

## **New volunteer conference calls**

**April 23 – Summer fun to keep your troop going!** Thinking ahead to next year, using cookie funds throughout the summer and lining up help for next year.

### **I heard that Girl Scouts do not meet in the summer, is this true?**

The summer time is a great way to keep the girls involved and engaged in the program. The decision to continue meeting in the summer should be left up to the leaders and the girls.

### **What options or recommendations can be made for meeting in the summer since everyone is so busy or may have plans to travel?**

The troop may decide to hold just a few meetings rather than their normal schedule arranged during the year. Often times troops will turn meetings into travel options so that instead of meeting at the regular location, they choose to visit area attractions. Some troops even have major trips planned, like going to the Juliette Low House in Savannah. These activities should be funded by cookie program profits.

### **What paperwork do I need to complete for such activities?**

First the girls should always discuss with the leader their desire to participate in additional activities. Planning with the girls rather than making the decisions for them is part of the Girl Scout program. You can always guide them with a few ideas when presenting the information. The first thing you will need to do once your troop has decided to travel away from the regular meeting location is to complete the trip and travel training. The training is offered on-line or in a classroom. It will prepare you and give necessary guidelines for travel. You can also refer to the [Council guide for Volunteers](#) on our Web site. Here you will find crucial information for trips as it relates to the different Girl Scout program levels. Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies have more limitations as opposed to the older girls. If the trip or outing is six hours or less, then you do not need approval, but you will need to notify the council of the trip. You can do this by going to the online [Trip Permission Guide](#) to walk you through the proper procedures of logging the outing. If you are planning a trip for more than six hours you will complete the same guide, but will need approval. Once you submit the form, one of the council membership managers will notify you of its approval.

### **What kind of limitations are you referring to when you speak of Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies?**

Referring to page 71 – 78 in the *Council Guide for Volunteers*, distance is a first concern. Girl Scout Daisies are only able to travel 50 miles away from the meeting location and Girl Scout Brownies 100. Also the types of activities that are appropriate need to be considered. *Safety-Wise* contains information on which

activities can be done by these groups. For example caving and repelling are two activities not recommended for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies.

**We do not have a large profit from the cookie program, but do have some to use towards outings, how do we decide what portion to use?**

It is best to have a parent meeting to discuss the funds in your troop bank account. A financial report should be given to the parents by your troop treasurer at least three times a year. The parents and girls along with the leaders should decide on the portion to pay for outings and troop maintenance. Cookie program profits can also be used to pay for girl membership fees, recognitions and uniforms. Remember though that next year is around the corner and there will be many fun activities in the fall to explore with your troop so when discussing this matter always plan ahead. While it is not recommended you carry over large amounts in the troop account from one year to the next, you should plan for troop expenses at that time of year.

**My troop does not have a treasurer, my co-leader and I do the paperwork and meetings, should I get one?**

Yes, allowing another adult to occupy this position is great. It allows the leader to focus on girl program and gives a parent a way to get involve that might not have the time to commit to leadership. A great way to get your parents involved is to discuss with them little things they can do at the parent meeting. Not only will you need chaperones for the trips, but you can recruit a cookie chair for next year as well as camping parent, communications parent and service project coordinator. The [Parent Interest Survey](#) is a great tool to see where parent's interest lie and the time they have to give. It should be used at the meeting to discuss the support needed to make the troop a success.

**Is there training for a parent and do they need to complete a volunteer application?**

Training is provided for some positions such as cookie chair, camping parent and the treasure could take money management offered online. Check with your service unit director or the adult development team member here at the council by calling (404) 527-7500. All adults working directly with girls should have an approved volunteer application on file. Parents can go directly to our Web site and download the [volunteer application](#) and fax it to (404) 527-7508.