



It's Time for Girl Scout Cookie Booth Weekends!



GSSI's council-wide Cookie Booth Weekend that kicked off the Cookie Program in January was a huge success! Customers bought more cookies than they have in the past four years! Because demand for Girl Scout Cookies remains, GSSI has three more council-wide Cookie Booth Weekends following traditional order taking and delivery: February 27-March 1; March 6-8 and March 13-15.

Cookie Booths can be held at any time - not only on council-wide cookie booth weekends. See GSSI's eBudde Quick Ordering guide to get cookies for your booth. See inside this issue of *Link to Leaders* for more information and for tips on making your cookie booth a success.

Don't forget! Girls can also sell online through Digital Cookie until March 15!

Inside this issue of *Link to Leaders*:

- Girl Scout Cookie Program Updates
- Annual Meeting & All That Glitters is March 28
- Girl Scout Week is March 8-14
- National and Local Girl Scout News
- GSSI Council Shop Update
- Program Updates
- Girl Scouts Around the Council & Around the Council in Photos

GSSI's **Link to Leaders** provides vital information and program updates each month that Leaders and volunteers will find helpful for creating a great Girl Scout experience for girls in Southern Illinois.

Send comments, photos, story ideas and feedback to Erin Johnson, LTL editor at 800.345.6858 or by e-mail at ejohnson@gsofsi.org.

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4102 S. Water Tower Place
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618.242.5079



Proud Partner



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

► Want to Participate in an upcoming Cookie Booth Sale?

1. You can still sign up to hold a Girl Scout Cookie Booth! Please refer to the eBudde Cookie Cupboard Ordering Quick Guide, which can be found in the Forms section of our website, www.gsofsi.org.
2. Find fun resources to download for your cookie booth on our website, www.gsofsi.org.
http://www.gsofsi.org/fo_leaders.html#cookies
3. We have a great cookie contest during our first weekend Booth Sale this year! See the flyer on the following page for National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend and The I Love Samoa's Contest
4. Need a creative way to sell cookies? We are here to help; below are just a few ideas to get you started! Call or e-mail us if you need further help!
 - a. Contact your local American Legion halls or similar venues for upcoming fish fries or other special events.
 - b. Have an empty parking lot or store front in town? – Set up a drive thru cookie sale.
 - c. Decorate your van and drive around neighborhoods selling cookies.
 - d. Check out local sporting events to see if you can set up a booth.

What creative ways are you selling cookies? Let us know!

For more information please contact Kelly Jansen, Director of Product Program at kjansen@gsofsi.org or Katie Grayling, Product Sales Assistant at kgrayling@gsofsi.org.

► Girls Can Sell Cookies Online Through Digital Cookie Until March 15

GSSI Girl Scouts have sold more than 8,650 boxes of cookies online through the new Digital Cookie platform! GSSI was one of the first councils to set up Girl Scouts' pilot program integrating modern technology into the largest girl-led business in the world. Thank you for working with us while we navigated the excitement and challenges of a brand new web tool of such an enormous scale and importance.

Girls can sell cookies online through the Digital Cookie platform until March 15. If there are girls in your troop who haven't participated yet and want to sign up, there is still time! For assistance signing up or for questions with an existing account, please contact Girl Scouts' Digital Cookie helpdesk: <http://bit.ly/GSUSADOCService>

► 10,000+ Boxes of Girl Scout Cookies Donated To U.S. Service Members So Far

Through the "Operation: Sweet Treats" campaign, GSSI Girl Scouts have been able to secure donations for more than 10,000 boxes of cookies so far during the 2015 Cookie Program. Donations can still be made online through the Digital Cookie platform and at Girl Scout Cookie Booths. Large-scale donations from area businesses have also been made and are welcomed. Learn more about Missions of Moms on their website, missionofmoms.com.

► Girl Scout Cookie Program Important Dates

March 9	First ACH Sweep - 30% of Gift of Caring and Traditional Sales (less Troop Proceeds)
March 16	Cookie Payments due to Troop
March 23	Final ACH Sweep
April/May	Girl Rewards distributed

Council Wide Booth Weekends

March 6-8
March 13-15

For more information please contact Kelly Jansen, Director of Product Program at kjansen@gsofsi.org or Katie Grayling, Product Sales Assistant at kgrayling@gsofsi.org.

► **GSSI's Annual Meeting & All That Glitters Is March 28!**

Save the date for GSSI's Annual Meeting & All That Glitters ceremony! The events will take place on March 28 at Rend Lake Resort (11712 East Windy Lane in Whittington, IL 62897). Hotel rooms are available! Call 618.629.2211 to book! When calling to book a room, reference Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois or group block #4169. The hotel has singles, two queens and king beds. All rooms are available for \$75 a night.

See this issue of *Link to Leaders* for more information. Delegate packets will be mailed the first week of March.

► **Alumna & Former Astronaut Dr. Sandra Magnus to Speak at GSSI Annual Meeting**

Dr. Sandra H. "Sandy" Magnus is the Executive Director of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), the world's largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession, with more than 35,000 individual members in 79 countries.

Born and raised in Belleville, Ill., Dr. Magnus attended the Missouri University of Science and Technology, graduating in 1986 with a degree in physics and in 1990 with a master's degree in electrical engineering. She also holds a Ph.D. from the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Georgia Tech (1996).

Selected to the NASA Astronaut Corps in April, 1996, Dr. Magnus flew in space on the STS-112 shuttle mission in 2002, and on the final shuttle flight, STS-135, in 2011. In addition, she flew to the International Space Station on STS-126 in November 2008, served as flight engineer and science officer on Expedition 18, and returned home on STS-119 after four and a half months on board. Following her assignment on Station, she served at NASA Headquarters in the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate. Her last duty at NASA, after STS-135, was as the deputy chief of the Astronaut Office.

As a girl, she was a Girl Scout in Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois' legacy council River Bluffs. In 2009, Astronaut Magnus talked with local Girl Scouts from the International Space Station via a satellite downlink provided by The Boeing Company. Not only did the girls get to ask Dr. Magnus questions, but they got to see her working on the ISS and see a Girl Scout flag floating behind her. During the long-distant call, Dr. Magnus told the girls, "I want you to believe in yourself. I want you to find out what your dream is and pursue it. You can be whatever you put your mind to!"

While at NASA, Dr. Magnus worked extensively with the international community, including the European Space Agency (ESA) and the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), as well as with Brazil on facility-type payloads. She also spent time in Russia developing and integrating operational products and procedures for the International Space Station. Before joining NASA, Dr. Magnus worked for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company from 1986 to 1991, as a stealth engineer. While at McDonnell Douglas, she worked on internal research and development and on the Navy's A-12 Attack Aircraft program, studying the effectiveness of radar signature reduction techniques.

Dr. Magnus has received numerous awards, including the NASA Space Flight Medal, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, and the 40 at 40 Award (given to former collegiate women athletes to recognize the impact of Title IX).

► **Girl Scouts Celebrated World Thinking Day on Feb. 22**

Each year on and around Feb. 22, Girl Scouts participate in activities and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. World Thinking Day is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Global Action theme based on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which aim to improve the lives of the world's poorest people. The theme for World Thinking Day 2015 was "girls worldwide say 'we can create peace through partnerships.'"

World Thinking Day gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships and is a reminder to girls that they are part of a global community. Girl Scout troops and service units across southern Illinois held World Thinking Day events. Visit GSSI's Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsofSouthernIllinois to see photos.



