

Newsletter

A special e-publication for those who support the mission and efforts of the Girl Scout Council of Vermont

Aug/Sept 2006

Dear Girl Scout Volunteer

Welcome to a new year of fun, challenge and adventure with girls. Learning from and with the smart, strong-minded girls and young women we serve is such a privilege for all of us. I am so grateful that you are committed to helping them grow. Each time you plan an adventure with girls, challenge them to open their doors to new girls or to make a difference in the world, they are learning skills that will carry them well into their own adult years. It's a powerful thing to be able to change the course of a child's life. That's what you're doing for Vermont's girls.



This is an exciting time to be a Girl Scout. We are reaching for the future in all kinds of exciting ways. This year we will focus on providing girls with ways to give voice to their concerns and develop their courage, confidence and character. In May, girls from all over Vermont will come together to celebrate Girl Scouting's 95th Anniversary in a big way. Our training

courses for leaders now include all kinds of new opportunities, as we begin collaboration with the Swift Water Council to make courses available to you on both sides of the Connecticut River. In addition, we've begun the process of blending our two councils. In 2008, we will become a new Girl Scout council stretching across New Hampshire and Vermont, offering girls and adults alike all kinds of new ventures and support services. There are times this year that we will seek your input, and even more times when we will seek the thoughts of girls so that the result is a council that is responsive, contemporary and continues to serve their needs. This is a challenging journey, one that will involve all of us working to build the best possible experience for girls.

It's an uncertain world right now. When watching the nightly news it's hard to know how our work fits and what it means to girls. As Girl Scouts, we are part of a global sisterhood that can provide meaningful balance to a world that seems off-kilter. Girls need to feel some sense of power over their own destinies. When you help them to think of their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in places like Lebanon, Turkey or Pakistan; to act globally when choosing service projects; or to welcome in new girls, you help them truly take their first steps at making this world better.

It is a tough time to be a girl, and your work is so important. Girls are spinning in a world of high expectations around body image and behavior, around responsibility, around decisions about school, drugs, peer pressure, values and relationships. I truly believe that Girl Scouting can be a learning laboratory in which values of cooperation, collaboration, confidence and mutual respect are fostered and carried in the hearts of our girls in a way that makes their road easier.

We are a sisterhood in all the meanings of that evocative word we love to use. This sisterhood, this community of girls and women, can produce a different kind place where *all* girls feel at home, **even** those who speak a different language, **even** those whose home is a hotel room, **even** those who have no friends to hang out with – where girls together learn a new kind of inclusion and leadership – one that draws upon your wisdom.

By volunteering this year – you are doing all of this for Vermont's girls, and I can't thank you enough,

Sharon Baade

CEO, Girl Scout Council of Vermont

A Calendar of Special Days

Planning your troop/group activities for September and October? You might want to plan a theme, outing, or badge activity around some of these dates and recognitions:

September:



National Five-a-Day Month
National Hispanic Heritage Month
Labor Day – September 4
Grandparents Day – September 10
Remembering 9/11 – September 11
Native American Day – September 22

First Day of Autumn and Ramadan Begin – September 23
Good Neighbor Day – September 28

October

Computer Learning Month
October 2 Yom Kippur – October 2
Rosh Hashana – October 3
Fire Prevention Week – October 8-14
Make a Difference Day – October 28
Halloween/Juilette Low's Birthday – October 31



See page two for descriptions and suggested activities!

SAVE THE DATE - May 19, 2007

Join us for an exciting ALL COUNCIL event at Shelburne Museum to celebrate the 95th Anniversary of Girl Scouts!

National Five-a-Day Month

Experts now say that you should have at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day. In order to help promote healthy eating, September has been named Five-a-Day Month.

- Ask girls to list all of the vegetables and fruit they can think of. What are their favorites?
- Have a fruit and vegetable celebration – Encourage girls to collect recipes and make recipe books, prepare the recipes and have a vegetable supper for families. Everybody gets a recipe book to take home!

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate the contributions of the American Hispanic population. Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 because it is independence day for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile followed soon after.

- Develop a list of famous Hispanic Americans and discuss their contributions.
- Host a Hispanic-themed party with special food, music, and games. Learn some songs in Spanish and sing them at the party!



Grandparents' Day – Sept. 10

Grandparents' Day honors grandparents and helps to make children aware of what a great resource they are.

- Encourage girls to spend time with their grandparents.
- Have girls write letters and poems for their grandparents.
- Suggest that girls visit senior citizens and find out what life and the world were like when they were young.
- Make a family tree – add pictures of grandparents and great grandparents, if available. Drawings are okay too!

