

Consistent Agenda Items

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

December 2008

A. Adult Awards & Recognitions:

New Opportunities for Volunteers to be recognized

The new addition of Area 5 to form the Girl Scout Council of Greater Atlanta, Inc. has opened up new ways to recognize our hard working volunteers. Be sure to check out the Adult Recognition section of our website for more information.

You still have time - There is a new deadline for high honor award nominations. Nominations will be accepted until **Friday, Jan. 9, 2009**. Those nominees approved for these awards will be presented their pins during the annual recognition ceremony to be held Sunday, April 26, 2009.

- Provided service to two or more service units in multiple volunteer positions: **Helen Foster Award of Excellence**
- Provided service to two or more counties in one position - **Honor Pin**
- Provided service to benefit the total council or entire Girl Scout movement in one or more volunteer positions - **Thanks Badge**
- Provided continued service after receiving the Thanks Badge that benefit the council or entire Girl Scout Movement - **Thanks Badge II**
- Provided service as an organization or business in support of the entire council - **Trefoil Award**

In addition, the **Appreciation Pin** will now only be presented once a year as well. The nomination deadline is also **Friday, Jan. 9, 2009**. It will also be awarded during the Annual Recognition ceremony. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these awards and don't know how, contact Cinnamon Draper at 678-686-7557 or cdraper@girlscoutsnwga.org.

Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer form update - The forms for Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer have been revised. To recognize someone for one of these awards, all you need to do is fill out the new nomination form and get three people from your service unit to sign it, as well as your membership specialist. The new forms will soon be found listed on the adult recognition page of the council's website.

This transitional 2008-2009 year has brought many questions about the 2008 President's Award criteria. For this year only, areas 1-4, including Forsyth, Clayton and South Fulton counties will use the former Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia's President's Award nomination form. Area 5, including Carroll and Haralson counties will use their respective former council's nomination forms.

Please make note of the following changes:

All areas will now carry a new deadline for submission of the President's Award of **March 1, 2009**.

In addition areas 1-4, including Clayton and South Fulton counties will no longer have to report on service units' troop cookie payments by a predetermined deadline for President's Award consideration. We do ask that service unit directors or cookie chairs continue to follow up on cookie debt. Please provide written correspondence to the Volunteer Services Coordinator showing any outstanding debt is being pursued.

These changes are all in an effort to recognize service units for their outstanding efforts during the

year in which they serve at the council's annual award ceremony in April.

Please use the attached forms that reflect the changes listed above for the 2008-2009 year only. A new, more consistent form for the entire council will be released in the spring of 2009.

For more details about volunteer recognitions, contact **Cinnamon Draper** at 678-686-7557 or cdraper@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org

- B. Adult Education and Training:** Brownie Leader Training Online is in final revisions and will be available for registration during the week of November 24. Sign up through Learning Opportunities on the Web. Remember this class is only for leaders of Brownie troops staying in the existing Brownie Handbook and Try-Its book. New troop leaders should take New Leader Training and Guiding the Journey to become familiar with the journey materials.
- C. Annual Fund:** Service Unit chair has report.
- D. Badge and Sash:** Our new council patch New Beginnings is now available in the Badge & Sash Store at a special introductory rate of \$.99.
- Annual Cookie Café and Holiday Sale is Saturday, Dec. 6 in Atlanta B&S store
- Badge & Sash Atlanta store will be closed for Christmas Dec. 24-25 and Sat. Dec. 27.
- Girl Scout Nights at the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus will be Sunday February 15 @ 7pm, Thursday February 19 @ 7:30pm, Friday February 20 @ 7:30 pm
Girl Scout Days at The UniVerSoul Circus are Saturday February 14 @ 12 noon and Sunday, February 22 @ 1pm
- E. Community Service Opportunities:** Check throughout your communities for seasonal needs of service opportunities. Have a wonderful holiday season!
- F. Cookie Program:** Service Unit Chair has report from Cookie Crumbs. Safety-Wise updates regarding cookie program are on the website.
- G. Girl Program Department:** Check out your regional newsletter from your Program Specialist.
- H. Girl Scout Resource Center:** The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) encourages all its member organizations to begin their Countdown to World Thinking Day 2009 on December 1, World AIDS Day. The 2009 World Thinking Day theme is "Girls world-wide say...stop the spread of AIDS, malaria, and other diseases." The Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta have a great resource in the CDC and the kids' pages of its Web site; you can start here:
<http://www.cdc.gov/gcc/exhibit/kids.htm>

