



# What's New in GSSJC

January 2009

A newsletter for service unit administrators, volunteers and troop leaders

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## Cookie News

### Don't miss out on this great program opportunity!



If your troop is just beginning or you haven't had a chance to take Troop Cookie Manager training, it's not too late. You can sign up to take one of the remaining classroom trainings at <http://www.gssjcshop.org/training/training/training.cfm>. You can also take the 2009 Troop Cookie Manager training on-line at <http://etraining.gssjc.org>.

If your girls miss the order-taking portion of the cookie sale, don't worry. They can still participate in the booth sales. Cookie booths begin on February 20. For more information about cookie booths see the Troop Cookie Manager 2009 Guide provided with your training. Questions? E-mail [cookies@sjgs.org](mailto:cookies@sjgs.org) or call 713-292-0300.

<b>Dates:</b> Initial Order taking	Jan. 10 – 26	Cookie Booths	Feb. 20 – Mar. 29
Cookie Deliveries	Feb. 7 – 18	Sale Ends	Mar. 29

## It's Not Too Late to Register for the Administrative Summit 2009

Service unit managers, assistant service unit managers, and steering committees are invited to attend this special event on Saturday, January 10, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the United Way of Greater Houston building, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston.

The theme is "Connecting For Our Girls". There is no event fee; however, **registration is required by Monday, January 5**. Registration information has been sent to SU administrators via e-mail. If you have not received this information, please e-mail BJ Bonner, [bjbonner@sjgs.org](mailto:bjbonner@sjgs.org) or Sandee Williams Stewart, [stewart@sjgs.org](mailto:stewart@sjgs.org).

## GSSJC Regional Meetings

According to the GSSJC Bylaws, "The board of directors shall call regional member meetings of council members for the purpose of receiving reaction and input to major policy and operational decisions, and to provide a means for the membership to discuss issues of interest and concern. The board of directors and chief executive officer shall determine the dates, time, place and meeting content of no fewer than two regional member meetings per year."

In an effort to connect with volunteers across the Council, four meetings and a teleconference option have been scheduled this year. Any member currently registered, 14 years of age and older, may attend regional meetings. Council delegates should plan to attend one of the meetings. Visitors are always welcome. Key volunteers and staff will be on hand to answer questions. Please put these dates on your calendar!

Monday, **February 2** @ 7:00 pm, Woodlands Christian Church, The Woodlands

Thursday, **February 5** @ 7:00 pm, Beaumont Service Center

Monday, **February 9** @ 6:00 pm, GS Center, 3110 Southwest Frwy, Houston  
7:45 pm, Teleconference Option

Tuesday, **February 10** @ 7:00 pm, Lake Jackson Scout House, Lake Jackson

GSUSA National Convention news will be presented and changes to the GSSJC bylaws related to board chair succession planning and the responsibility of the Council Nominating Committee will be discussed. An opportunity to give feedback on the new Journey books will be provided.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**GSSJC offices and shops will open after the holidays on January 2, 2009 AND will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2009 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.**

## Save These Dates

January 4  
Winter Gold  
Award  
Ceremony

January 10  
SU  
Administrative  
Summit

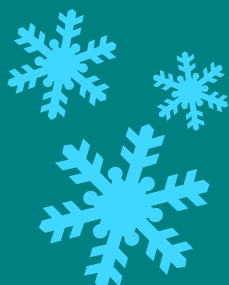
April 18  
GSSJC  
Annual Meeting

April 24  
Urban Campout

May 3  
Lemonade Day

May 2  
Adult  
Recognition  
Event

May 3  
Senior  
Recognition  
Event



## Adult Recognitions Deadlines Approaching!

Every Service Unit has valued volunteers who quietly serve for years without much fanfare. They might be working with the troop leaders, swimming in a sea of paperwork, or they might be providing events for girls. Perhaps they are your trusted BLT facilitator or the person in charge of the SU's library of treasured books and resources. Don't let another year go by without saying a big thank you! The deadlines for submitting adult recognition applications are quickly approaching. It's time to recommend those well-deserving volunteers for a special recognition! GSUSA and GSSJC awards include:

Outstanding Leader Award	Appreciation Pin	The Key Award
Outstanding Volunteer Award	Honor Pin	Continuing Service Award
Family Award	Thanks Badge	The Key Award
Certificate of Appreciation	Thanks Badge II	Lifetime Achievement Award

January 15 is the deadline if the award is to be presented at the Spring Council Recognition Event and February 15 is the deadline if the award is to be presented at a spring service unit/area event. Forms are available on the GSSJC Web site [Forms section in the Helpful Links box on the home page]. For information regarding who has previously received awards in your service unit, please contact Judy Syring [[jsyring@sjgs.org](mailto:jsyring@sjgs.org)]. Don't delay and miss a great opportunity to honor the efforts, talents and contributions of your volunteers!

## Girls Registered?

Now is the time to make sure every Girl Scout in every troop in your service unit is registered for the current membership year (2008-2009). Service Unit Registrars should be in contact with their assigned Membership Manager to find out the current status of registrations for their service unit. The reports list the number of girls and adults registered in every troop. It is especially important that every girl who participates in the Cookie Sale is registered as a Girl Scout.

