



Girl Scouts
of Connecticut

Advisor Update

December 2009

The Advisor Update is a Program Department newsletter to help keep Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Advisors informed of new programs, resources, and ideas. Please share this with the girls in your troop/group.

First Lego League: Start A Robotics Team with Your Community

Through this approach, Girl Scouts ages 9-14 will research this year's theme of earth-friendly transportation, Smart Moves. They will build and program a robot to perform theme-related tasks. The season ends in a friendly competition of Girl Scout teams on Saturday, April 24. The girls on last year's teams left the tournament "motivated, confident and extremely proud of all that they were able to achieve." A grant from Motorola supplies the robotics equipment and laptop. If a girl 15 years or older and has worked with FLL, she may mentor a GS team. Her support might be all that is needed for a team to succeed! For more information, see pages 33-34 of the Program Book or contact Ellyn Savard at esavard@gsfct.org or 203-334-3145 x 3018.



Box of Love Collection

Everyone is eager to help the less fortunate around the holidays, but many people forget that donations are needed after December too! Creating a Box of Love with your troop in February is a great way to use a month-appropriate Valentine's Day theme to gather items for local charities. You can find a local list of charities at <http://www.justgive.org>.

Writer's Challenge for Girls in 6-9th Grades

The Writer's Challenge is now open for students nationwide. Write a story featuring the theme *Amazing Adaptations*. The winning story will be published as a children's book in May by the Environmental Concern as a part of their celebration of American Wetlands Month. Entries must be received by February 1, 2010. for details, go to www.wetlands.org.

Special Interest/Series Groups

Kids on the Block: Educational Puppeteer

Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are invited to attend an info session to become part of a "Kids on the Block" Group. As a member of the puppeteer troupe, you will enlighten Girl Scout troops on topics such as disability awareness, educational differences and social concerns. Viewing a "Kids on the Block" performance is an unforgettable experience. The vignettes are informative in communicating facts and feelings between the puppet characters and the audience.

The "Kids on the Block" session will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at Fair Oaks School, Oakdale. Let us know if you're planning to attend. Contact Audrey Venzio with your name and phone number at gsuncoakmont09@sbcglobal.net by 12/16/09. Further information may be obtained by contacting Cathy Monckton by phone: 800-860-2770 ext. 3342 or email: cmonckton@gsfct.org

The Letterboxing and Geocaching Club

Join other Girl Scout adult volunteers and members once a month at different Program Centers to hike on the properties and learn more about letterboxing and geocaching. Beginners to advanced hikers are welcome. Cost is free. For dates, times, or Program Center information or to sign up, email Candice Olson, colson@gsfct.org.



Program Box for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors

"That's one small step for man, and a giant leap for mankind." On Nov. 16th, the space shuttle Atlantis blasted out of Earth's orbit. Expand your knowledge by renting the Space Exploration program box for older girls! Examples of activities: crafting your own crater, stellar star finders, and Redstone rockets. This is a great way to expand your knowledge and have a good time! Contact alangelo@gsfct.org for further information.

Cookies!

The 2009-2010 Cookie Season will be the most exciting ever! The *Inspired by U* theme is dedicated to girls and their Leaders brought to life in the age-appropriate program activity kits coming soon. Cookie order taking will kick off on Jan. 8th and cookies will arrive on March 6th and 7th. Booth sales will be held March 6 – April 3.

Make the World A Better Place: Be a Green Troop

Do you cringe when you see so much trash thrown out? Do you wish people around you would recycle, turn off lights, or cherish outdoor spaces? Be a part of Girl Scouts of the USA's Forever Green Community Action Project! Girl Scouts connect with their communities to take action through a project that makes a positive impact on the environment. With five focus areas to choose from, the possibilities are amazing: Air Quality, Water, Waste Management, Energy, and Green Space. Girl Scouts of Connecticut and a panel of experts can help guide your projects.

Saturday April 24th is the day to celebrate Earth Day and share what your take action project is about! Girl Scouts will receive Connecticut's Green Troop Patch at the completion of their project. If your troop would like to participate or is already planning a "green" Bronze or Silver Award project, contact Elyn Savard at esavard@gsofct.org, or Debbie Braun at dbraun@gsofct.org. You can find an application on page 59 of your 2009 – 2010 Program Guide.



It's Your Planet: Love It!

Breathe! Did you know that you can live up to 40 days without food and three without water? But you can only last about eight minutes without air! Are you aware of bad air and its causes? Take a journey and become an advocate for air. Just Breathe!

Program Aide

For older girls interested in working with younger girls, the Program Aide workshop will provide additional tools to be successful. All workshops are held at our Outdoor Program Centers. Saturday's training focuses on the PA Core Training, with information and activities on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, interacting with younger girls and choosing suitable activities. The program is combined with team building activities. In the evening, girls will learn games and see how projects can be adapted to the Daisy, Brownie and Junior levels. Sunday morning's activities include hands-on specialty trainings in Healthy Living or STEM. Girls create their own pinning ceremony as they complete the training. See PROGRAM BOOK PAGE 52 for more details. Events will be held:

- Sat./Sun., Feb. 6-7, 2010, Anseox Program Center &
- Sat./Sun., April 17-18, 2010, Aspetuck Program Center

Silver and Gold Updates

GSUSA has guidelines for earning the Silver and Gold Awards the "New Journey Way" on www.girlscouts.org. Currently, girls may choose to begin their Silver or Gold the "old - focus book/IP/4Bs - way" or the "New Journey Way". After September 2010, girls just starting, will need to use the new way.

Award volunteers and staff will be creating "new way" workshops to be ready by summer 2010. As components are completed, information will be posted in the eblast and Advisor Update. Until then, all Silver and Gold Award Workshops will focus on the focus book/IP/4Bs way of earning these awards. Girls favoring the new way can start with a Leadership Journey.

In the new way, there will be GSOFCCT Silver Award notification and sharing forums for the Silver Award. Also, there will be a required workshop prior to submitting a Gold Award Proposal. The Gold Award Committee will continue working to support girls, while maintaining the Standards of excellence.

"New Way" Silver and Gold Snapshot:

Silver:

- Prerequisite: One Cadette Journey.
- In addition, to earn the Silver Award a Girl Scout must complete a Silver Take Action Project, which must:
- 1) Address the root cause of the issue.
 - 2) Have a global connection.
 - 3) Make a measurable, lasting impact/Be sustainable.
 - 4) Be done with the community, beyond Girl Scouts.
- To earn the silver award, the Girl Scout should complete a recommended 50 hours on the project. There is an emphasis on the standard of excellence.
 - Girl Scouts of Connecticut should be notified prior to the start and on completion of the project.
 - The project may involve 1-4 girls.

Gold:

- Prerequisite: Two Senior/Ambassador Journeys. (Or just one if a girl has already earned the Silver Award).
- In addition, the Girl Scout must:
- 1) Attend a Girl Scout of Connecticut Workshop before submitting a proposal.
 - 2) Submit a proposal, at which time a Gold Award Committee Mentor will be assigned to the girl.
 - 3) Follow steps 1-4 as mentioned above in "Silver".
 - 4) Complete a recommended 80 hours with an emphasis on the Standard of Excellence.
 - 5) Submit the final form upon completion.
- A Project Advisor is required to assist the Girl Scout. This person cannot be a relative or a troop leader.

Find Us On Facebook!

The Outdoor Program Department wants to be your Facebook friend. Search for Sam Oa and add her as your friend. Receive updates about council outdoor programs and fun facts! See what pictures Sam Oa puts on her page. Who knows? You may be able to tag yourself in one of her photos.