In addition, WAGGGS' World Thinking Day Web site is now up at <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home>. The downloadable activities are divided into three sections:

- HIV and AIDS
- Malaria
- Other diseases (pneumonia, diarrhea, tuberculosis and measles)

To find the Girl Scouts of the USA World Thinking Day resources for the 5 spot-lighted countries (Costa Rica, Fiji, Ireland, Jordan, and Kenya), go to:

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/2009_wtd_countryresources.pdf

- I. Outdoor Program:** Registration for spring troop camping begins on **December 1**. The troop camping application is located online along with the Campsite 411, which will give you all the site information you need to select a site. Tips to remember: complete your application completely, don't forget to make a date to get your SUD's signature, choose multiple dates and units, check the events calendar online to see if a council sponsored event is taking place the dates you have selected and most importantly... include your girls in the planning process from the beginning. If you have questions, contact the event registrar, Melinda Wyatt, mwyatt@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org.

Are you ready for the summer? Girl Scout camp is ready! A Girl Scout Summer (resident and day camp brochure) is on the street and on the web site. Help us fill every bed, every saddle and every canoe with a Girl Scout. Registration begins on January 21 – mail in and online. Don't hesitate to contact a camp director with questions:

Meriwether – Kathy Elliott, kelliott@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org;
Misty Mountain – Melissa Garza, mgarza@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org;
Pine Acres – Erin Steill, esteill@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org;
Pine Valley – Jennifer Buckelew, jbuckelew@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org;
Timber Ridge – Kristi Fulford, kfulford@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org.

- J. Membership Department:** The Annual Meeting will be held at **Spelman College** on **Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 - 1 p.m.** The meeting will precede an adult award recognitions ceremony, as well as a Girl Scout Gold Award ceremony. This new format will help the council use resources more wisely and realize financial savings. The tentative schedule for the day is as follows:

11:30 a.m.	Check-in/reception – light refreshments
Noon-1 p.m.	Annual Meeting
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Check-in/reception – light refreshments
1:30-3 p.m.	Adult award recognition
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Check-in/reception – light refreshments
3:30-6 p.m.	Girl Scout Gold Award recognition

The deadline to submit the information to the council office is January 20, 2009. The following information is needed from the service units:

- Delegate Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number and e-mail address
- Alternate Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number and e-mail address

Please submit delegate information to membershipworkorders@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org

K. Marketing and Media:

New Volunteer conference calls: You don't have to face Atlanta traffic for this learning opportunity... you can do it in your pajamas and slippers! Hear from the experts about what works, share your ideas and get your questions answered! There will be **two sessions, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., every fourth Thursday** (except Dec.) available for new volunteers. If you have been a volunteer for a year or less, just call-in on a toll-free number and join the conference call. **Here's your chance to learn about:**

Jan. 22 – Let's get global – World Thinking Day and other traditions
Feb. 26 – Wrapping up the year with service and spring registration
March 26 – Celebrating your success – end-of-year celebrations
April 23 – Summer fun to keep your troop strong – thinking ahead to next year

Spots are limited! Go to the website: http://www.girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org/new_volunteers. Once you are registered, you will receive the details about how to join the conference call.

- L. Risk Mangmnt/Safety-Wise:** No report this month. Have a happy/safe holiday season!