GSSU UPDATE
GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHEAST TEXAS
ISSUE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 | www.gsnetx.org

2010 GIRL SCOUTS PROGRAMS UPDATES

Take Action Community Partners Fair
During Kids Care Week 2010, October 17 - 23, please consider registering your older girl troop to participate in our Take Action Community Partners Fair to learn how they can be the change agent in "making the world a better place." For more information or to register please click **here**.

"What's New with Connections"
Webinars continue through the month of September. Join the Program department staff as they take you through the changes in Connections! Click **here** to view upcoming dates, times and instructions on how to register for the webinars.

Connections Vendor Fairs
Are you planning on attending one of the Connections Vendor Fairs? This is an opportunity to meet directly with vendors in *Connections* to discuss their opportunities as they relate to your girls' interests. To view upcoming dates and to register click **here**. Click on the Vendor Fair Flyer to view other dates and times.

Meet at Camp
Did you know that you could hold your troop meetings at one of our Girl Scout Camps? Are you interested in going camping? For the answers to these questions and more, contact camp@gsnetx.org for more information.

World Habitat Day
The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October as annual World Habitat Day to call attention to the current global state of the human habitat and push toward adequate housing for all. For more information and to access free planning materials and resources, click **here**.

Visit the GSNETX web calendar for more information on Programs updates.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Family Partnership 2010/2011 Campaign Launch
On July 1, 2010 we launched the new Family Partnership campaign and so far we have raised $5,096.31. We are optimistic that this Family Partnership year will be the best one yet!

We have quite a few online tools for family members and troop leaders that can be found **here**.

The resources in the link above include: a Donate Now button to contribute online, a Family Partnership flyer, and a Frequently Asked Questions document. For those who prefer to send in checks and cash, you can print out the Donate Now page and send in the materials.

As a reminder, most companies are doing their United Way drive right now. We encourage you to remind your families that Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas is a partner agency with United Way. Reach out not only to parents, but to aunts, uncles and grandparents who might also be contributing via United Way! All that we ask is that you send us a copy of the pledge card indicating what SU/troop needs to receive the credit.

SHOP NEWS

Great Start Package- Let your Girl Scout troop leaders and parents know that our fall Great Start Package continues through October 31. The grade level package includes the basic uniform essentials and books a girl needs to begin her GS adventure, including a tote bag available only while supplies last.

Reminder!
Just a reminder- If you have a large Girl Scout troop or need a significant number of items, please call or fax your order to any of our shops and we will pull and have your order ready when you arrive.

Patch of the month for October-
Fall Fun Patch 99 cents.

Coming Soon
Available for purchase starting October 1 in select GSNETX shops:
AMC and Cinemark movie tickets- $7.25
Entertainment Books-$25.00

Contact your local GSNETX shop for more information.

GIRL SCOUT ADULT APPRECIATION

It's not too early to think about Adult Recognitions!

Do you know your Adult Development Specialist (ADS)? If you don't, check with your GS Service Unit Manager or Membership Specialist, or contact the Adult Recognitions Coordinator at ptownsend@gsnetx.org.

Help us by helping your Service Unit ADS make sure that we have correct Adult Education Records for the volunteers in your troops and Service Units.

Do you know what adult education you should have for your SU position? Refer to Connections, page 20 for the latest information.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

TIPS FOR GIRL AND ADULT RECRUITMENT

ADULT RECRUITMENT
Non-Traditional volunteers can be a valuable asset in working with individually registered Girl Scouts because of their wide variety of skills and interests. But where do these volunteers come from, and what is required of them?

GIRL RECRUITMENT
RETENTION - Ensure girls of disbanded Girl Scout Troops are contacted and offered the opportunity to join another GS Troop. These girls should receive first preference for placement in another GS Troop or can also register as Juliettes. The girl and her parent should be invited to attend Service Unit events until GS Troop placement is possible.

For more tips on girl and adult recruitment, please visit www.gsnetx.org. Go to Member/Volunteer Resources button, then click the Tools tab, click on Adult and Girl Recruitment Tips.

FALL RE-REGISTRATION

We need your assistance to ensure that all Girl Scouts and Adults are registered by September 30, 2010. Troops should not be meeting until they are registered.

Suggested SU Meeting Topics

• Icebreaker: Welcome new and returning leaders and help build networks. Have an activity to help new leaders feel comfortable (example: a get acquainted activity) facilitated by the GSSU Team.
• Have a rededication ceremony for returning Girl Scout Troop Leaders and an investiture ceremony for new Girl Scout troop leaders.
• Introduce the Service Unit Team and the Membership Specialist (if present) and distribute the Service Unit Team Directory.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION & CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (CBC)

New Volunteers: The new online process for volunteer application & criminal background check authorization for new volunteers is available at www.gsnetx.org\applynow.

Existing Volunteers: If you are an adult who helps out at Girl Scout troop meetings with the girls, attends overnight programs with a troop, drives girls other than your own daughter or handles Girl Scout funds then you should complete this process, and be a registered Girl Scout adult member. Not every registered GS adult fit these criteria. Check with your Service Unit Manager to find out if your Criminal Background Check (CBC) status has been updated within the last three years. If not, go to www.gsnetx.org\reapplynow. Each time you complete a CBC, you must complete parts of the application form.

New CBC Processes: Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas will begin auditing dates of CBC reports. For volunteers that have a report that is over two (2) years old, we will send out requests for you to submit a new request using the online portal www.gsnetx.org/reapplynow. If you are unsure of how current your report is, please wait for the request. Because of the way the online portal works, some information on the volunteer application must be reentered, including three (3)reference names and phone numbers. When submitting your renewal, please use the activity code A90PSHE.

Building Family Support to make Life Easier
4 HER program materials went live on GSNETX website 09/15. What would doubling the amount of support you receive from your Girl Scout troop families do for you? National studies show that the more you clearly define the ways that parents can help ...the more likely they are to step in. If done correctly, you will build a solid support base, strengthen the girl's chances of longevity with the Girl Scout troop, and potentially even increase participation from other family members. Suggestions and tools to communicate your needs for assistance are provided in the 4 Her toolkit which will help you organize your volunteer pool and call upon new people to do specific tasks while matching assignments with parents' availability and interests.

Download the 4 HER Kit now: GSNETX.ORG > MEMBER & VOLUNTEER RESOURCES > TOOLS

Troop Leadership Basics Curriculum & Trainers Guides Rolling Out to Trained Coaches Now!

Are you the "Coach" for your Service Unit this year – A "Coach" is someone who delivers new leader training to the incoming 01s & 02s? Because the curriculum is brand new and features a "Gift Voucher" for the new leader, we want to make sure that ALL new leader trainers are up to date on the processes.

Even if you have been a Connector for a number of years, you must still come through a Coach the Coach workshop to receive your Trainer's Guide and voucher instructions. Donna Tharp is the Coach's Coach and will be your point of contact to support your efforts to train new Girl Scout troop leaders this year. Still need training? More webinars will be scheduled according to need to get you up to speed. Contact Donna at dtharp@gsnetx.org or 972-349-2481.