



CONNECTIONS

...connecting volunteers and staff of the Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia, Inc.

Girl Scouts

Vol. 10 No. 1

Find Connections online at www.girlscoutsnwga.org

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Save these key dates

October	
31	Juliette Gordon Low's birthday
December	
1	Registration begins for spring/summer troop camping (March-August)
2008	
January	
18-Feb. 3	Girls take orders for Girl Scout Cookie Program

Help us keep our records current

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Girl Scout Cookie Program

Setting the stage for a great performance!

Get ready for lights, camera, cookies! Every girl will be a star this cookie season when service units and troops incorporate the new theme, Make It a Hit!, into their plans and activities. The themed resources will use theater arts to put girls in the spotlight as leaders. Girls will discover that it takes all kinds of talents to make their cookie production a spectacular success. While practicing and performing, girls will develop self-confidence, use their imagination and build self-esteem. Most importantly, girls will learn that hits don't just happen. They are made – through imagination, rehearsal, commitment, teamwork and the sharing of everyone's unique talents.

To help get their plans into action, service units will start receiving helpful resources soon. There are tutorials for parents and leaders/troop cookie managers currently available on the council's Web site at www.girlscoutsnwga.org. These two resources are designed to provide parents and new volunteers with an orientation to the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

In October, service units will receive the new cookie program handbook which contains valuable information that will help troops plan and set goals at the beginning of the membership year. Along with the program handbook, each troop will receive a set of cookie program Q-Cards with handy, quick and easy activities that leaders can use throughout the year. The Q-Cards replace the troop goal posters that were distributed in the past. So, don't wait until January to start distributing cookie program information. Start writing your script for a successful cookie sale now.

Coming attractions

Cookies! the musical

Girl Scouts can star in their own musical. With some inspiration from our cookie company, Little Brownie Bakers, girls can readily create an original performance that brings down the house. There is a step-by-step guide that is easy for volunteers and fun for girls. It's a great way to share the excitement of Girl Scouting and the cookie program with families and the community. The downloadable resources are available from our council's Web site at www.girlscoutsnwga.org.

Back by popular demand

eBUDDE, the online cookie order entry system, has been enhanced to make the ordering process even smoother. To explore the new changes to the system, service unit cookie managers may contact their area cookie coordinator for access.

Service unit cookie rallies will also make a repeat performance in 2008. Service unit teams, including the event director and service unit cookie manager, should work together to make the event a hit. The criteria has been slightly modified, however, girls will still need to participate in fun activities that include goal setting, selling tips and safety rules.

For more details, resources and helpful cookie program information, visit www.girlscoutsnwga.org often. This will be on-going source for the latest information and your ticket to great reviews for your cookie sale performance.

Annual Meeting set for May 2008

The council's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, May 18, 2-4 p.m., at the Atlanta History Center. Traditionally the Annual Meeting has rotated between Saturday and Sunday on alternate years; however, in 2008 the meeting must be held on Sunday (as it was in 2007) in order to book the History Center.



We are returning to the History Center because it received such rave reviews from volunteers who attended the 2007 meeting.

The date has been changed (from the February/March time frame) to satisfy new bylaws provisions for the meeting and to place the meeting closer to July 1, 2008, when a new board chair assumes that position (per bylaws revised in 2006/07).

2008 Cookie Program Dates

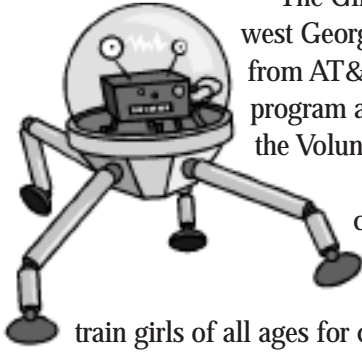
Jan. 5	Training for service unit cookie managers
Jan. 6-12	Training for troop cookie managers
Jan. 13-18	Training for girls
Jan. 18-Feb. 3	Girls take orders
Feb. 6	Girls' initial orders due to troop cookie manager
Feb. 6-Mar. 12	Girls continue taking orders using Extended Order Form
Feb. 9	Troop orders due to service unit cookie manager
Feb. 12	Service unit orders due to area coordinator
Feb. 25-Mar. 1	Cookies delivered to service unit locations
March 5	Booth sales begin
March 18	Girls money due to troop cookie manager
March 20	Deadline for depositing money and turning in troop report to service unit cookie manager

'Girls Care...' a council-wide community service initiative

National Youth Service Day, set for April 25-27, 2008, is the largest annual celebration of youth volunteers, where millions of young people in countries worldwide will carry out thousands of community improvement projects. Our council is partnering with Georgia's lead organization, Hands On Atlanta, to enhance girls' opportunities to broaden project possibilities, provide service learning training and link girls to needed project materials. The theme for this year is "Girls Care..."

