



THE SPIRIT OF GIVING—NOT JUST FOR HOLIDAYS

This time of year dawns the spirit of giving. Gift giving is the practice for many in celebrating the holidays. It is also the time of year that people consider the needy and make their contributions. Troops/groups may be busy planning food drives and toy drives, or may be collecting coats and mittens for the less fortunate.

While these are great service projects that help girls build confidence and character and make the world a better place, need is not limited to December. There are still people out there who need help after the holidays. Why not plan your collection drives or community projects post-season?



There are lots of ways your troop/group can contribute to a needy cause. Determine what the most needed items are for an organization you would like to help, and set out to collect them. After serving hundreds of holiday dinners, food pantries are often in need of replenishing. Sick children in hospitals could all have their days brightened with a toy. Libraries will always welcome new books, nursing homes would enjoy some after-the-holidays cheer, local pet shelters may be in need of pet food contributions, and used winter coats and mittens may be easier to acquire after the holidays, since gifts of new hats and mittens will leave many winter items unused or no longer needed.

Sybaquay Way—a celebration of Sybaquay Council's 50 years—will be collecting items for local food pantries. Troops/groups or individuals can participate by bringing donations of canned goods and/or paper products to the Northern Illinois University Convocation Center in DeKalb, on March 17, 2007.

Keep in mind that any troop/group service project should be something planned by the girls themselves. Girl Scouts of all ages can plan and implement a variety of community service projects to make a difference in their towns and cities.



When doing any activity as a troop/group, be sure to follow guidelines in *Safety-Wise* and your *Volunteer Resource Guide*. It's important to note that Girl Scouts cannot solicit financial contributions for other organizations.

Girl Scout Center and Council Shop Hours:

Monday	Noon–5 P.M.
	(Shop only Noon–8 P.M.)
Tuesday	9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Wednesday	9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Thursday	9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Friday	9 A.M.–5 P.M.

The Girl Scout Shop is also open the first Saturday of each month from 10 A.M.–1 P.M.

Should the first Saturday fall on a holiday weekend, the shop will be closed and will then be open the following Saturday.

Contacting the Girl Scout Center and Council Shop:

Phone: 847-741-5521
Fax: 847-741-5667
E-mail: info@gs-sybaquay.org
shop@gs-sybaquay.org
Website: www.gs-sybaquay.org

Girl Scout Express Hours:

Monday	9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Tuesday	9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Wednesday	9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Thursday	9:30 A.M.–7 P.M.
Friday	9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Saturday	9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Sunday	Noon–4 P.M.

Contacting the Girl Scout Express:

Phone: 847-620-5043
Fax: 847-620-5044

The Girl Scout Express is located in the Ice House Mall at 200 Applebee Street, in Barrington. The Ice House Mall is north of Main Street, next to the Jewel Food Store. Hough (Route 59) and Main Street is the major intersection nearest the mall location. Call the Girl Scout Express for more specific directions.

See holiday hours in the Shop section on the last page of this newsletter.

Don't miss out—act today! Register your troop to participate on stage or with a booth at Sybaquay Way, March 17, 2007! For more information call our celebration hotline 847-741-5521, Ext. 128 or e-mail <celebrate@gs-sybaquay.org>.

Leader Highlights

FROM NOVEMBER 2006



TSC Training

There are various training sessions offered for leaders from program-level training to outdoor training and service team training.

Last month a troop service coordinator training was held at the Girl Scout Center.

Trainer Harriet K. led participants Debbie G., Melissa M., Becky M., Pattie S. and Leanne W. in the basics of being a troop service coordinator.



A troop service coordinator recruits leaders, places girls in troops, and gives advice and support to leaders all year long. A TSC is usually responsible for all the troops within a specific school.

PROGRAM NEWS

Program Opportunities Just Added—As mentioned in *The Program Booklet*, throughout the year we will be adding program opportunities. Check Sybaquay's Web site <www.gs-sybaquay.org> and enter "events" in the search feature. The following workshops will soon be added to the "Just added council-sponsored workshop" category. No internet connection? Please contact Sarah at 847-741-5521, Ext. 123 for more information.

