

New volunteer conference calls

Feb. 26 – Wrapping up the year with service and Spring Registration

What is Spring Registration?

When existing or currently registered troop re register early for the next year.

Where do I get the registration forms from?

Preprinted forms will be given to the troops during the March and or April service unit meetings.

If I am missing a girl or adult form from the pre-printed stack how do I register the girls?

Sometimes a member is omitted from the packet because they registered in a different troop or during a later time than the rest of the troop. You will receive extra blank forms in the packet for these members to complete.

What happens if the information is incorrect?

You can simply cross out incorrect information and write in the appropriate data.

Who do I give the forms to and when?

You will need to turn in all forms; registrations for girls and adults, troop roster and money to the service unit registrar, at the service unit meeting. Each service unit has a different deadline as to when the packets are collect so be sure to speak to the registrar about the date.

What is the benefit of registering in the spring?

Spring Registration is great because you get done with all the paperwork in the spring and don't have to deal with it during the fall rush. It also allows members to continue to receive the most up to date information and publications without interruption. Service units can benefit by knowing which troops have opening so that in the fall they can place girls quickly into existing troops. Girls even receive a free patch for participating. The service unit registrar gives the patches upon receipt of the forms.

Do I need to collect Annual Fund at this time?

Yes, it is a great opportunity to do so. The ask for a donation will again be printed at the bottom of each form.

How should parents pay for membership and make the Annual Fund donation at the same time?

Parents should make their check out to the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta. If the troop is paying for each girl's membership them the parent should still write their check out to the council. It allows them to be thanked and given the tax credit recognition.

What can I say are the benefits of giving to Annual Fund?

Annual Fund pays for many important items besides assisting with general program for girls. It pays for upkeep of our eight camps, the service centers in Atlanta, Cumming, Dalton and Griffin, volunteer background checks and helps to provide trainings and maintenance of our Web site to name a few.

Can I use cookie profits to pay for membership or Annual Fund?

GSUSA and our council highly recommend paying for the membership of each girl with cookie profits. However, the Annual Fund is a donation and should not come from the earned cookie money.

How much money should I carry over in my troop's bank account for the next year?

There is always a need for money to sustain the troop in the fall so about a \$100-\$300 for a troop of 10 girls or less should be sufficient. However, some troops are much larger and would require more or troops may be planning a major trip and need to carry a higher balance. A troop financial report should be shared with parents and girls at least three times a year.

What can girls do with troop funds at this time besides go on outings?

Troops can purchase supplies for meetings. They may plan to purchase uniform components or handbooks for each girl. Sometimes troops make donations to their local charities such as the humane society or even to their service unit to assist other girls.

What other ways besides making a troop donation can my troop perform community service?

If the girls want to support a particular organization, they may collect supplies, deliver informational pamphlets, organize and catalog materials for a fund raising sale, stuff envelopes, serve as aides or provide other assistance. None of this should be confused however with participating in walkathons where a monetary donation is required to participate or similar fundraising events. But they may offer support by making items in preparation for an organizations event, or participating in cheering stations or handing out waters. Girls may remember things they did for an organization more than giving money. The actual process of doing something and remembering the good feeling it gave you creates lasting memories.

Is there any recognition for troops participating in service?

Some try-its and badges and journeys include community service activities. There is also a community service bar girls may earn at the Cadette and Senior levels. But the council also has a *Girls Care* patch that will be available in the spring in the Girl Scout Badge & Sash Store. All you have to do before you visit the store is go online to www.girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org/events-and-things-to-do contributing society, and print off the *Girls Care* tracking form, fill it out and turn it in when you purchase your patches. If you're unable to do that ahead of time, don't worry, there will be forms available in the Girl Scout Badge & Sash Store. Girls of any age group can purchase this patch simply by completing a community service project. And next year the patch will have even more significance. We are hosting a *Girls Care* Design-a-Patch contest. If you visit the same location online as mentioned before, you can print the contest rules and template. Girls are asked to design a patch that will represent the council's goal of community service. The winning design will be replicated to become the 2010 *Girls Care* patch for the entire council.

Is service restricted to certain grade levels?

Service can be done at any level. Consider the girls age and abilities when choosing types of project activities. Also call ahead to the organization that you want to provide service for to see if they have age restrictions.

Leader training: Leaders, service unit directors and contributing to society chairs are encouraged to take the online course *Learning While Serving*. After you register you have 14 days to complete the class, but you can always call and ask for an extension. This class will help you discover how to locate service opportunities, make sure they are appropriate using *Safety-Wise* and create a meaningful experience that impacts the girls and their community positively. You can contact Cheryl Clarke at the Atlanta office at (404) 527-7540 to register.

Questions from our volunteers

Will the forms be for both former Pine Valley and Northwest Georgia?

Yes, it is one council form to include the above and Forsyth County.

How can I find out if a parent in my troop has an approved volunteer application?

By emailing Camille Davis at cdavis@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org.

Can any girl participate in *Girl Care*?

Yes, forms to submit are on the Web site under Events & Things To Do, then contributing to society. Older girls can actually receive training on how to organize a service project as a part of *Girls Care*.

When is the design a patch due?

Saturday, March 21, 2009

How can I get registration forms for girls joining my troop from another troop?

The girls may bring the forms with them from their current troop or they can complete blank forms.

Will volunteer applications be included in the packets?

They will not, however, you can get extra from the service unit or you can have parents download from the Web site and fax directly into the council. This is a good practice because people can submit their own much faster.