

UPDATE



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Statewide Gold Award 2011 Scholarship

A minimum of five scholarships will be awarded: two at \$1,000 each and three at \$500 each. Requirements to Apply:

- Earned the Gold Award in the state of Texas and received approval for Gold Award final project by Friday, April 29, 2011.
- Graduating Girl Scout Ambassador in year 2011.
- Currently registered as a Girl Scout in a Texas Girl Scout Council.
- Need for financial assistance.
- Planning to attend a university or higher education institute during a calendar year from June 1, 2011 –
 May 31, 2015.

For more information, click here.

GS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award Deadline

Just a reminder that September 30, 2011 is the deadline for those who want to complete their GS Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award under the old Studio 2B guidelines. For more information, click **here**. NOTE: If you are applying for the GS Gold Award, the final day to submit your application under the old guidelines is April 15, 2011.

Want the newest info about Girl Scout Programs?

Visit www.gsnetx.org/newinformation to learn the newest information about National Proficiency Badge Categories, How the National Girl Scout Program Portfolio Works, Examples of National Proficiency Badges, the Anatomy of a Badge, What's new with Girl Scout Daisies Petals, Awards and Leaves, and The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.

100th Birthday Patch

We are looking for people who would like to help in the creation of the 100th Birthday activity patch. We will meet in person or through conference call to discuss ideas, define badge requirements and design the patch. The patch and its requirements will be unveiled at GSNETX Administrative Kickoff in August. If you are interested, please contact Gerri Gordon at 972. 349.2436 or ggordon@gsnetx.org.

Do you love, camping & outdoor activities?

If so, we've started planning a new outdoor event for adult volunteers. This event will take place April 27-29, 2012 at Camp Rocky Point. If you would like to be a part of making this event a success, contact Pat Sherwood, psherwood@gsnetx.org.

Day/Twilight Camps

Looking for something fun and affordable for your daughter to do this summer? Be sure to check out the Day/Twilight Camps on our **website** and click on the Volunteer-Run Day/Twilight Camps for great opportunities throughout June. Day/Twilight Camps are only \$50/girl and are a great way to create long lasting memories she will cherish! For more info, contact each specific camp or e-mail **program@gsnetx.org**.

Women's Museum Upcoming Opportunities

The Women's Museum has several Summer Enrichment Camps & the Texas Girls State Fair program for the fall. For more info, click below:

- Summer Camps
- Texas Girls State Fair

Girl Scout College Journey-July 10-15, 2011 Texas Woman's University, Denton

Girl Scout College Journey, previously called Interest Project College (IP College), is for Girl Scout Cadettes (beginning with those entering 7th grade) through Girl Scout Seniors (through those entering

the 11th grade). This program is now being redesigned to fit the needs of the Girl Scout in the year 2011. For more information visit our website at **www.gsnetx.org/collegejourney**.

Project Earth: What's Your Footprint?

Participate in 2011 GSNETX Project Earth: What's Your Footprint? This program is an opportunity for Girl Scouts of all ages to get involved in Earth Day in their local communities through the It's Your Planet - Love It! Journey. If you have never tried a Journey series before, this is a great place to start with accessible program support and unique ideas of how to tailor a Journey to each girl's community and environment that will culminate in a council-wide Earth Day project! For more information, click **here**.

GS Leadership Institute

GSUSA will host the GS Leadership Institute (GSLI) in conjunction with the Girl Scout Convention Nov 10-13, 2011 in Houston. Girl Scouts 13-18 are invited to apply for an amazing experience with Girl Scouts from across the country and the world. GSNETX will be selecting 10 girls from our council. If selected, GSNETX will pay 50% of travel and conference expenses. The application and FAQ including pricing will be posted by March 15 and applications are due by April 15, 2011. For more information, click **here**.

Summer Camp 2011

Now is the time, to register for camp! Camp spots are allotted on a first come, first served basis and camps are filling fast! For more info on all of the exciting offerings in store this summer, refer to your 2011 Summer Camp Guide or click **here**.

Save the Date! 2011 ANNUAL MEETING April 16, 2011

Union Station, Downtown Dallas
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Volunteer Recognition Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Don't miss the excitement of this year's event!

Council Delegates will:

- Review the work of the Board of Directors for the past year.
- Elect new Board Officers & Board Members, Board Development Committee Members & National Delegates & Alternates
- Greet our new Board Chair
- Be the first to see the Property Master Plan preliminary report.

If you haven't sent us the names of your Council Delegates to Council, please do so ASAP! Names and any questions may be addressed to Jenifer Moreau at **jmoreau@gsnetx.org**. The Annual Meeting is open to all members of GSNETX. Please visit **www.gsnetx.org/recogevent** for more information and registration information.