Brownie Girl Scouts:

Try-It Workshop at YMCA Camp Algonquin (girls will earn the Earth & Sky and Watching Wildlife Try-Its)
Date: Saturday, April 14, 2007, 1 to 4 P.M.

Junior Girl Scouts:

Ceramics & Clay Badge Workshop at YMCA Camp Algonquin

Date: Monday, February 19, 2007, 1 to 4 P.M.

Badge overnight at YMCA Camp Algonquin (girls will earn the Wildlife and Sky Search badges)

Date: Saturday, March 24 to Sunday, March 25, 2007.

Art in 3D Badge Workshops at YMCA Camp Algonquin

Date: April 28, 2007, 1-4 P.M.

Registration for each of the above opens January 2, 2007.

We are also looking at adding additional sessions of some of our most popular fall programs such as Wave the Flag for Brownie Girl Scouts, so check the Web site monthly.

Museum Event Date Change—Please make note that the Snoozeum at the Museum of Science and Industry event has been changed from April to May. The new date is Friday, May 4 to Saturday, May 5. This change was made by the museum.

Leaders Only—Don't forget to check out the Leader Insert (green section) of *The Program Booklet* for:

You & Me Scrapbooking Workshops

The latest Sybaquay Council's Own Recognitions

Take a Hike @ Mary Ann Beebe Center

LEAD (Leadership Enrichment and Development Workshops for Junior Girl Scouts

Registration Deadlines—If you are interested in attend-

ing an event and the deadline has passed, you can see if registrations are still being accepted by checking our Web site at <www.gs-sybaquay.org> or contacting Sarah at 847-741-5521, Ext. 123.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Some January holiday observances—

January 1, New Year's Day

January 6, Epiphany

January 10, Save the Eagles Day

January 11, Amelia Earhart Day

January 15, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

January 17, Ben Franklin's Birthday

January 28, Christa McAuliffe Day

January is also National Thank You Month, National Eye Care Month and National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

Additionally, you might want to get your Girl Scouts thinking about the following:

Different Shoe Day—Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world will celebrate **World Thinking Day** on February 22, 2007. Girl Scouts in the Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council in Raleigh, North Carolina celebrate in a fun and unique way—by wearing two different shoes as a symbol of valuing diversity and the differences of our Girl Scout sisters around the world. You can create a variety of activities to go along with the wearing of different shoes: hold an "international" food festival where you and your Girl Scouts cook dishes from around the world; create a culture collage demonstrating the similarities and differences in cultures around the world; encourage your Girl Scouts to sit with a new group of girls during lunch or to discover something new about their fellow Girl Scouts. For more information on World Thinking Day and other suggestions for activities, visit GSUSA's Web site at <www.girlscouts.org>. *Leaders: You might need to get permission from the principal of the school for your Girl Scouts to wear two different shoes on World Thinking Day.*

Make the World a Better Place—The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. In honor of its 95th anniversary, during Girl Scout Week this March 11–17, Girl Scouts of the USA challenges Girl Scouts



around the US to do just that. Girl Scouts, alumnae and friends are invited to participate in Make the World a Better Place Week by doing a good deed, either individually or as a group. Girl Scouts are encouraged to carry out actions that are interesting and that align with the Girl Scout mission statement. Make the World a Better Place Week patches, lapel pins and adult T-shirts will be available at the Council Shop in Elgin and the Girl Scout Express in Barrington. Guidelines of projects can be found on Sybaquay's Web site at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>. Click on General Info and News.

Girl Scout Sabbath/Sunday—Don't forget Girl Scout Sunday, March 11 and Girl Scout Sabbath, March 17! Check with your church or synogogue to see how your Girl Scouts can participate in the worship service. Beginning in January 2007, Girl Scout church bulletin inserts will be available by request from the communications department at the Girl Scout Center.

Spotlight your Girls—Don't forget to take photos of your girls in action! Tell a story with your photo and get up close and personal. Send the photo to your local newspaper with a press release—if you'd prefer, Sybaquay's communications department can write the press release and send it out with your photo to local newspapers—we would need the troop number, the names of the girls in the photo (i.e., front row from left to right . . .), leader contact information and a description. ALWAYS make sure you have photo releases on all of the girls in your photo!