S'More Outdoors

2015 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Rend Lake Resort, Whittington, IL

GSSI 6th Annual Meeting Registration Form

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Buffet will be served. You will receive meal tickets at the registration table.

Registrations MUST be received by **March 16, 2015**. Please complete a form for each person.

Name: _____ Service Unit: _____

Select one or more: Delegate **\$10** Alternate **\$10** Guest **\$10** Adult Award Nominee (**Gratis**)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Adult Award Recipients please note:

- Your registration is complimentary even if you are a delegate or alternate.
- For President's Award, 2 Service Unit representatives will be complimentary.
- If you will have extra guests for the award ceremony only, they may attend at no charge. No additional registration information is needed. However, please tell us how many are attending: _____
- Guests attending for the day, including meals, must complete a separation registration form and payment.

Online: Go to www.gsofsi.org and click Register at the top of the page. Then login into eBiz. Click on Activities and look for Featured Products.

By Email: programregistrations@gsofsi.org

By Fax: 618.692.0685

By Mail: #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

In Person: Registrations can be dropped off at either the Glen Carbon or Mt. Vernon office

Payment: Check for the amount of \$ _____ Check # _____

Credit Card Authorization Information:

Total amount to be charged \$ _____ Credit Card Type: MasterCard Visa Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Credit Card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

Are there any issues or concerns or positive feedback that you would like addressed either at the Annual Meeting or directly with you? Please submit to: mbolandis@gsofsi.org or mail directly to Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, Attn: Micah Bolandis, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034 by Mar. 24, 2015 to be considered for the Annual Meeting.




girl scouts
of southern illinois

2015 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Rend Lake Resort
Whittington, Illinois

We need your help to make this year's silent auction a huge success!

Traditionally, Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois' generous Service Units, troops and volunteers have created unique themed gift baskets to help raise funds for financial assistance and outdoor experiences. We hope you will consider supporting our girls again by creating a one-of-a-kind basket with new or unused items.

Annual Meeting silent auction baskets and donations can be dropped off, **with the completed donation form, located on reverse side**, at our Corporate Office in Glen Carbon or Regional Service Center in Mt. Vernon by March 19th at 5:00 p.m. Your donation and completed form can also be brought to Annual Meeting - please notify Amy Sample March by 19th with donation information.

Basket Theme Ideas

Go Camping	Plant a Garden
Date Night	Pack a Picnic
Make a Scrapbook	Wine & Dine
Shop 'til I Drop	Cheer on the Cardinals
Bake Sweets	Movie Night
Chocolate Lovers	Food Theme: (Italian, Mexican, Indian, etc.)
Pamper Yourself	Gift Card Extravaganza
Game Night	

To arrange a gift basket pickup by Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois staff or to learn more about GSSI's Annual Meeting Silent Auction, please contact Amy Sample at 618.692.0692 or e-mail asample@gsofsi.org.

Corporate Service Center
4 Ginger Creek Parkway
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
800.345.6858

**Thank you for
your support!**

Regional Service Center
4102 S. Water Tower Place
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
800.345.6858




girl scouts
of southern illinois

2015 Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2015

*Rend Lake Resort
Whittington, Illinois*

Donor Information/Basket Information

(PLEASE PRINT)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Service Unit: _____

Email Address: _____

Basket/Item Information

Basket Name/Theme: _____

Basket Description/Items: _____

Donated By: _____

Retail Value: \$ _____

Corporate Service Center
4 Ginger Creek Parkway
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
800.345.6858

**Thank you for
your support!**

Regional Service Center
4102 S. Water Tower Place
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
800.345.6858



S'More

Outdoors

6th Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2015



Girl Scout S'More Outdoors Bandanas



~~\$5~~

special discount at Annual Meeting only

\$4

All That Glitters Commemorative T-Shirt



Front



Back

\$13-\$16

Gift With Purchase

(while supplies last)

Bookmark
free with any purchase

GSSI Collapsible Water Bottle
with \$25 purchase

Starter Bags
with \$50 purchase

Cookie Bags
with \$75 purchase

Poncho
with \$100 purchase

Gifts are cumulative...the more you buy the more gifts you get

Don't Miss These Deals!

"Clearance Corner"
50% off
all
clearance items

We'll Bring it to YOU!

Tell us what you want

Is there something you need and want from the Girl Scout Shop? If it's in stock, we can bring it to you at the Annual Meeting. All you have to do is contact Stacey Port at 618.307.3601

or email her at:

sport@gsofsi.org

by **March 24**, 2015

► Girl Scouts Honors Girl Scout Alumnae During Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Girl Scouts highlighted several important women in Girl Scout history. These are just a few of the amazing African American women whose courage, confidence and character provide an excellent role model for today's girls. Read their stories below:

Josephine Holloway: Josephine Holloway was a champion of diversity within the Girl Scout Movement and one of the first African American Girl Scout troop leaders. She became an expert on girls' issues and was hired by Girl Scouts of the USA as a field advisor for black troops, a position she held until retirement in 1963. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Admiral Michelle J. Howard: Admiral Howard has served in the United States Navy since 1982 and is the highest-ranking woman in American naval history. She was also the first woman to be promoted to four-star admiral and the first African American woman to command a naval ship. She attributes many values that helped her succeed to her time in Girl Scouting. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Sheila Lee Jackson: Girl Scout alumna Sheila Lee Jackson has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1995. She is currently made it her mission to eradicate bullying and credits Girl Scouts for helping inspire her to make the world a better place through service. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Barbara Lee: Congresswoman Barbara Lee credits her Girl Scout experience for cultivating her passion for community engagement and a love of the outdoors. She first received a degree in social work and is currently part of the Safe Environment Caucus. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Condoleeza Rice: Did you know every female Secretary of State in U.S. history is a former Girl Scout? Condoleeza Rice was the first African American Secretary of State. She was also national security advisor to President George W. Bush, the first woman to serve in that position. ➡ [Read more...](#)

Gloria R. Scott: Dr. Gloria Dean Randle Scott is no stranger to making history. In 1961, she started teaching biology at Marion College, becoming the first African American instructor at a predominantly white institution in Indianapolis. In 1975, she became the first African American National President of Girl Scouts of the USA. ➡ [Read more...](#)

► Girl Scouts Named One of 2015's Most Innovative Nonprofits by Fast Company

Girl Scouts of the USA received honors from Fast Company in its annual ranking of the world's 50 Most Innovative Companies issue. Earning recognition as one of the World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies of 2015 in Not-For-Profit, the publication called out GSUSA for "showing girls technology is about more than texting" by creating Digital Cookie, a fun and educational digital sales program "run entirely by girls."

This recognition arrives on the heels of the successful Digital Cookie launch, which included a notable, first-time presence at the 2015 International Consumer Electronics Show in January. The groundbreaking new addition to the Girl Scout Cookie Program introduces girls to vital 21st-century lessons about online marketing, app usage, and ecommerce, while creating a fun, safe, and interactive space for girls to sell cookies. Digital Cookie marks the first national digital platform in the history of the iconic cookie program. Girl Scouts have also been focused on new ways as using technology to recruit and train adult volunteers and provide new opportunities for girls to join.

"Girl Scouts is the only nonprofit or company focused exclusively on girls to be recognized in Fast Company's 50 Most Innovative Companies 2015 issue, which means we are being celebrated for the values and ideals at the very core of our mission—the idea that girls matter," said Anna Maria Chávez, CEO of GSUSA. "By putting girls at the center of everything we do, we are making society take notice of the vital importance of investing in girls. When girls succeed, so does our world. And when girls are given the confidence, tools, and support they need, they can change the world forever, and for the better."