Adult Development Updates

Volunteer Trainers Wanted

Volunteer Trainers really are vital to fulfillment of the Girl Scout Mission! Why? Because the promise of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is only as strong as our leaders' understanding of what that means, and rests entirely upon how prepared they feel to deliver the program. It takes trainers to make that happen.

Where do you fit in?

Girl Scouts in your own town and surrounding towns look to leaders who want to step up to the challenge and need to be trained. One common misperception about being a council trainer is that you have to travel large distances far from home and can train only council sponsored events published in Connections. The reality is that working through the Adult Education Manager, certified Volunteer Council trainers can schedule training sessions and invite their local and neighboring service units. Yes, that means as a certified Volunteer Trainer you can schedule classes in your own town. Sound interesting? Want to know more about how to help Girl Scout Leaders in your own area thrive? Here are the steps:

1. The Facilitating Adult Learning Workshop is the first step toward becoming a certified

Council Volunteer Trainer. This 5 hour class will give you a basic introduction to trainer platform skills, adult learning principles, classroom management, and lay out the responsibilities and commitment of the role. Some follow up reading is required; we do not send you in to a classroom unprepared.

- **2.** If you choose to move forward, you will sign up to go out and shadow three classes within the next 6 months to observe and analyze how what we covered in the workshop is being applied in the learning environment. You will discuss your observations with an assigned mentor and debrief on your experience which gives you the opportunities to ask questions and learn from other trainers.
- **3.** Upon completion of three shadow experiences and review with your mentor, obtain the level of Apprentice Trainer as you Partner teach on 2 different Training dates.
- **4.** After completion of 2 partner teaching experiences, and within one year of attending the workshop, attend an Adult Education Skills Workshop or attend a Trainers' Retreat and become officially pinned in front of your peers as an official Apprentice Trainer.

Training and presentation skills will serve you well in all areas of your life, especially on a resume. Upon pinning, we ask for a commitment of training a minimum of four council trainings per year. You choose the

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Family Partnership: A big thanks to all Service Unit volunteers for working so hard on raising money to support the girls! Through the Family Partnership Campaign, families who benefit from Girl Scouts are able to give back and help provide amazing leadership opportunities for girls. We encourage 100% of families to give to Girl Scouts and make an impact on the future of tomorrow and in the life of a girl. Family Partnership gifts can be made online at www.gsnetx.org/mygift and on the membership form.

2011 Real Girl Awards: The Real Girls Real Women Awards Luncheon celebrates outstanding Girl Scouts and women leaders. Two Award recipients will be selected and honored at the event in October of 2011 at the Hilton Anatole. Award recipients must attend the event.

AWARD CRITERIA: Nominees for the Real Girl Award are high school level current GSNETX girl members. Nominees cannot be previous winners of the Award. Deadline for nomination is May 2, winners will be announced by May 31.

NOMINATE YOUR CANDIDATE: Complete the Nomination Form and one page narrative. Click **here** to access the nomination form online. For questions contact: Lindsay Thompson, GSNETX, Fund Development Coordinator, 972.349.2438 or **lthompson@gsnetx.org**.

Facilitating Adult Learning

Saturday, April 2nd , 2011 - 12:00 pm - 5:00pm East Texas Regional Service Center 9126 Hwy. 271, Tyler, TX 75708

Facilitating Adult Learning

Saturday, April 9th , 2011 - 12:00 pm - 5:00pm Southern Sector Service Center 8705 South Hampton Road, Dallas, TX 75232

Facilitating Adult Learning

Saturday, May 14th , 2011 - 12:00 pm - 5:00pm JoAnn Fogg Service Center 6001 Summerside Drive, Dallas, TX 75252

Facilitating Adult Learning

Saturday May 28th, 2011 - 12:00 pm - 5:00pm Paris Service Center 3920 Lamar Avenue, Paris, TX 75460

classes based upon what is available that fits your schedule and interests, and yes, can choose to deliver training sessions that are in your local service area. Topics of specialization include: troop leadership fundamentals, grade level enrichment classes, troop camping certification, or higher level award overviews.

Interested? Four opportunities to get started lie ahead. Please forward your **Candidate Application** to the **Adult Education Manager** and specify in your email which session you would like to attend.

GSUSA has updated the requirements to earn the bridging awards for girls

As we transition away from the current handbooks and badge books to the new Guide to Girl Scouting, the bridging requirements are changing. To find the most up to date requirements, click **here**. While the current requirements found in many of the current handbooks are still ok to use, be careful in your planning so that awards your girls may be earning are still

relevant after they have moved up. If your Girl Scouts are using any GSUSA resources now through March 2011, Summer 2011 or Fall 2011, click **here** for recommendations about how to plan ahead and prepare for all the changing resources! Remember, bridging awards are an optional award girls can choose to earn when they move up to the next program grade level.

