

Consistent Agenda Items

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

January 2009

- A. Adult Awards & Recognitions:** Adult Girl Scout volunteers provide a truly meaningful contribution to the development of girls and young women in their community. Now is the time to show them you appreciate them! There are many ways to honor a Leader or a volunteer in a Troop, Service Unit, or Area. You can nominate her or him for a national award, or a council award. If you would like to nominate an individual for a high-level award like the Helen Foster Award of Excellence, Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge, or Thanks Badge II, the deadline is Friday, January 9, 2009.

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

- B. Adult Education and Training:** Attention SUDs: If you are unable to view your SU transcripts on the website, please contact Twildy at 404-527-7523 or twildy@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org

Please check *Learning Opportunities* on the Web for added classes each month.

- C. Annual Fund:** Service Unit chair has report.

- D. Badge and Sash:** The **Dr. M.L. King Holiday** will be observed Jan.17-19. The stores will be closed.

SUPER SALE ON COOKIE T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS JAN 5-31

Cookie Sale Tools available in all stores including Table Cloths, Car Flags, Yard Signs, Bins, Table Toppers and more.

Girl Scout Days at UniVerSoul Circus are Sat. Feb. 21 and Sun. Feb.22. tickets will be sold in our stores.

Remember, **Thinking Day is February 22** patches are available in the stores.

Our new Council patch:

New Beginnings: Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta is still available for \$.99 in all stores

Call stores for details:

Atlanta-404-527-7669, Dalton-706-226-1435, Griffin-770-227-2524 x 201

- E. Community Service Opportunities:** Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador age girls who plan on leading their service unit's Global Youth Service Day community service project during the weekend of April 24-26, 2009 should sign up for youth project coordinator training. Dates and times can be found on the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta website under contributing to society. If you have any questions, please contact Cinnamon Draper at 678-686-7557 or cdraper@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org for service opportunities.

- F. Cookie Program:** Service Unit Chair has report from Cookie Crumbs. Remember, 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: New in the **Atlanta** Resource Center: “Candle-Like” ceremony supplies. If you’re not ready to trust the girls in your troop with matches and candles – or if you’re not allowed to use them in your meeting place – we have a colorful new alternative for you. The “Candle-Like Ceremony Felt Board” consists of a dark blue felt board, 13 felt candlesticks and 13 felt flames that girls can place as they say the Girl Scout Promise and Law. We’ve also added another Daisy Petal Felt Board for Girl Scout Daisy troops that would like to use a felt Promise Center and 10 felt Learning Petals either as a teaching aid or as part of a ceremony.

The **Dalton** Resource Center also has a new Daisy Petal Felt Board.

Finally, we’d like to remind you that even when you can’t visit the Resource Centers in person you can make an online visit through our council Web site: go to The Volunteer Zone for “Focus On Ability”, “Girl Scouts Around the Globe” and “Leader-To-Leader”; and to Events & Things To Do for “More Troop Activities.”

I. Outdoor Program: The 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.

Spaces are still available at all our camps for spring troop camping. Contact Melinda Wyatt, mwyatt@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org or 404-527-7524, with date and site options and she will be happy to work with you to find a camp bed to rest your head.

Upcoming outdoor weekend events you won’t want to miss: Rockstar Weekend (Misty Mountain), Brownie Try-Its Day (Timber Ridge), Outdoor Badge Trek (Pine Acres) and Hogwarts (Meriwether). See the program event catalog for details.

Interested in GEOCACHING with your troop? Contact Jennifer, jbuckelew@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org, and learn more about geocaching special interest groups starting up all over our Council area.

J. Membership Department: Save the dates! Spring registration dates are March 16 - May 22, 2009.

Reminder: The Annual Meeting will be held at **Spelman College** on **Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 – 1 p.m.**

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: 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.

For Experienced Volunteers (one representative per Service Unit):

Volunteer Feedback Forum Conference Call - **Tuesday, January 20** - 10:00 am or 7:00 pm

Give feedback about Getting Girls into the Outdoors - Troop camping, camp events, summer camp.

Register by e-mailing: rcaproni@girlscoutsofgreateratlanta.org

- L. Risk Management / Safety-Wise:** The council protects volunteers acting on its behalf in several ways, many of which I will describe below - but it is always important to keep in mind that an expectation exists that volunteers will follow council policies, procedures and guidelines when making decisions related to Girl Scout activities.

Volunteer/adult intake process - this process includes an individual completing a volunteer application and release for background check. All volunteer members and other adults who routinely work directly with girls are required to successfully complete this process before beginning to work with girls.

Training - Several trainings are required before an adult may become a leader or SUD. In addition to these basic trainings, a variety of supplemental trainings is available to help enhance both the volunteer leadership experience and the individual. Avenues for continual training and education are provided in many other ways such as through service unit meetings and the distribution of items like the consistent agenda, the *Council Guide for Volunteers* (former Northwest Georgia publication) and *Rainbow of Resources* (former Pine Valley publication), and of course the GSUSA publication, *Safety-Wise*.

Staff support - Each geographical area is served by several different staff members assigned to that area, which includes membership specialists and program specialists. In addition to these staff members who work in the field, there are various other staff in the service centers and camps who are available to lend assistance with programmatic, technical or other assistance.

But even with all the support methods available, accidents do sometimes happen and the council provides means of possible protection for volunteers under these circumstances also. Keep in mind that each situation is going to be unique and therefore it would be impossible for me to tell you exactly what coverage or protection would be available; however, in general the following insurance policies may be invoked:

Supplemental accident insurance - This coverage is underwritten by Mutual of Omaha and is provided as an automatic benefit of membership. Basically, if a currently registered member (adult or child) is injured and they require medical attention - this policy may provide coverage for any charges that are disallowed by personal insurance coverage - such as deductibles or out of network charges.

Secondary auto liability insurance - This coverage is underwritten by Travelers Insurance and would be an underlying layer to any other insurance that might be available in the event of an auto accident (again it is hard to determine if or when it would respond - it would be totally dependent on the particular circumstances of the accident.) In most cases the auto coverage of the driver of one or both vehicles is going to be primary.

General liability insurance - This coverage is underwritten by Travelers Insurance and would always be secondary to any other insurance that might be available. General liability insurance is kind of a "catch-all" insurance that is very broad in what circumstances it may respond. For example, if a leader or SUD were sued for negligent behavior; if the a troop meets in a private home and the homeowners coverage is not adequate to cover a loss, or some losses related to an injury (such as loss of pay, long term medical care or impairment) to name a few. Generally, the person making the claim must prove that negligence existed and that it contributed to the loss.