"The transformational work Girl Scouts is doing on behalf of girls everywhere is both exciting and inspiring," said Fast Company editor Robert Safian. "I commend the organization for its innovation with Digital Cookie and beyond. Affecting future female generations to become women of courage, confidence, and character is no small feat, but thanks to Girl Scouts, girls are able to have fun, impactful, and cutting-edge experiences every day."

GSSI Outdoor Experiences

Planning for the Future!

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois' Commitment:

Camping and having an outdoor experience is an important part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) is committed to providing a first-rate outdoor experience for our girls and volunteers where they can camp, learn leadership skills and build friendships that will last a lifetime. GSSI staff and Board of Directors want more girls to go camping, more girls to love camp and more girls to have a fun and rewarding outdoor experience. All six of our camps are open and we encourage our members to use these great resources for day camping, overnight camping and events. In order to enhance the camping experience, GSSI's Board of Directors contracted with Kaleidoscope, Inc. to complete a Facilities and Planning Assessment.

Outdoor Experiences is an essential part of Girl Scouting:

GSSI strives to provide outdoor experiences that appeal to a wide variety of our membership of all ages and abilities. We are committed to providing every Girl Scout an affordable and accessible outdoor opportunity so that all girls may experience the wonders of nature, explore their natural environment, learn outdoor skills and develop leadership skills. Following are the outdoor experiences we want girls to experience:

- Physical (hiking, water sports, camping, team games)
- Leadership Skill Building
- Educational (environmental preservation, recycling, natural disaster preparedness)
- Recreational (exciting, challenging, unique opportunities)
- Socialization (life skills, care & service)

Assessing and Planning for the future:

For the past several years, the GSSI Board of Directors and staff have collected data in order to continually evaluate camp properties and ensure that camp resources are being optimally used to provide a premier camping and outdoor experience for our girls and volunteers. GSSI's Property Task Force recommended to the Board of Directors that GSSI contract with Kaleidoscope, Inc., a company with considerable expertise in assessing and planning for camp properties since 1984. Kaleidoscope has worked with numerous non-profits including eight Girl Scout councils.

What's Next:

- Kaleidoscope will work with GSSI staff and volunteers to gather and analyze data.
- Kaleidoscope will conduct camp site surveys at all six of GSSI's camp properties.
- Kaleidoscope will conduct 3 focus groups/town hall meetings with volunteers
 - Dates and locations will be announced soon.
- Kaleidoscope will present GSSI a final report with various options and recommendations.

How you can help:

- Continue to use GSSI camps and provide outdoor experiences for girls.
- Share your opinions at one of the focus groups/town hall meetings.
- If selected, participate in a property survey.
- Collaborate with us...working together, we can provide valuable and meaningful camp and outdoor experiences that our girls will remember for the rest of their lives.



Look for more information about property assessment & planning as we continue this journey. Updates will be on GSSI's website, Facebook, Delegate Portal, Link to Leaders, etc.

► Girl Scout Week is March 8-14

GSSI will join nearly 3 million Girl Scouts throughout America in celebrating the 103rd Anniversary of Girl Scouting March 8-14. Girl Scouts across Southern Illinois will celebrate the 103rd anniversary by participating in a variety of local activities and events ranging from flag ceremonies at their schools, birthday party celebrations and community service projects with their troops while others will create displays highlighting Girl Scout history.

“The Girl Scout mission statement contains the words, ‘Make the world a better place.’ Our girls and volunteers continue to make that commitment – the same commitment Girl Scouts have been making for 103 years,” said Villie M. Appoo, CEO Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois. “Girl Scouts has a very rich history of providing girls in all of our communities with a premier Girl Scout Leadership Experience that will give them the courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place for everyone,” Appoo added.

Girl Scout Sunday (March 8) and Girl Scout Sabbath (March 14) is when many Girl Scouts receive special religious recognition awards for researching and exploring their religious culture and practices. Many girls will proudly wear their Girl Scout uniforms to their religious services week’s events.

“Girl Scouting is committed to being a vital part of our communities. During Girl Scout Week, we salute all those who continue to offer their support to Girl Scouting. Their dedication is instrumental in the positive development of young people in our communities,” said Appoo. “During Girl Scout Week, we renew our commitment to ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to grow strong and realize her full potential. But we need your help! We invite everyone – men and women – over 18 to volunteer with Girl Scouts. You don’t have to be a troop leader; even if you can only donate one hour of your time once a year, you’ll be making a great difference in the lives of girls.”

Girl Scouts started when Juliette Gordon Low returned to the United States from England, where she was involved with the Boy Scout and Girl Guides movements. She made a historic phone call to her cousin in March 1912, saying “Come right over! I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, all America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight.” The “something” was Girl Scouts, and the first group of girls embarked on Low’s vision. Low was determined to help expand opportunities and learning for the average American girl. At a time when many girls’ paths in life were limited to their social standing, Low’s vision was to establish an organization where any American girl could expand her personal horizon by having fun, while exploring new interests and contributing to society. Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912.

It is a tradition in Southern Illinois for many mayors or other officials to officially proclaim Girl Scout week in their communities each year. For a proclamation to use during the ceremony, please contact your Membership Development Manager or Director of Membership Joan Burke at 800.345.6858, ext. 1120 or e-mail jburke@gsofsi.org.

► GSSI Robotics Update

FIRST TECH Challenge (FTC): Congratulations to GSSI’s flagship FTC team OOPS!. They won the Motivate Award for team spirit, gracious professionalism and being an ambassador for FIRST robotics at all three of their qualifying tournaments at St. Louis Community College – Meramec, SIU Carbondale and Decatur Hope Academy.

OOPS! will continue to work outreach and training opportunities throughout the year. Look for them at the Saint Louis Science Center on Sunday, March 1, where they will demo for the Science Center’s Engineering Week and at the Southwestern Illinois JrFLL Expo at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville on March 21. OOPS! is available to come to Service Unit meetings to talk about STEM and Robotics.

Junior FIRST LEGO League (JrFLL): Check out GSSI’s JrFLL Expo on Saturday, March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. GSSI ten teams, along with other area squads, will present their work and model that they completed as part of the Think Tank season. The Expo is free and open to the public. JrFLL is an entry level robotics and engineering program for Kindergarten – 3rd grade students.

For more information about GSSI’s Girl Scout Robotics Program, please contact STEM Program Manager Mary Buchanan at 800.345.6858, ext. 1115 or e-mail mbuchanan@gsofsi.org.

Girls Guiding Girls to Girl Scouting (4G's) 2014-15



Have More Fun Together!



adventure



friendship



learning

How 4G's Works:

1. Registered Girl Scouts (all age levels) in the 4G's program need to recruit at least one girl that is not currently registered as a Girl Scout for the 2014-15 membership year to join Girl Scouts. Girls are able to recruit girls at all age levels. The recruited girl must be **new** to Girl Scouting.
2. Both girls fill out their portion of the 4G's registration form on the back of this page. The newly recruited girl must register using the 4G's registration form by May 31, 2015. **Please remember to mark t-shirt sizes.**
3. The recruited girl submits her 4G's registration form along with a \$15 Girl Scouts of the USA membership fee*. Mail to: GSSI, ATTN: 4G's Coordinator, #4 Ginger Creek Parkway, Glen Carbon, IL 62034. Once she is registered, the recruited girls can start attending Girl Scout programs and events.

*Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Call 800.345.6858 or visit our website, www.gsofsi.org, for the Opportunity Fund form to request financial assistance. This form should be submitted with the 4G's registration.