Our communications department is interested in your activities—contact Cindy Kocol at 847-741-5521, Ext. 139 or at <cindy@gs-sybaquay.org> with details. You might find your different shoe day activities, or good deed or service project detailed in your local paper, on our new Web site or in one of Sybaquay's publications!

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Highlight on Adult Recognition—This month we are featuring the council level adult recognitions.

Sybaquay Bronze Charm is an award unique to Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council. It recognizes outstanding service to at least one geographic area/service unit, or program delivery audience, by an adult member in a service unit position.



Appreciation Pin is a GSUSA award that recognizes outstanding service to at least one geographic area/service unit, or program delivery audience by an adult member.



Honor Pin recognizes outstanding service to at least two or more geographic areas/service units, or program delivery audiences.



Thanks Badge recognizes truly outstanding service benefiting the entire council or the entire Girl Scout movement by an adult member.



Thanks Badge II recognizes ongoing outstanding service benefiting the entire council or the entire Girl Scout movement, given to an adult volunteer who has already received the Thanks Badge.



Do you know an awesome service unit manager, day camp director, service unit event chair or other service team member? For more information on nominations and awards refer to the recognitions binder in your service unit or the recognition section on our Web site at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>. Applications can be obtained from the service unit managers or the membership directors. **Remember to get the application, the required letters of endorsement and a candidate bio worksheet to the Girl Scout Center by the last working day in February!** These volunteers will be recognized at the council-wide Adult Recognition Dinner on April 18.

Leader's Digest Blue Book—The Girl Scout *Leader's Digest Blue Book of Basic Documents for 2006* has arrived from GSUSA. Each troop/group will receive a copy. The *Leader's Digest Blue Book 2006* is scheduled to be distributed in December. If your troop/group does not get their *Leader's Digest Blue Book 2006*, please call your membership director to request a copy. The 2006 troop/group registration packet for new troops/groups will include a copy.

Spring Training Calendar—The 2007 spring training calendar will be online by the second week of January 2007. To register online at <www.gs-sybaquay.org> for spring trainings, enter "Training" in the search feature and "Register" at the bottom of the next page.

LET'S CLARIFY THIS

Get answers to questions that arise due to miscommunication and confusion about procedures, policies and guidelines. Send questions to the attention of the adult development department at the Girl Scout Center.

In regard to special permission slips—Activities that involve sensitive issues require special permission slips. Sensitive issues include sexuality, substance abuse, child abuse and HIV. Sensitive issues permission slips are included in the Forms section of the *Volunteer Resource Guide*. Guidelines for sensitive issues can be found in *Safety-Wise*, p. 40-43.

Additionally, horseback riding is a high-risk activity that also requires special permission slips. These are also included in the Forms section of the *Volunteer Resource Guide*. Guidelines for horseback riding can be found in *Safety-Wise*, p. 102-104.

All high-risk activities require that a current certificate of insurance be on file with the Girl Scout Center. Contact the membership support assistant at Ext. 118 to verify. Additional requirements may include: special skill certification, and an adult with current certification in first aid and CPR in attendance. Guidelines for high risk activities can be found in *Safety-Wise*, p. 79-80 and the *Volunteer Resource Guide*, p. 32-22.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Fashion Show and Tea—Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council's 2nd Annual Fashion Show & Tea will be held Sunday, February 11, 2007, at Village Hall Banquets in Union, IL. All families are invited to participate in this wonderful event. Invitations will be mailed, one per household, in late December. Reservations can be made online under events after December 8. Deadline for ticket reservations is January 12, 2007. For more information, contact MaryBeth Markwell at 847-741-5521, Ext. 112. Service units will have an opportunity to create a basket for the raffle at the fashion show & tea. Talk to your service unit manager today to enter your basket.

Family Partnership—Family Partnership is off to a great start for the year. We would like every family to be a participant in this year's campaign! If you have any questions or would like to get more involved with this

program, contact MaryBeth Markwell at 847-741-5521, Ext. 112, or send an e-mail to <marybeth@gs-sybaquay.org>. Look in January's issue of *Leader Links* for updated goals and progress from the service units.