Encourage girls to start planning now to lead community service projects for this event. Contact Sarnethia Wilkinson at (678) 686-7557 or swilkinson@girlscoutsnwga.org for further information.

AT&T funds robotics program expansion



The Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia accepted a \$50,000 grant from AT&T to expand its robotics program at a reception on Aug. 6 at the Volunteer Service Center, Atlanta.

The grant will allow the council to upgrade the technology systems and software used to educate and

train girls of all ages for careers in math, science, engineering and other technology sectors. Also, it will allow the expansion of programs in remote and outdoor facilities, foster collaborations with technology partners and support participation in robotics competitions.

"Our Girl Scouts will view forensic science investigations, visit science projects at local museums such as Fernbank and apply the skills that they learn in team competitions in the area," said Judy L. Heilman, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia. "What is unique about our robotics program is that it highlights the applications of math, engineering and technology in some of today's fastest-growing and most dynamic professions."

New Financial Assistance forms available

As of July 1, 2007, Specific Assistance has been renamed Financial Assistance and two new forms have been developed as well.

- The Membership Financial Assistance form is to be used when volunteers or staff request assistance with membership registration dues. This form can be used for an entire troop. The biggest change is that the names of people for whom assistance is requested must be listed.
- The Financial Assistance form is used when assistance is needed for supplies from the Badge & Sash Girl Scout store, adult training or program events. One form per person is required, as required by the United Way, due to the need for personal information.

Both of the forms are available on the council's Web site at www.girlscoutsnwga.org.



Show your support for Girl Scouting

Your financial support demonstrates your belief in the positive impact Girl Scouts has on girls and their ability to become whoever they aspire to be – CEO, scientist, athlete, artist or mother. In fact, 64 percent of today's women leaders in the United States were Girl Scouts and 82 percent of high-achieving alumnae believe Girl Scouts influenced their success.

The Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization. We depend on annual financial support from our friends and families to close the gap between program service fees and the true cost of providing the Girl Scout program. Please make your contribution to the 2007-08 Annual Fund today!

Your donation at work

- Background checks for all volunteers working directly with girls
- Quality training for volunteers and mentors who serve as role models
- The Girl Scout Program is subsidized on average \$250 per girl annually
- Financial assistance is available to those in need
- Low-cost activities and events for girls to learn and grow
- Four safe and reasonably priced Girl Scout camps

Fall training schedule in full swing

New and returning leaders and troop helpers are enthusiastically signing up for training workshops to get prepared for the new Girl Scout year. Review the classes being offered and sign up today!

New leaders and assistant leaders should take New Leader Training, available in a three-hour classroom workshop, online or through Facilitated Home Study. The next step is program-level training within 90 days of New Leader Training. These classes are offered throughout our council's jurisdiction on a regular basis. Classes fill quickly, so be sure to register by the deadline. Let us know if you need to cancel so someone else can take your place.

Is your troop ready to go on a trip or overnight event? Trip and Travel is available online and will help you prepare your girls for a fun and safe outing. Ready to tackle the details of troop finances? The online tutorial Money Management provides useful and current information. Your troop first aider will want to sign up for a first aid and CPR class promptly and your designated troop camper will enjoy taking Cabin Camping, available both in the classroom and online.

To sign up for any class, go to www.girlscoutsnwga.org and click on training. Navigate to Learning Opportunities on the Web and choose Instructor Led Classes and All Classes to see the full schedule of workshops offered through July 2008. If you don't remember your password, need help with registration or have to cancel a class you have registered for, please contact Tenequa Wildy at twildy@girlscoutsnwga.org or (404) 527-7523.