4G's Perks:

GIRL SCOUT RECRUITER

Free 4G's t-shirt

Free 4G's patch

The proud feeling of sharing Girl Scouting with other girls in your community.

NEW RECRUITED GIRL SCOUT

Free 4G's t-shirt

Free 4G's patch

Membership in the premier leadership organization for girls!

New friends, opportunities and lots of fun!

I can't wait to be a Girl Scout.



Find Us:



www.gsofsi.org

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Girls Guiding Girls to Girl Scouting Registration

GIRL SCOUT RECRUITER

Name: _____ Troop: _____ T-Shirt Size (youth or adult) _____

I _____ acknowledge that my daughter /ward will be participating in the Girls Guiding Girls to Girl Scouting program and she has my permission.

_____ (parent signature)

NEWLY RECRUITED Girl Information:

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Use girl's e-mail address if she is 13 & up; otherwise use family e-mail address T-Shirt size (youth or adult) _____

Demographics:

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) ____/____/____ School Grade: _____ Troop # _____

Number of years as Girl Scout: _____ School Name: _____

Custodial Care: (check one): Both Parents Mother/Guardian Only Father/Guardian Only Other: _____

Girl Scouts respects and welcomes people from all backgrounds and abilities. By completing this optional question, you can help ensure community support and funding for Girl Scouts in your community. This information is used for statistical purposes only. Thank you for providing the information requested.

She is: (check all that apply)

American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African-American Hawaiian or Pacific Islander White Other (please specify): _____

She is Hispanic or Latina: Yes No

Parent/Guardian 1

Address is same as girl

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last Name: _____

Address (if different from girl): _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

As a Parent/Guardian, I will volunteer

Parent/Guardian 2

Address is same as girl

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last Name: _____

Address (if different from girl): _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

As a Parent/Guardian, I will volunteer

Annual Membership fee \$15

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois won't refuse a registration due to one's inability to pay the \$15 Annual Membership fee.

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois has financial assistance to help girls who might otherwise be unable to participate in Girl Scouting.

__Cash __Check (payable to GSSI) __ Opportunity Fund __ Visa __ Master Card __ Discover __ Amex

We acknowledge that the registrant will make the Girl Scout Promise and accept the Girl Scout Law. The registrant has permission to join Girl Scouts.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

*When participating in Girl Scout activities the registrant may be photographed for print, videotaped, or electronically imaged. Images may be used in promotional materials, news releases, and other published formats for either the local Girl Scout Councils or Girl Scouts of the USA. The images will be the sole property of either the local Girl Scout Council or Girl Scouts of the USA.

I DO NOT give permission for the registrant to be photographed, videotaped or otherwise electronically imaged.

► Four Southern Illinois Girls Receive Girl Scout Medal of Honor

GSSI is pleased to announce that four local Girl Scouts recently received the Girl Scout Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is a lifesaving award given by Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) to girls who have saved or attempted to save a human life under circumstances that indicate heroism. This award is reserved for those Girl Scouts who have performed heroic acts beyond the degree of maturity and training to be expected at their age.

Brianna and Brittany McGehee, twins from Mt. Vernon, were 11 years old in June 2014 when they came to the aid of their sister Shelia. Brianna and Brittany were going to babysit for Shelia's three young children when they found their sister face down on the bathroom floor. From their Girl Scout First Aid/CPR training, the girls believed Shelia showed signs of having had a stroke. Brittany and Brianna called the hospital and turned Shelia to her side. With their First Aid training and assistance from the hospital operator, the girls gave their sister aspirin and cool rags and kept her talking. Once stable, Brianna and Brittany helped their sister into their mother's truck to go to the hospital. "We had CPR/First Aid training, but it was really scary when it's your own sister that you love," said Brianna. "I'm glad that I was going to babysit that day and that I have my First Aid/CPR certificate," added Brittany. Brianna and Brittany are the daughters of Gary and Donna McGehee.

Cheyenne Chalkus of Salem was 18 years old last August when she saved the life of her 22 month old nephew Skyler. Cheyenne was sitting on the deck of her family home when Skyler and two other nephews were playing in the hot tub close by and her mother was preparing the grill for dinner. Cheyenne's mother went into the kitchen briefly, not realizing that Cheyenne left the deck to go to the restroom. Upon her return, Cheyenne's oldest nephew said that Skyler was asleep in the hot tub. Cheyenne ran to the hot tub and found Skyler face down and unconscious. She immediately laid him on the deck and started chest compressions while her mother called 911. After several compressions Skyler started to faintly cry and breathe on his own. Cheyenne then sat him up and waited for paramedics to arrive. Once there, the paramedics found Skyler fully alert. Cheyenne was told by the paramedics that Skyler appeared to have been in the water for 30 seconds or less. "They said it was a good thing I knew CPR," said Cheyenne. "Today he is a completely healthy and happy boy, and I am so glad I could help him," she added. Cheyenne is the daughter of Scott and Carole Chalkus.

Kayli Kohn of Fairfield was 10 years old when she rescued her two year old brother Hudson in 2013. Kayli was putting Hudson into the van as the family was leaving a local business. Before her father and stepmother got into the car, Hudson accidentally hit the gear shift and the van began to roll backwards into the street, although the keys were not in the van's ignition. Kayli began to yell to get the attention of the oncoming traffic. Her attempts were successful as the cars came to a stop before colliding with the family vehicle. After crossing two lanes of traffic, the van struck a building and came to a stop. Hudson was unharmed when he was taken out of the vehicle, and it was later determined that the van's gear shift was defective. "My brother was so scared, and he was crying in my arms. Nobody got hurt; we are so lucky. I love my brother so much," said Kayli. Kayli is the daughter of Jessica and Jeremy Kohn.

The Girl Scouts Medal of Honor recipients, along with Girl Scout Gold Awardees and Girl Scout Silver Awardees, will be honored at the 2015 All That Glitters Awards Ceremony on March 28 at Rend Lake Resort in Whittington, IL.

► GSSI & Other United Way Agencies Celebrated 2-1-1 Day On Feb. 11

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is a proud partner of various United Ways throughout our 40 1/2 county jurisdiction. On Feb. 11, United Way agencies in our area celebrated "2-1-1 Day" in honor of the good things that United Way agencies are doing to help people.

Dialing 2-1-1 (or 1-800-427-4626) allows people to get connected to a trained resource specialist. TTY (1-866-385-6525) and multilingual services are also available. Calls to United Way 2-1-1 are always free and confidential.

Assistance that can be found by dialing 2-1-1 includes: basic needs such as food pantries, shelters, rent and utility assistance, physical and mental health resources, job programs, support for seniors and people with disabilities and support for children, youth and families.

United Way's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.

► Scholarships Available to Girl Scouts

Peace First Prize

The Peace First Prize recognizes young people between the ages of 8–22 for meaningful peacemaking work that creates lasting positive impact in their community, neighborhood, or school. Peace First annually awards five young leaders who have demonstrated compassion, courage, and the power to create collaborative change. Winners will each receive a \$25,000 Peace First Fellowship over two years to further their peacemaking work.

Applications and nominations for the Peace First Prize are open from January 5th through March 30th, 2015. Winners will be announced in the fall. Additionally, this year Peace First is aiming to increase the number of nominations and applications in the first month. As an incentive, if you nominate a Girl Scout or a Girl Scout applies by February 6th, you both will be entered into a raffle for a chance to donate \$100 to the peacemaking organization of your choice.