Expos—From January to April we will be hosting booths at area Chamber of Commerce Community Expos. We are looking for troops to volunteer for community service, to help take 2-hour shifts at these events. If your troop is interested, contact MaryBeth Markwell at 847-741-5521, Ext. 112, or <marybeth@gs-sybaquay.org>. This is the perfect opportunity for your troop show off what Girl Scouting has done for them.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Membership—As of November 28, 2006, we had 7,758 girls and 2,254 adults entered into our membership system for the new 2006–2007 membership year. Please understand that until your registration form is received by your service unit registrar, and turned in to the Girl Scout Center, you are not covered by Girl Scout insurance (girls and adults) or given access to the Leader Forum. Please send your forms A.S.A.P.

Web Site Update—We're well on our way to our "screaming" new Web site. Based on volunteer and staff suggestions, we have begun shakin' things up! Our new site promises to be user-friendly, attractive and GSUSA-branded—we're also adding a couple of new sections we're sure you'll find fun and informative! Keep your ears open—the new site's scheduled to "scream" its debut sometime in January!

Bank Accounts—Sybaquay Council's troop/group financial policy states, "Each troop/group must establish a troop/group bank account. The bank account must have a minimum of three eligible signatures (of unrelated adults), any two being required for withdrawals. Suggested signatures to include: leader(s), service team member(s), troop/group committee chair, troop/group treasurer." (*Volunteer Resource Guide*, p. 41)

To clarify, at least two signatures of eligible, non-related, registered adult members are required when writing a check from your troop/group bank account. Additionally, please note that debit cards are not to be used on troop/group bank accounts.



PATCHES AND T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW!

Patches - \$1.50

T-shirt - \$10

Sizes: Youth S, M, L and Adult S-XXL

Adult Polos - \$25

Sizes: Adult S-XXXL

Colors: Gold, Carolina Blue, Royal Blue

CALENDAR

Delivery of fall product items	December 1, 2
Girl Scout Cookie Sale Kick-off, ECC	Dec. 2
EC Toy Drive Dropoff at GSC	Dec. 1-15
<i>See program booklet for specifics</i>	
Winter Break	
<i>GS Center & Council Shop closed</i>	Dec. 18-Jan. 1
<i>Girl Scout Express closed</i>	Dec. 23-Jan.1
Girl Scout Cookie Sale Begins	January 6
Sybaquay Council's Annual Meeting	January 27
<i>McHenry County College, Crystal Lake</i>	

SAVE THE DATE



<i>Fashion Show & Tea</i>	February 11, 2007
<i>Sybaquay Way</i>	March 17, 2007
<i>Adult Recognition Dinner</i>	April 18, 2007
<i>Girl Scout Gold Award Banquet</i>	April 25, 2007
<i>Golden Gala Dinner</i>	June 23, 2007
<i>Mary Ann Beebe Camp Tours</i>	June 24, 2007

SHOP TALK

Don't forget your favorite Girl Scout this holiday. We have many new items including T-shirts, sweatshirts, and lots of fun stuff. Shop early to get a good selection of holiday merchandise and gift bags.



PART-TIME HELP NEEDED in the Girl Scout Express and Council Shop providing sales assistance to members wishing to purchase Girl Scout merchandise. Hours vary per week, immediate start, \$7.50-\$8.50/hr. Contact Dawn Acosta, shop manager, at 847-741-5521, Ext. 151 or e-mail <dawn@gs-sybaquay.org>.

Holiday Hours—The Girl Scout Center/Council Shop will be closed to the public from December 18 through January 1 for the winter holiday—the Girl Scout Center and Council Shop will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2007. Additionally, please note that the Girl Scout Express in Barrington will be closed December 23 through January 1—the Girl Scout Express will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2007. The Girl Scout Express will have special holiday hours beginning December 11 through December 22:

9:30 A.M.–7 P.M., Monday–Friday
 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M., Saturday
 Noon–5 P.M., Sunday

No time to visit the Council Shops? . . . Order by



Shop online on our Web site at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>.