Council prohibits abuse of group e-mail lists

The council provides e-mail access to its staff strictly for business usage as a means of communicating Girl Scout-related items only. Volunteers who obtain e-mail addresses of staff members and other volunteers through correspondence with staff members and/or other volunteers also must limit the use of those e-mail addresses to communicate Girl Scout-related items to others. Your cooperation is appreciated

New council Web site features introduced

The council Web site is your major source for timely information and resources. Check the Web site often for new developments. Some of the new features for the 2007-08 Girl Scout year include:

- Improved How to Join section
- New Troop Finder
- New Juliette Membership Inquiry
- Updated volunteer position descriptions
- New resources on the on the Issues Affecting Girls in the Parents section
- More interactive forms
- Event registration forms now located under each event in the Program Events section

Note: Don't be caught short with old forms. Always remember that council forms and other resources are constantly updated. Therefore, provide links to the council Web site forms instead of copying them to a private Web site or personal computer. That way you will always be up to date.



Festival of Trees canceled after 30 years

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Festival of Trees was recently canceled due to cost and scheduling conflicts. In place of the festival, 40 trees decorated in honor of patients will be on display at area malls, including Phipps, Lenox and the Mall of Georgia.



Become a lifetime Girl Scout member

Lifetime membership as a Girl Scout adult is available to any individual who accepts the principles and beliefs of the Girl Scout movement, pays the one-time lifetime membership cost and is 18 years of age or older or is a high school graduate or equivalent. The lifetime membership dues are \$250. A special lifetime membership, at the reduced cost of \$130, is offered to girls who are registered Girl Scouts at the time of high school graduation, provided they apply for lifetime membership before their current annual membership expires. For further information, contact Membership at (404) 527-7592.

Plan ahead for troop camping

Registration for spring 2008 troop camping (March-May with limited dates in June-August) begins Saturday, Dec. 1. A trained troop camper and first aider must accompany a troop to be eligible for camping. Information about first aid and troop camper trainings can be found in Learning Opportunities on the council's Web site at www.girlscoutsnwga.org



Important information for spring troop camping includes:

- Small troops at the same program level may be asked to share a tent site because spring is the busiest camping season. If this occurs, each troop's contact information will be provided to leaders.
- Troops requesting to camp together must fill out an application for each troop and mail together in the same envelope.
- Three lines are provided on the Troop Camping Application to indicate date and unit choices. Additional pages may be attached to indicate more troop camping choices. If the units selected are not available, a comparable alternative unit will be reserved.

To apply for a troop camping space, fill out the Application for Troop Camping and have it signed by a service unit director. Troop camping forms are available from service unit directors and at www.girlscoutsnwga.org. For further information, contact Melinda Wyatt at (404) 527-7524 or mwyatt@girlscoutsnwga.org.

Training needed before going camping

Camping with their troop is a wonderful way for girls to develop independence, build courage and learn skills to help them enjoy the great outdoors. In preparation for events like Brownie Adventure Overnight, Brownie Blast or Junior Outdoor Explorers, adults accompanying girls will need to take the courses Cabin Camping, available online or in the classroom, and Platform Tent Camping with Fire Building and Outdoor Cooking.

Cabin Camping is a three-hour class in which adults learn how to work with girls to plan and carry out an overnight experience using indoor facilities. The workshop covers health and safety considerations, facilities available at council camps, meal planning, kaper charts, equipment and packing. This class is a prerequisite for Platform Tent Camping with Fire Building and Outdoor Cooking, as well as other classes.

Platform Tent Camping with Fire Building and Outdoor Cooking is an overnight session at one of our five camps, usually held from 10 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday. Adults learn fire building and how to teach fire building to girls, knot tying and outdoor cooking. They also learn about the support provided by rangers at our camps.

Other outdoor classes include Deluxe Box Ovens, Advanced Outdoor Cooking Methods and Campfire Gourmet. Each class is designed so that adults can develop their skills while learning how to teach those skills to girls.

Don't wait to register for classes at the last minute. Plan ahead so you can prepare for camping with your girls. Look in the Learning Opportunities catalog or go to www.girlscoutsnwga.net/stc/learningopps/ to register online. Under "List of Classes" scroll down to "Cabin Training" to start becoming a Girl Scout certified camper. For more information, contact Tenequa Wildy at (404) 527-7523 or twildy@girlscoutsnwga.org

Events spotlight

The events listed here are just a few of the many opportunities made available by the council for Girl Scouts of all ages. For detailed information about these events and the many others planned for the year, as well as registration forms, check out the council's Web site at www.girlscoutsnwg.org in the Events and Things to Do section or use your 2007-08 Program Events Catalog.