Visit <http://www.peacefirst.org/prize/index.php/nominate> to nominate a girl today!

Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program

Nominate young volunteers (ages 6-18) for a chance to win \$10,000! To submit a nomination, go to kohlskids.com and follow the online instructions. Nominate now through March 13; nominators must be 21 or older.

Do you know a Girl Scout is looking for scholarship opportunities? Check out a new section on the GSSI website, gsofsi.org, for scholarship information. We will add information as it becomes available to us. Please share and check back often for updates.

► GSSI Council Shop Update

New Winter Items

Check out our new merchandise for winter and cookie time! GSSI has a multitude of new merchandise for girls and adult volunteers. Stop by a retail shop soon or ➡ Browse our catalog

GSSI Council Shops Extended Hours:

GSSI Council Shops will be open from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on the following Saturdays:

March 7, 2015

April 11, 2015

May 2, 2015

Mobile Council Shop

GSSI's Mobile Shop will be at Rend Lake Resort on March 28 for Annual Meeting & All That Glitters Awards Ceremony. Contact Stacey Port by March 24 with any specific requests for merchandise

Several areas are running Mobile Shops at their events. You can too! If interested in a running a Mobile Shop at your local service unit or regional event, please contact the Beth Ross, Business Services Manager at 800.345.6858, ext. 1129 or e-mail: bross@gsofsi.org or one of the Council Shop managers listed below.

GSSI Council Shop Contact Information:

Corporate Service Center: Stacey Port: 618-692-0692, ext. 1101 • e-mail: sport@gsofsi.org

Regional Service Center: Brittany Galloway: 618.242.5079, ext. 2103 • e-mail: bgalloway@gsofsi.org

Go to GSSI's Online Shop

➡ Go to GSSI's Online Shop

► #GirlsRuleGSSI Facebook Group

GSSI has a Facebook group just for GSSI Girl Scouts ages 13-18. The group will be used to generate program ideas, share tips about Girl Scout awards, network and other discuss topics related to Girl Scouting as a teen. The group is private and moderated by GSSI Program Manager Julie Fox. To join, girls should e-mail Julie at jfox@gsofsi.org. 7

► **Norma Dyer of Mt. Vernon Named February Pearl of the Month**

GSSI is pleased to announce that Norma Dyer of Mt. Vernon is the February Pearl of the Month. The Pearl of the Month Award recognizes a Girl Scout volunteer who has delivered service beyond expectations and helped to ensure that the approximately 14,000 Girl Scouts in southern Illinois benefit from a premier Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Nominees must meet several criteria, including completion of all required training for his or her volunteer position as well as providing outstanding service to his or her Service Unit or the Council.

Norma is a very seasoned Girl Scout volunteer who currently leads three troops and has recently taken the responsibility of Service Unit Treasurer. She also volunteers to clean the Girl Scout “Little House” that many troops use for meetings. In addition to her Girl Scout roles, Norma serves her community through many programs and exhibits all aspects of the Girl Scout Law on a daily basis. To her peers, Norma is known as a Girl Scout phenomenon and is always the first volunteer to come to help and the last to leave.

For more information about GSSI’s Pearl of the Month Award, please contact Volunteer Services Manager Amanda Kaemmerer at 800.345.6858, ext. 1142 or e-mail akaemmerer@gsofsi.org.

► **What’s Happening Around the Council**

Troop #8140 and Troop #8141 visited the Library of Arts in DuQuoin to study famous cartoonists and learn how to make four panel comic strips, flip books and other cartoons.

Jefferson County Troop #8623 made Valentines for every resident and staff member at White Oak Nursing and Rehab. The troop also donated Girl Scout Cookies. Other good deeds the troop has done lately include hosting a “Frozen” event to collect hats and gloves and making pumpkin bread to thank Mt. Vernon Firefighters.

Troops #205, #958 and #971 from the Troy/St. Jacob area worked on their Cadette First Aid Badge.

For World Thinking Day, SU 207 Belleville/Swansea had a cake with a candle on it representing each country girls researched this year. Older girls and parents took photos of the illuminated cake to share through social media to encourage Girl Scouts everywhere to share their light in the world.

Troop #356 from St. Joseph’s School in Freeburg have been busy. They enjoyed a First Aid/CPR presentation from Agape CRP Plus on Feb. 9 and learned to make pretzels with Auntie Annie’s Pretzels at their troop meeting on Feb. 23.

UPAC Troop #8597 had a slumber party and tie dyed shirts at Camp Cedar Point.

Wood River Troop #130 hosted Kim Delp and Julie McDonald to talk about their mission trips to Haiti. Girls were inspired to hold a pencil and soap drive for Haitian children, as these items are both in much need in the country and easy to ship. The troop also hosted a “He and Me” dance that 53 area Girl Scouts attended .

Girl Scout Daisies spent the day at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge on Feb. 7. Girls learned about bald eagles and worked on Journey Awards.

Brownie Troop #258 from Troy/St. Jacob enjoyed tubing at the GSSI Polar Plunge program at Hidden Valley Ski Resort.

Akin Troop #8043 completed their MEdia Journey during GSSI’s “It’s Your Story-Tell It!” program at Camp Whispering Oaks. Girls were excited to earn Journey awards in a single day.

Girl Scouts held a cookie booth at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce’s Home Show on Feb. 14. Mayor Chesley was among the guests who stopped by.

Troop #8349 from Freeburg had a “super fun” time rock climbing at Upper Limits in downtown St. Louis.

Make Sure Your Area is Represented!

E-mail Erin Johnson at erjohnson@gsofsi.org to share 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.

Pearl of the Month Nomination Form

Do you know an outstanding Girl Scout volunteer? Do you think they go above and beyond? Do you want to recognize their efforts? Girl Scout of Southern Illinois knows our volunteers are the heart of our organization. The GSSI Pearls program is our way to recognize outstanding volunteers who help provide a premier Girl Scout Leadership Experience for the 14,000 Girl Scouts in southern Illinois.

Nominee Information:

Service Unit: _____

Troop Number (If Applicable): _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of Nomination: _____

Nominator Information:

Service Unit: _____

Troop Number (If Applicable): _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Nominee Girl Scout Volunteer Positions Held (Past/Present):

- Troop Leader (01)
- Troop Co-Leader (02)
- Service Team Member - Please List Position(s) _____
- Service Unit Delegate
- Event Volunteer
- Other (Please List) _____

Criteria & Guidelines:

- Nominee must be currently registered as an adult member of GSUSA.
- Nominee must have completed all required training for her or his volunteer position.
- Nominee must be in good financial standing with Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois.
- Nominations should represent volunteer service during the current membership year.
- Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis and awarded monthly.
- All nominations that are approved by the Adult Awards Committee will be awarded either the month they are received or in an upcoming month.
- One Pearl of the Month will be chosen as the Pearl of the Year and recognized at the Annual Meeting.

Please return to:

awards@gsofsi.org

Fax: 618-692-0685

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Attn: Amanda Kaemmerer

#4 Ginger Creek Parkway

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Please provide a description of outstanding service in one of the two categories below.

1. Event Coordination

Describe in detail how the nominee supported the program or event including: planning, publicity, attendance, girl evaluation, impact on girls or community, and how it related to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

2. Overall Contributions

Describe in detail how the nominee has demonstrated service beyond expectations to ensure girls benefit from a premier Girl Scout leadership experience including: growing membership, retaining members, developing programs, assisting other volunteers, etc.