Remembering 9/11 – Sept. 11

On September 11, 2001 terrorists attacked the United States. On this day we honor those who lost their lives and celebrate the thousands of others who showed true heroism.

- Have the girls create a poster to honor those who lost their lives, the families they left behind, and all those who helped during the aftermath of this terrible tragedy.
- Encourage girls to write thank you cards to local police officers and firefighters acknowledging all they do to keep neighborhoods safe.

Native American Day – Sept. 22

Celebrate the beauty and richness of the Native American Culture. Each tribe has its own unique culture and lifestyle.

- Ask a Native American to talk at a troop meeting
- Use the Internet to look up information on Native Americans
- Read Native American folk tales

Autumn Begins – Sept. 23

Autumn signals the coming cold weather months. It is time to celebrate the harvest and set aside stores for winter.

- Go apple picking and make apple recipes.
- Learn to can vegetables or make pickles.
- Take a hike; enjoy the fall foliage.
- Invite a naturalist to talk about fall and what happens to the plants and animals during this time of year.



Good Neighbor Day

Thank a good neighbor and be one yourself. September 28th is a great time to plan a local community service event. Being a good neighbor means reaching out to others.

- Help your neighbors or the community in some way.
- Get to know the people in your community a little better – coordinate a social gathering.

Computer Learning Month

Computer Learning Month in October is a time to focus our attention on the importance technology in our lives.

- Have computer professionals speak about new technology.
- Discuss safe Internet practices and computer etiquette.

Fire Prevention Week

The theme of this year's campaign, Oct. 8-14, is "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat."

- Get a firefighter to come and talk about fire safety & prevention.
- Arrange a tour of the local firehouse.

Make a Difference Day

Make a Difference Day, October 28, is a national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

- Perform random acts of kindness and senseless beauty!
- Have girls plan a work day to assist elderly neighbors.
- Plan a community project or hold a food drop.
- Form a babysitters club to provide cost effective, reliable service to neighbors.

Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday

Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low was born October 31, 1860 in Savannah, GA. Celebrate her memory with a special donation to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. Girls need to feel they are members of a global community. Right now, there are girls in Israel, Girl Guides in Lebanon, and Guide Scouts in Indonesia and Africa that are trying to hold meetings and conduct service projects in war torn areas. The World Friendship Fund helps them to do these things and more. This year we are asking that each Vermont Girl Scout give \$.50-\$1 to the fund. Troops and Service Units can make checks payable to GSCV and note for JLWFF on the memo line. This is an opportunity for girls to give of themselves. Give Juliette the best birthday present of all — a gift of the heart.

Program Notices

The 2006-2007 Calendar of Programs and Trainings will be sent directly to all leaders and co-leaders in September. If you would like a copy and are not a leader or co-leader, please contact the Essex Service Center and we will be happy to mail one to you. The calendar will also be available on-line at <http://www.girlscoutsvt.org/leaders.html>. We do have some exciting October programs in store. Here's a sneak peak!



GirlSports for girls in grades K-6 will take place at three locations this fall, and again in mid-winter at a number of other sites. No matter the location, girls rotate through several stations to sample a variety of sports activities. The cost is \$12.00 per girl.

St. Michael's	Colchester	Sun	Oct. 1	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
IROC	Newport	Sun	Oct. 29	1 – 5 p.m.
Pico	Killington	Sat	Nov. 11	Times TBA

Learn to Bowl is a new collaboration with Yankee Lanes in Colchester. This four session series will run Noon - 1:00 p.m., Sundays – October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Girls will receive bowling instruction as well as bowling time, and a tour "behind the pins." The series cost of \$20 includes shoe rental, bowling fees, certificate of completion, patch, and a pizza party on the final day. Open to girls in grades K - 12.



Join us Saturday, October 14 – U-32 High School in East Montpelier – or Saturday, October 21 – Middlebury – for a day of **Star Search!** Begin work on the Brownie Space Explorer Try-it or the Junior Sky Search Badge. This is the first in a series of three astronomy workshops. Watch for details coming soon!



At **Sprouts**, UVM Environmental Studies and Natural Resources students lead a variety of hands-on activities, games, and science explorations that fulfill Junior badge requirements. \$5 per girl (badge not included). Twin Hills, Richmond. Spring TBA.

Fri	October 6	4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sat	October 14	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fri	October 20	4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sat	October 28	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Details for all programs are on the way, but if you just can't wait to learn more or sign up, call us today – 800/639-3055!

Registrations are Due October 1

By now you should have received your membership renewal forms for the upcoming year. Please return completed forms and dues to your Service Unit Registrar by the October 1st deadline so that your troop/group doesn't miss out on any programs offered this year. Financial assistance is available.