Meriwether Barn Blast

Nov. 10

Brownie through adult Girl Scouts can come join us for a fall festival all about horses at Camp Meriwether. We will have horse related crafts, pony rides, concession stand and exhibition riders of all ages!



Wild and Wacky Horse Olympics- 11- 17yr olds

Dec. 1

Participate in our wacky and wild games on horseback.

Discover Horses

Dec. 8

Junior Girl Scouts and older can attend this informative and fun filled day of exploring numerous careers and disciplines within the horse world!

Cookie University 101

Jan. 12

Join us for a great day planned by girl experts on all the best ways to showcase, market and have fun selling cookies. Come hear tips from the top sellers and learn their secret techniques.



Silver Forks and China Plates

Jan. 26

Girl Scouts in grades six-nine or ages 11-15 are invited to learn how to walk and sit properly, dining etiquette and receive makeup tips.



S.A.I.L. Advisor Retreat

Feb. 1-3

Advisors who work with girls in grades five-12 are invited to a networking weekend at Camp Meriwether. Advisors will also have fun horseback riding, going on the adventure tower or hiking.

Get Global Leadership Conference

Feb. 15-18

Send in your application now to represent your area at the first Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia's WAGGGS Leadership Conference. Service units can nominate and sponsor girls to represent their area. Girl Scouts in grades eight-12 are invited to apply by Nov. 18.

News from the Badge & Sash

Shop at the Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores at the Atlanta and Dalton volunteer service centers for all of your Girl Scout needs for girls and adults. Our stores are brimming with lots of exciting Girl Scout merchandise. We stock the majority of the items shown in the current Girl Scout catalog, plus many council-specific items.

Free gift

for all girls with their in store purchase of age level books from Oct. 1-Nov. 30. The age level books are the Daisy Activity Book, Brownie Book Set, Junior Book Set and Older Girl Interest Project Book.

2008 Girl Scout Calendars

are available only in the Badge & Sash stores. Calendar packets with troop and girl order forms have been distributed to all service units. If you need additional calendar order packets, please contact the Badge & Sash stores and they will be sent to you or you may pick them up from the stores.

Celebrate Juliette Gordon Low's birthday

in the Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores Wednesday, Oct. 31. Door prizes will be given away and there will be Halloween treats for kids of all ages!

Third Annual Cookie Cafe

is set for Saturday, Dec. 1. Come sample the new Lemon Chalet Cremes and the Sugar Free Chocolate Chip cookies in the lobby in front of the Badge & Sash store at the Volunteer Service Center, Atlanta. Cookies and hot chocolate/coffee will be available for everyone shopping in the Badge & Sash that day.

Win a Gund stuffed animal

by registering to win with each girl in-store purchase from Thursday, Nov. 1-Thursday, Dec. 20. One entry per girl per day. Girls must be present to enter. Drawing will be Friday, Dec. 21.

Tired of driving to the store, or want to shop late at night, then check out the council e-store at <http://www.girlscoutsnwg.org>.

Atlanta Badge & Sash hours are:

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dalton Badge & Sash hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Closed for lunch 1-2 p.m. Open the second Saturday of each month



25% OFF
Any single item purchase
Must present this coupon

**Badge & Sash
Girl Scout stores**

Present this coupon at the Badge & Sash Girl Scout store in Atlanta or Dalton and receive 25% off the purchase of any single item. Only one coupon per person, Girl Scout honor.

Offer expires: Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007

COUNCIL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 13 North counties New Leader Potpourri
- 31 Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low's birthday celebration at the Atlanta/Dalton Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores

NOVEMBER

- 1 North counties Leader Weekend
- 22-23 All volunteer service centers closed for Thanksgiving
- 22-24 Atlanta/Dalton Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 1 Registration begins for spring/summer troop camping
- 12 All volunteer service centers and Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores closed for staff holiday celebration
- 17-Jan. 1 Girl Scout Resource Center, Atlanta closed for winter holiday
- 24, 25 All volunteer service centers and Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores closed for winter holiday
- 31-Jan. 2 Badge & Sash Girl Scout stores closed for New Year's
- 31 All volunteer service centers closed for Staff Appreciation Day

CONNECTIONS

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