Program Updates

► GSSI Programs with Upcoming Deadlines

Snow Power Gymnastics (Daisies-Cadettes)

Date: March 18, 2015 (deadline 3/4) 6:30-7:30 p.m. (*Date changed to March 18*)

Cost: \$8/girl

Place: Snow Power Gymnastics & Dance, Herrin, IL

Come to Snow Power Gymnastics for a fun-filled hour of gymnastics. Girls will try out the low balance beam, uneven bars and have free time on the blowup trampolines. Girls can earn the GSSI Gymnastics patch, which is available for \$2 each through the Program Department.

Art in 3D (Daisies, Brownies)

Date: March 21, 2015 (deadline 3/4) 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. or 1-2 p.m.

Cost: \$8/girl

Place: Three Sisters Crafts, O'Fallon, IL

Art in 3D—a new class for Daisies and Brownies! Use your creative side as you design an art collage on canvas. Girls will paint a picture on canvas and decorate it with a variety of beads, tiles, and other textural materials.

New Cuisines Cooking Class for Cadettes (Cadettes)

Date: March 23, 2015 (deadline 3/9) 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20/girl

Place: Dierberg's Grocery, Edwardsville, IL

Join us at Dierberg's School of Cooking to learn new cooking techniques and healthy living tips while cooking up an amazing meal. Cadettes will make Asian lettuce wraps, southern oven-fried chicken, apple quinoa salad, old-fashioned buttermilk biscuits and surprise brownies. You will earn and take home your New Cuisines Legacy Badge and a patch.

Daisies Discover Camp (Daisies)

Date: March 25, 2015 (deadline 3/5) 6-8 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Camp Chan Ya Ta, Worden, IL

Explore camp, nature, sights and sounds, go for a hike, and EAT S'MORES! Discover what camp is all about!

Braiding and Bending (Juniors)

Date: March 25, 2015 (deadline 3/5) 6-8 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl; \$1/adult

Place: SIU Craft Shop, Carbondale, IL

Learn about the different tools a jeweler would use, then make a macramé braided necklace with a pendant. Design and have fun hammering and bending copper to make a distressed copper pin! Get a start on earning two steps of your Jeweler Badge!

Brownie Sense Badge (Brownies)

Date: March 28, 2015 (deadline 3/4) 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Cost: \$ 12/girl (including badge)

Place: St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO

Visit the St. Louis Science Center and earn your Senses Badge!

Junior Produce Designer Badge (Juniors)

Date: March 28, 2015 (deadline 3/4) 1-3 p.m.

Cost: \$ 12/girl (including badge)

Place: St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO

Visit the St. Louis Science Center and earn your Product Designer Badge!

Program Updates

Tech World of Girls (Brownies)

Date: March 31 and April 7 & 14, 2015 (deadline 3/10) 6-8 p.m.

Cost: \$20/girl

Place: Kaskaskia College Trenton Center, Trenton, IL

Brownie World of Girls Journey with a STEM twist! Earn your World of Girls Journey and awards (included in program fee). This series meets on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 31, April 7 & April 14.

The Mysterious Juliette Society (Juniors-Cadettes)

Date: April 4, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Nashville) OR 2-5 p.m. (Glen Carbon)

Cost: \$7/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Nashville Public Library, Nashville, IL, OR Glen Carbon Public Library, Glen Carbon, IL

Earn your Detective Badge or work towards your Special Agent Badge while joining the...Mysterious Juliette Society! Create a code, brush up on your investigating skills and solve a mystery in the library!

Story Book Making (Juniors)

Date: April 4, 2015 (deadline 3/21) 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl

Place: SIU Museum, Carbondale, IL

Participants will make several types of books, including a simple bound book, then write an imaginary tale about the museum in their favorite genre! Girls will earn their Scribe Badge (included in fee).

Women of the Woods (Daisies-Brownies)

Date: April 7, 2015 (deadline 3/12) 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Camp Wassatoga, Effingham, IL

Do you love the outdoors, but only wish there were more patches you could earn that show off your outdoor skills? Well then, be one of the first to earn GSSI's new Outdoor Progression Patches! You will have the chance to learn a new knot, make a sit upon, learn the rules of hiking (then apply them) and even walk away with a new S.W.A.P.! Did I mention that we will have the chance to eat a snack?

Camp In at the Science Center (Daisies-Ambassadors)

Date: April 10-11, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 5 p.m. on Friday – 9 a.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$46/girl/adult

Place: St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO

Spend the night with the exhibits, watch a planetarium show, and view an Omnimax movie with your closest friends at the St Louis Science Center! This year, we are going to try new technology, do some hands on demonstrations, and play on the exhibits and enjoy a pizza dinner!

Start Sewing (Juniors-Cadettes)

Date: April 10, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$6/girl

Place: SIU Craft Shop, Carbondale, IL

Learn all the sewing basics including 3 different hand stitches and how to use a sewing machine. All materials will be provided, but you can bring your own fabric if you prefer.

Art of Trees (Cadettes)

Date: April 11, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Cost: \$6/girl; \$1/adult

Place: National Quilt Museum, Paducah, KY

Earn your Tree Badge indoors! This program will give you an artistic view of leaves behind the tree.

Daisy Flower Garden (Daisies)

Date: April 11, 2015 (deadline 3/25) 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.

Cost: \$11/girl; \$8/adult

Place: Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, MO

Program Updates

Girls tour the garden looking for their Daisy Flower Friends and learn all about how flowers make the world a better place! Watering Can Award will be completed.

Program Aide Leadership Training (Cadettes)

Date: April 11, 2015 (deadline 3/17) 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Cost: \$15/girl

Place: GSSI Corporate Service Center, Glen Carbon, IL

Do you enjoy working with younger girls? If you are going into the 7th grade or above, have completed your Leadership in Action (LiA) and want to be a PA in a troop setting then this training is for you. Girls will participate in leadership training where they will learn how to lead and work with younger girls. Once girls complete this training they can begin working on the 20 hours needed to earn the PA pin. When the girl completes her hours and submits the final paperwork she will be awarded the PA pin.

Who Da Junk'd It! (Brownies)

Date: April 11, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 2-6 p.m.

Cost: \$8/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...Upcycle?! What is that?! You'd never guess what new things can be made out of things people throw away! Patch included in fee.

Wild About Habitat (Juniors)

Date: April 11, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cost: \$8/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...Upcycle?!?! What is that?! You'd never guess what new things can be made out of things people throw away!

Camp Clean Up Day (Daisies-Ambassadors)

Date: April 12, 2015 (deadline 4/6) 12 – 6 p.m.

Cost: NO COST

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL OR Camp Chan Ya Ta, Worden, IL OR Camp Whispering Oaks, Salem, IL

Roll up your sleeves and help us get camp into tip top shape for the summer camping season! Tasks may include cleaning out units, power-washing units, staining, trail clearing, and more.

St. Louis Sampler Cooking Class for Juniors (Juniors)

Date: April 13, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 6:30-8 p.m.

Cost: \$20/girl

Place: Dierberg's Grocery, Edwardsville, IL

Join us at Dierberg's School of Cooking and learn how a healthy recipe make-over can be both delicious and nutritious. Juniors will earn their Simple Meals Legacy Badge while creating Italian salad, deep dish pizza, potato skins, gooey butter cake and a root beer float. The Badge and a patch is included in the fee.

Glow-in-the Dark Fun (Cadettes-Ambassadors)

Date: April 16, 2015 (deadline 3/16) 7-9 p.m.

Cost: \$7/girl; \$1/ adult

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL

Come enjoy Camp Cedar Point at night as we play fun glow-in-the-dark Frisbee and enjoy some amazing glow-in-the-dark archery!