Real Girls Real Women-East Texas

Congratulations to Lifetime Achievement Recipient, Georgia Weddle, of Paris! We are thankful of her dedication to the Girl Scout movement and are so proud of her achievements! We are looking forward to recognizing Georgia at the Real Girls Real Women-East Texas luncheon on March 30, 2011. Thank you for all you do, Georgia! To read more about Georgia and the rest of our honorees, please click **here**.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

2011-2012 Spring Re-Registration

Spring re-registration packets are now being distributed to Girl Scout troop leaders to begin re-registering girls and adults for the 2012 membership year. Contact your Service Unit Manager or Membership Specialist if you have any questions or concerns. We are asking all adults and girls to re-register now for the 2012 membership year.

Advantages of Spring Re-Registration for GS troop leaders, Parents and Girls:

- It increases girl and adult membership retention.
- It allows troop monies, which were earned from the GS Cookie Program, to be used for all or part of the girls' registrations.
- This GS troop payment is one less expense for parents.
- It allows GS troops to develop long range plans for summer and early fall activities.
- It reduces the volume of stress and paperwork for the GS troop leader in the fall.
- It gives parents the opportunity to contribute to our annual Family Partnership Campaign.

Bridging Activities and Ceremonies-Plan Now for Spring!

Ask your Service Unit Team for assistance in providing you information about planning a Bridging Ceremony that celebrates the transition from one program age level in Girl Scouting to the next. For additional information click **here**.

Service Unit Registrars

Continue to distribute Spring Re-Registration packets to Girl Scout troop leaders and give them their designated date to return to the SU Registrar.

Advantages of Spring Membership Re-Registration for Service Units:

- It increases girl and adult membership retention.
- It gives the ability to assess how many GS

troops, girls and GS Leaders will be returning.

- It gives the ability to promote new leadership for GS Troops whose GS Leaders are not returning.
- It allows the opportunity to get a jump start on membership and Family Partnership goals.
- It allows the opportunity for early Council training for new GS troop Leadership.
- It allows Service Units to focus on registering new or disbanded GS troop girls at fall recruitment events.

Spring Membership Re-registration:

Beginning of March: GS Service Unit reregistration packets will be available for pick up from your Membership Specialist.

Deadline to submit Registrations to Council:

Monday, May 2- Friday, May 13: appointments will be made by your Membership Specialist to coordinate turn in of Service Unit reregistering troop packets.

• Starting Monday, May 16, "Early Bird" patches will be available for purchase at all GSNETX Shops. Patches are \$.75 each.

Suggested Ways that GS Service Unit Teams can promote Spring Reregistration to the GS Troops:

- Re-registration allows Troop Cookie
 Program funds to be used for all or part of the girls'registrations.
- Plan a re-registration event or give Girl Scout troops an incentive to participate in a GS Service Unit event which is already scheduled for late spring.
- Have Girl Scout troop leaders share the benefits of re-registering in the spring.

Troop Financial Reports

Review the Council Volunteer Policy about completing and submitting the Troop Financial Report. Remind leaders that it is a council policy for each Girl Scout troop to submit a Troop Financial Report. Give leaders a deadline date for the Troop

Financial Report to be submitted to a designated SU Team member(s). Review the form at your Leader's Meeting in case leaders have questions or concerns.

Adult Development Specialist - Adult Recognition - Spring

The Adult Development Specialist working with the SU Team may want to plan an Adult Recognition Event to thank all leaders and adults who have supported Girl Scouting in their local community. The GSNETX Adult Development department provides a variety of Appreciation Certificates for Girl Scout volunteers and community sponsors upon request. If assistance is needed, contact your Membership Specialist.

Service Unit Manager - Recruiting Service Unit Team Members

GS Service Unit Manager should begin to identify potential new team members to shadow those members who will not be returning for fall 2012 to begin-on-the-job training process before June 2011. Your Membership Specialist is available to assist you with this process. There are many key positions on the team and the leaders in your Service Unit may be able to recommend other adults they know for some of these key positions --- Family Partnership Coordinator, Service Unit Cookie Coordinator, Public Relations Specialists, Recruiters, Mentors, etc. Spring is a good time of the year to consider other adults for these positions so that they may shadow individuals that are currently serving in these positions.

Service Unit Events-Event Coordinators

Review and implement retention activities for spring (i.e. Bridging Ceremonies, Leader Recognition activities,). Some Service Units invite new girls and parents to their retention events to recruit potential adult leadership. These events can be a good resource to recruit new girls and adults.