decorating, games and group sing-alongs at four malls throughout southern Illinois. Girl Scout Junior – Ambassador troops are needed to plan and implement stations for the Daisies and Brownies who will be participating in this event. Feel free to come up with different activities than the suggestions listed below. This event will be run by older girls for their younger sister Girl Scouts in this season of sharing.

The celebrations are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1-3:30 p.m. at the following malls: Alton Square Mall, Alton, IL; Village Square Mall, Effingham, IL ; and Illinois Centre Mall, Marion, IL. Troops are responsible for providing girls and adults to run and clean up their station. For questions, contact Program Manager Carolyn Miener at cmiener@gsofsi.org or 618.692.0692, at ext. 113.

To volunteer, please complete the form on the following page and return to: GSSI, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Holiday Celebration Around the Council Troop Volunteers Form

Leader's name _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Number of Girls _____

Number of Adults _____

Grade level of troop _____

Troop Number _____

We would like to participate at the _____ Mall.

We would like to provide the following activity at the event _____.

Please give a description of your activity if available: _____

For example: games, story telling, craft, card making, & etc. Cookie decorating will be provided by cookie companies inside of malls. if available.

Please mail to GSSI, Holiday Celebration, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034, ATTN: Carolyn Miener

Program Updates

► New Policies for Girl Scout Gold Award & All That Glitters Award Ceremony

All Girl Scout Gold Award project intents will now go before the Girl Scout Gold Award committee by phone interview. Dates for these interviews are: Aug. 4, Oct. 6, and Nov. 3 in 2010. In 2011, dates are: Feb. 2, April 6, and May 4. To be included in these initial interviews, all project intent forms should be turned in to Program Manager Emily Wilson at the Corporate Service Center three weeks prior to the interview date.

All Gold Award final reports will be presented to committee members on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010 and Saturday, March 5, 2011. Beginning at 10 a.m., girls will present their Girl Scout Gold Award final reports at either the Corporate Service Center in Glen Carbon, at Camp Wassatoga in Effingham, or at Heartland Healthcare Center in Marion.

After Oct. 1, 2010, pins will only be given once a year at the All That Glitters award ceremony. The ceremony will be held at a location in the metro east in 2011 and will alternate between the metro east and the south every year. In order for girls to participate in the 2011 All That Glitters award ceremony, they must have their final report submitted to the council no later than Feb. 10, 2011 so that they can go before the committee on March 5, 2011. Final reports for Silver Award projects should be submitted to the council by March 1, 2011 in order to participate in the All That Glitters Ceremony.

All of the above listed dates will be published in the program book and on our website at www.gsfsi.org. Please contact Program Manager Emily Wilson at 618.692.0692 at ext. 110 if you have any questions.

► U.S. Girl Scout Pen Pal Network

Although modern technology makes it easier than ever to make new friends from locations near and far, all Girl Scout Pen Pal connections should be made through local councils, in order to preserve the safety of the girls. If your troop is interested in becoming Pen Pals with another troop, please complete the form below and submit to the Corporate Service Center. Pen Pal connections will only be made for Girl Scout Brownie - Girl Scout Ambassador troops. Individual Girl Scouts are also welcome to apply for Pen Pal connections.

Troop Leader's Pen Pal Link Request Form
Submission Deadline: April 1, 2011 • Girl Scout Brownie - Ambassador troops only

Girl Scout Leader's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____
Phone: (D) _____ (E) _____
E-mail (optional) _____
Troop # _____ Number of girls in troop: _____
Girl Scout Level (check one): Brownie Junior Cadette Senior Ambassador • Grade (s) _____

Name of state your troop wishes to be linked to (mark 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

Every effort will be made to link your troop to your first choice. You will be contacted as soon as the link is made.

Please send this form to: GSSI, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034, ATTN: Pen Pal Coordinator

What's Happening Around the Council

Vacation doesn't have to be a time of rest and relaxation only! Center Schools Girl Scout Troop #733 continued to serve their community through the summer. Among other activities, the troop decorated Hitz Home of Alhambra care center for Independence Day and collected supplies for the Metro East Humane Society.

Troop #936, Troop #810 and Troop #8 showed their Girl Scout pride by marching with a large banner during the annual Highland Sweizterfest Parade.

Troop #8552 of Jonesboro just visited the Henry Barkhausen Wetland Center in Cypress for the presentation of "Cold Blooded Creatures of the Cache" to learn about animal life in the area. Girls saw lizards and turtles and even got to pet snakes! The girls also enjoyed exploring Heron Pond in Shawnee National Forest, especially the state champion cherry oak tree they encountered.

Make Sure Your Area is Represented!

Contact ejohnson@gsofsi.org with a brief message about what your troop is up to! While not every submission can be published, we will make an effort to reflect the diverse interests, activities and areas that make GSSI so great.

Around the Council in Photos

Due to popular demand, GSSI will feature photos submitted by our membership in each edition of the *Link to Leaders*. Please e-mail photos to Erin Johnson, editor, at ejohnson@gsofsi.org or mail to: GSSI, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034 ATTN: Communications and Marketing Dept. When e-mailing, please do not submit more than 2-3 pictures at a time, or your e-mail may be undeliverable. You may also send photos through your Membership Development Manager. Photos cannot be returned and may be used by GSSI for future publications, including on the website. Be sure to include your Troop/Service Unit information with submissions.

While not every submission can be published, we will make an effort to reflect the diverse interests, activities and areas that make GSSI so great. Please remember that we have many areas to support, so be sure to select only your best 2-3 pictures.