Brownie Quest Letterboxing (Brownies)

Date: April 18, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 1-3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10/girl; \$2/ adult

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL

Brownies, join your Cadette sisters as you explore Camp Cedar Point and use your navigation skills to uncover the keys to your Brownie Quest Journey! Girls will complete the requirements for the Letterboxing Badge (included in fee) and

Program Updates

work on some of the Brownie Quest Journey (book included).

Flower Power (Juniors)

Date: April 18, 2015 (deadline 3/23) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: \$6/girl; \$1/ adult

Place: Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge, Marion, IL

Eat a flower! Go on a flower hunt. Meet the flower families. Make floral crafts. Capture it all in your flower power journal. Hike the awesome Rocky Bluff Trail and enjoy a picnic while you earn your Flowers Badge. Come enjoy the springtime outdoors! Girls will need to bring a sack lunch. (Badge included in fee).

Frozen (Daisies)

Date: April 18, 2015 (deadline 3/23) 9, 10, 11 am, 1, 2, or 3 p.m.

Cost: \$8/girl; \$2/ adult

Place: Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL

It's a winter wonderland at this Frozen event just for Daisies. Activities and snacks will be themed after the Disney movie Frozen. Girls will hike down a sparkling trail, play games, make crafts and sing Frozen songs provided by the older girl troops as they learn about wildlife from the north and their care. Event compliments activities in the 5 Friends, 4 Stories & 3 Cheers for Animals Journey. Each session will be 2 hours, starting at 9 am.

Going Buggy (Brownies)

Date: April 18, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$10/girl

Place: The Gardens at SIUE, Edwardsville, IL

These little creatures are the largest population on earth. They pollinate, decompose and feed so many other animals. What would we do without bugs? This session will have you going buggy as you complete your Bugs Badge at The Gardens at SIUE.

LiA Quest (Cadettes)

Date: April 18, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10/girl

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL

Learn about Questing, Letterboxing and Geocaching! Set your own course and then show your Brownie sisters how to find the keys using clues you create! This event is designed to help Cadettes earn their LiA (Leader in Action) award for the Brownie Quest Journey. The entire award will be completed at this event and will be given to participants at the end. Note: LiA is a prerequisite for the Program Aide award.

Daisies Discover Camp (Daisies)

Date: April 21, 2015 (deadline 4/2) 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Fox Ridge State Park, Charleston, IL

Explore camp, nature, sights and sounds, go for a hike and EAT S'MORES! Discover what camp is all about!

Women of the Woods (Daisies-Brownies)

Date: April 23, 2015 (deadline 4/9) 5-8 p.m.

Cost: \$5/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL

Do you love the outdoors, but only wish there were more patches you could earn that show off your outdoor skills? Well then, be one of the first to earn GSSI's new Outdoor Progression Patches! You will have the chance to learn a new knot, make a sit upon, learn the rules of hiking (then apply them) and even walk away with a new S.W.A.P.! Did I mention that we will have the chance to eat a snack?

Basic Drawing Workshop (Juniors)

Date: April 24, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

Cost: \$9/girl; \$1/adult

Place: Better Than Ever, Paducah, KY

Program Updates

Learn the basics about drawing the “right way” by varying pressure of the pencils and lightly building framework from basic shapes like the pros do, and then learning shading techniques to add detail and depth to your creations. Badge included in fee.

Scouting for Wildlife (Cadettes-Ambassadors)

Date: April 24-25, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 5 p.m. on Friday to 3 p.m. on Saturday

Cost: \$25/girl; \$20/adult

Place: Camp Cedar Point, Makanda, IL

Pull a seine and catch fish in Little Grassy Lake, see how a fish shocking boat works, practice wildlife tracking, install a game camera, build a nest box, meet wildlife researchers and rehabilitators as you learn about careers in wildlife conservation at this weekend long campout at Camp Cedar Point. Scouts will earn their Scouting for Wildlife Badge along the way as well as have fun with other older girls from around the Council. Badge included in fee.

First Aid Badge & Emergency Preparedness Patch (Juniors)

Date: April 25, 2015 (deadline 3/25) 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cost: \$15/girl

Place: Meadow Heights Baptist Church, Collinsville, IL

Earn the First Aid Legacy Badge and the Emergency Preparedness Patch in this fun, interactive workshop! The Red Cross will provide hands on sessions and activities for girls to take part in. Registered participants will also receive a First Aid Kit! Badge included in fee.

Macro Mania (Brownies-Juniors)

Date: April 25, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 9-11 a.m. (Brownies) or 1-3 p.m. (Juniors)

Cost: \$5/girl

Place: National Great Rivers Museum, Alton, IL

Don your water boots and find the aquatic animals that call the pond and river home! Brownies earn their Bugs Badge and Juniors earn their Animal Habitats Badge as they explore the waters around the Riverlands in Alton! Badge included in fee.

Shake, Rattle, and Roll (Juniors)

Date: April 25, 2015 (deadline 3/30) 2-4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$9/girl; \$6/adult

Place: Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Marion, IL

Take a journey through the ages of music and explore music in new environments. Build your own nature instrument and make music together! Girls will earn their Musician Badge (included in fee).

Voice of Animals Part I (Seniors-Ambassadors)

Date: April 25, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cost: \$9/girl; \$5/adult

Place: Legendary Mustang Sanctuary, Alhambra, IL

Come visit a mustang sanctuary and learn all about horse rescue in Illinois. There may even be a few burros. You may also see a few horse tricks! You are welcome to bring a sack lunch and eat on the premises. This will fulfill steps one and four of the Senior Voice of Animals Badge. Would you like to earn this Badge? After this program, head out to Marcoot Jersey Creamery on 526 Dudleyville Rd, Greenville, IL, which is about 33 miles away to fulfill step three. Seniors who attend both sessions will be given this Badge. Ambassadors are welcome to come also.

Voice of Animals Part II (Seniors-Ambassadors)

Date: April 25, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$4/girl/adult

Place: Marcoot Jersey Creamery, Greenville, IL

Come tour this working dairy where you will learn the ins and outs of the milking process and see how cows are milked. Your tour will also include seeing the calves and visiting the creamery where you will learn the process of making cheese. You will also receive a snack of cheese curds and ice cream. Seniors, this will fulfill step three of the Voice for Animals Badge. If you want to earn the Senior Voice of Animals Badge, head over to Legendary Mustang Sanctuary at

Program Updates

10107 Klenke Rd, Alhambra, IL, which is about 33 miles away to fulfil steps one and four. Ambassadors are welcome as well.

Camp Clean Up Day (Daisies-Ambassadors)

Date: April 26, 2015 (deadline 4/20) 12 – 6 p.m.

Cost: NO COST

Place: Camp Butterfly, Farmington, MO OR Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL OR Camp Wassatoga, Effingham, IL
Roll up your sleeves and help us get camp into tip top shape for the summer camping season! Tasks may include cleaning out units, power-washing units, staining, trail clearing, and more.

Junior Green Thumbs (Juniors)

Date: April 26, 2015 (deadline 4/8) 1–2:30 p.m. OR 3-4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10/girl; \$3/adult

Place: The Children’s Museum, Edwardsville, IL

How does your garden grow? Come learn all about plants and gardening while earning your Gardener Badge.

Shake, Rattle, and Roll (Juniors)

Date: April 29, 2015 (deadline 4/6) 4-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$9/girl; \$6/adult

Place: Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Marion, IL

Take a journey through the ages of music and explore music in new environments. Build your own nature instrument and make music together! Girls will earn their Musician Badge (included in fee).