If you have not compared your SU records with the latest registration reports, please contact your Membership Manager ASAP!

## ¿Que Pasa?

**Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!**

*And, in English...* **Happy New Year!**



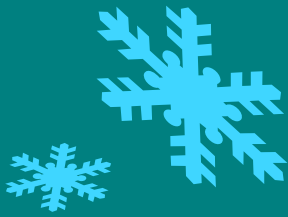
## Volunteer Registration Reminder

Receiving Girl Scout publications is a wonderful benefit of being a registered adult. The *Leader* magazine comes from GSUSA and *The Golden Link* comes from GSSJC -- but only if you are a registered member! In 2008, *Leader* magazine was given a new format, which received special attention and awards. Don't miss another issue! **Make sure you are current with your Girl Scout registration!**

## Check Out this Web site!

Cross Stitch patterns for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award symbols!

<http://www.scoutingweb.com/scoutingweb/SubPages/CSAwardsPatt.htm>



## JANUARY FUN DATES

### JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

### JANUARY 3

Silly Putty Day

### JANUARY 4

Trivia Day

### JANUARY 5

9 Step-Father's Day

### JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King  
Jr's REAL Birthday!  
and

National Hat Day  
Rain Forest Day

### JANUARY 19

Diabetes Awareness  
Day

### JANUARY 24

Square Dancing Day  
Compliment Day

### JANUARY 25

Opposite Day

### JANUARY 26

Australia Day  
Chinese New Year

### JANUARY 27

Chocolate Cake Day  
Happy Adoption Day

### JANUARY 28

Kazoo Lovers Day

### JANUARY 29

Nat'l Puzzle Day

## 'Birthday Party in a Box' Service Project Idea

Here's an idea for a service project that is sure to be a hit with our girls and with the recipients. Troops can supply boxes filled with birthday party supplies for girls and boys who are temporary residents in the shelters throughout our council area. Help us spread some sweet cheer to some wonderful children who are away from the home they remember, away from their friends, and might not otherwise have a birthday party!

Items you may want to include:

- \* Birthday cake mix (unopened)
- \* Frosting (unopened, in the can)
- \* Children's wrapping paper
- \* Birthday party small games & activities
- \* Birthday decorations
- \* Blow up balloons (not inflated)
- \* Birthday-themed paper plates, cups, napkins, and party favors for 12 children

Select a theme and divide the items between the girls in the troop to bring to the next troop meeting. Decorate a box, but please wrap the lid individually. (Copy paper boxes work well.) Be sure to indicate if the box is for a boy or girl, and what age. **Find a women's, family or other shelter near you, or ask your school nurse or local faith community for an idea of where to take the birthday box.**

Some ideas for delivery are:

- > Star of Hope Homeless Women and Family Shelter, 419 Dowling; Houston; 713-222-7827
- > Houston Area Women's Center, 1010 Waugh; Houston; 713-528-6798
- > Depelchin Children's Center, 5002 Scotland; Houston; 713-802-7792
- > Family Services of Southeast Texas, 700 North, Suite 149; Beaumont; 409-833-2668
- > Love Inc. Warehouse, 1010 Ellis; Lufkin; 936-637-6637

At the end of every service project, please complete the Troop Service Project Report Form (GSSJC form F-269) [www.gssjc.org/forms/F-269.pdf](http://www.gssjc.org/forms/F-269.pdf). Thank you.

## Time to Think About World Thinking Day!

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** is the day for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world to take a moment to send symbolic messages of friendship to their sisters in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). It is a special day in the Girl Scout year when we remember we are part of an international movement. Why February 22? That was the mutual birthday of the founder of Boy Scouts and the Girl Guiding movements, Lord Baden-Powell, AND his wife, Olave.

Olave served as the World Chief Guide for the Girl Guide organization for many years.

There are many resources to use in learning and researching World Thinking day.

>> **GSUSA's Web page for 2009 World Thinking Day**

[http://www.girlscouts.org/who\\_we\\_are/global/world\\_thinking\\_day/](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/)

>> **World Thinking Day Resource Guide 2009 from GSUSA**

[http://www.girlscouts.org/who\\_we\\_are/global/world\\_thinking\\_day/2009\\_wtd\\_country\\_resources.pdf](http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/global/world_thinking_day/2009_wtd_country_resources.pdf)

How can your troop celebrate World Thinking Day? How about an international troop meeting to learn about Girl Guides in another country, and then share what they've learned with a sister GS troop, or with the adults at their February SU meeting? How about pen pal with another troop in the USA or over seas?

Girl Scouts in the United States are encouraged to make a donation to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF), which was founded in 1927, to honor her dream of spreading Girl Scouting around the world. Donations support girl and young adult participation in training and international events as well as WAGGGS projects.

Donations should be made by check made out to **Girl Scouts of the USA** with the code **JLWFF** written on the memo line. **Send your checks to GSSJC.** The donation will be 'recorded' and the check will be promptly forwarded to GSUSA.