Volunteer Needs

As another school year begins, so does our membership year, and we can't do it without people like you! Volunteers are what make Girl Scouting work. We are always looking for individuals to serve as troop leaders and co-leaders. But, there are other opportunities as well.

What are your passions or hobbies? Do you have a special talent you'd like to share or teach? You might be able to present it to girls at a local meeting. Perhaps you would be willing to participate at a more in-depth level and serve as the mentor/ advisor to a group of girls who are interested in a deeper exploration or mastery of your interest area.



We are also looking for individuals willing to volunteer as Council representatives at one or more program events. Simply take attendance and help out. You get to participate in the event as well! And, we are always looking for behind the scenes help with our QSP fall magazine sale and the annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale in January. For information visit <http://www.girlscoutsvt.org/active.html> or call 800/639-3055.

Why Give to Family Partnership?

You might not realize it, but the actual cost for the Girl Scout Council of Vermont (GSCV) to serve just one Girl Scout for one year is \$315. And, the \$10.00 fee that girls pay with their registration does not stay in this Council. That's right! That money goes to the national Girl Scout organization, GSUSA, and supports their development of books and materials and also pays for the activity insurance that covers each registered member.

Each year the GSCV provides a number of services at little or no cost to members. For example, the activity fees that parents pay for girls to attend Council-sponsored events such as Great Brownie Campout and GirlSports do not cover the entire cost of developing and hosting these events. The same is true for camp. Families pay only a portion of the actual cost of all camps. The GSCV subsidizes the remainder. In addition, almost 20% of all Vermont Girl Scouts request some financial assistance to become a member or to participate in a Council event. Other services provided by the GSCV include: training, resource materials, and other support services for leaders and volunteers; publications such as GirlSmarts and the Volunteer; the Girl Scout Shop on Wheels and on-line shop; and Program Kits.

Please encourage parents to participate. Giving to Family Partnership is so easy. Parents simply write one check to include the \$10 membership fee and their FP donation. Space for a donation is included on both the Registration and Parent Consent forms. And, Family Partnership donations are fully tax-deductible.

Welcome Pack Takes the Guesswork Out of Start-up!

You're just getting started and your girls are asking about what they need to get going. Well, we've developed a special welcome pack to head them in the right direction! Welcome packs are perfect for new girls and girls who have bridged to the next level. Each Brownie or Junior pack includes:

- A handbook/badgebook set
- Vest
- ID set and flag patch
- 3 numbers
- plus a special flag patch all in a colorful tote!

Daisy packs include the activity book, tunic, troop #s, and petal set. So easy AND you save 20%, too!



Council Hours Change Sept. 5

Beginning Tuesday, September 5, 2006, the Girl Scout Council of Vermont and Girl Scout Shop of Vermont will resume cool weather hours.

Council:	Mon – Fri	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shop:	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Weds – 9/13, 9/20	9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
	10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25	
	Sat. 10/14 & 11/11	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please Note: The Girl Scout Shop of Vermont will be closed for inventory September 27-29.

Watch for the Girl Scout Shop on Wheels at select program events and adult trainings. The Girl Scout Shop of Vermont is also available 24 hours a day on-line for your shopping convenience.



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It's Not Too Late – You Can Still Register for Adult Conference!

The Times They Are A Changin – join us, September 8-10, as we explore the best of our past and integrate it into the new Program Model. Learn new techniques to support your on-going work with girls. And, meet other terrific volunteers who share your vision for Vermont girls!

Come to Adult Conference 2006 and be part of our growth and expansion as we begin blending our Council with the Girl Scouts of Swift Water. By 2008, we will be a new, high-capacity Girl Scout Council spanning both Vermont and New Hampshire. And, you can be a part of it all! Interested? Contact Paulette Petelle at 800/769-7451 or ppetelle@girlscoutsvt.org.



Upcoming Workshops for Adults

The GSCV offers regular trainings for adults throughout the year. October trainings are listed below. All trainings are FREE (unless otherwise noted). For information and registration, contact Paulette Petelle at 800/769-7451.

Heartsaver CPR/First Aid	Oct 7, \$40	Bennington
Basic Leadership I, II & III	Oct 14	U32, Montpelier
Basic Leadership I, II & III	Oct 14	Essex
Basic Leadership I, II & III	Oct 14	St. Albans
Basic Leadership I	Oct 17	Bennington
Basic Leadership I, II & III	Oct 28	Johnson
Basic Leadership I	Oct 29	Newport

For New Hampshire training dates and locations visit swgirlscouts.org. Swift Water handles all registrations on-line.