Live Like an Archaeologist (Cadettes-Ambassadors)

Date: May 2-3, 2015 (deadline 4/1) 2 p.m. on Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday

Cost: \$55/girl; \$8/adult

Place: Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville, IL

Want to try archaeology? Come experience life as an Archaeologist in Kampsville. Explore dig sites, learn how to map and analyze artifacts and then spend the night in the dorms on site in Kampsville. Learn about life as a Hopewellian as you walk the areas this ancient group of people lived! Meals and program included on site at the Center for American Archeology. Girls will work toward requirements of Council’s Own Archaeology Badge.

The most up-to-date information about GSSI Programs is available on our online program calendar, where you can search by location, level, interest and more! Visit our website, www.gsofsi.org to see more.

► **Upcoming Girl Scout Gold Award Trainings**

This workshop is for registered Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors interested in working on the Girl Scout Gold Award. The training is required to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award. To register for an upcoming training complete a program registration form and submit with payment of \$5.

Corporate Service Center, Glen Carbon

Saturday March 21, 2015 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Deadline: March 7, 2015

Camp Wassatoga, Effingham

Wednesday April 15, 2015 6-8 p.m. Deadline: April 1, 2015

Program Updates

► Congratulations to our Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients!

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. To earn the award, a Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador must complete two Girl Scout Journeys, attend a Girl Scout Gold Award training session, and get approval from the Girl Scout Gold Award Committee before beginning their project. Please note: if a girl earns her Girl Scout Silver Award, she only has to complete one Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador Journey. Girl Scout Seniors/Ambassadors work individually on their projects, which address a need in their community. The girls dedicate roughly 80 hours each towards their Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The girls work extremely hard on their projects and we are so proud of each and every one of them

Congratulations to the following Girl Scouts who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award
Lainey Brown, Troop #915, O'Fallon
Emily Fuhler, Troop #676, Trenton

► Check Out GSSI's Outdoor Experience Progression Program

The Outdoor Experience Progression Program was devised to help make going outdoors an experience for continual learning and growth. The plan is designed to give you a GUIDE on how to plan outdoor experiences and progressions with your troop. The underlying thought of the program is to challenge the campers and provide new and exciting opportunities.

Complete all activities in the Beginner level to build a foundation. All levels require that the camper complete all activities for each category. Use good judgment when completing the plan.

The Outdoor Experience Progression Patch Program is designed to allow a camper to earn one progression patch per year. The more advanced levels may take two years to complete. The levels of the Progression are:

Level One: Center Patch

Level Two: Beginner

Level Three: Adventurer

Level Four: Expert Camper

Level Five: Outdoor Explorer

Level Six: Intermediate Camper

Level Seven: Master Camper

All materials are available on our website, www.gsofsi.org. For more information about GSSI's Outdoor Experience Progression Program, please contact Director of Program Angie Suhre at 800.345.6858, ext. 1112 or e-mail asuhre@gsofsi.org.

➡ See Outdoor Experience Progression Program Details Online

Join us for an Immersion Weekend in Hands-On Astronomy

STEM training from the NIRCam team for NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope



The ***Astronomy Camp for Girl Scout Leaders*** is a science education program sponsored by NASA's next large space telescope: The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). We seek to develop a long-term relationship with all GSUSA Councils to engage girls and young women not only in science and math education but also in the astronomical and technological concepts relating to JWST's scientific mission.

- Join a nationwide group of leaders in STEM education for JWST.
- Learn to lead hands-on activities in astronomy with your troops.
- Experience the nighttime sky.
- Understand the depth of our Universe in space & time.
- Observe with the 61-inch Kuiper telescope in the Catalina mountains near Tucson, AZ.
- **Next Camp: April 24-26, 2015**

Our Mission - Here at The University of Arizona, we pioneered the field of "infrared astronomy" and are building the near-infrared camera (NIRCam) for JWST, to be launched in 2018. The telescope's primary mission is to image the first objects that became luminous in the Universe as it cooled from its initial hot condition. It will also explore our human "origins" through studies of the formation of stars, planets, and solar systems. Explaining such revolutionary images to the public presents a major educational challenge and yet these topics are of fundamental interest in society. Our partnership

with the Girl Scouts enables us to promote the scientific results from JWST/NIRCam and, more importantly, helps improve science and math education throughout the US.



Observing with the famous Kuiper telescope.

Relevance to the GSUSA - Our training also aligns well with the *It's Your Planet-Love It! Journey Series*. A typical Camp workshop includes hands-on activities in basic astronomy (night sky, stars, galaxies, optics, telescopes, etc.) as well as in "cosmology" (lookback time, expansion of the Universe, etc.). We also dissect cameras, set up and operate nighttime viewing equipment, and observe with the famous 61-inch Kuiper telescope at nearby Mt. Lemmon Observatory.

Our Team and Goals - Since 2003, our NIRCam group has trained and equipped over 250 adult leaders, staff, and volunteers from GSUSA Councils in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Japan, so they can in turn teach young women essential concepts in astronomy, the night sky environment, applied math, and engineering. Our Camp workshops model what astronomers do by engaging people in the process of scientific inquiry, and we equip leaders to host astronomy-related activities at the troop level. The Camp staff consists of astronomers and educators at different levels (undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty) as well as local GSUSA leaders from the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona in Tucson, AZ.



Measuring the expanding Universe!

The NIRCam project is led by astronomer Dr. Marcia Rieke and managed by Ms. Debbie Wilson, both of whom are former Girl Scouts. Some of the principal engineers at Lockheed Martin are also former Girl Scouts. The Camp Directors, Dr. Don McCarthy and Dr. Larry Lebofsky, are astronomers at The University of Arizona and conduct both research and education at many levels. Together with enthusiastic astronomy graduate students, they form a team dedicated to improving STEM education: Science, technology, engineering, and math.

The Camp Site - The Camps are held at the Hacienda Center of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona (GSSoAz) on the outskirts of Tucson, Arizona. This site provides a spacious and unique learning environment with dark skies, interesting desert scenery, and southwestern décor. Our NIRCam/JWST project pays travel expenses and hosts the entire workshop.

Please Join Us! - As a participant, we would be equipping you to host astronomy-related activities at your location and to develop a long-term, educational relationship through 2020 that would lead to your receiving some of the first images from JWST, perhaps even before they are generally available. We expect that you will become a leader in your Council and will help train other leaders in the use of the materials and information we provide. Even if you do not attend our workshop, you can contact GSUSA leaders who work in your Council to help provide opportunities for your own troops. Our Web site below provides a list of graduates.



Modeling the Solar System with a Human Orrery

The JWST's 6.5-meter diameter mirror will be the largest ever launched into space, enabling it to record the most distant objects ever seen from a time when the Universe was very young.

JWST's area collects nearly one million times more light than the human eye!



Experiencing "look-back" time to distant galaxies.

Contact information:

For applications and for general Camp-related questions:
Dr. Don McCarthy (NIRCam astronomer)
dmccarthy@as.arizona.edu

Astronomy Camp for GSUSA Leaders
<http://zeus.as.arizona.edu/~dmccarthy/GSUSA/index.htm>

Around the Council in Photos

Each month, GSSI features photos submitted by our membership in each edition of the *Link to Leaders*. Please e-mail photos to Erin Johnson, editor, at ejohnson@gsfsi.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. ➔ See these photos & more on GSSI's Facebook Page!

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.

