



## **OUR WEB SITE HAS A NEW LOOK!**

If you are reading this February edition of the Leader Links, then you have gotten a glimpse of our new and improved Web site. Be sure to check out all the areas of the site. Many things have changed! We asked what you wanted, listened to all your great ideas and requests and have tried to implement and deliver a site that better works for our volunteers, girls and their families, and helps the public view Girl Scouting as a positive force.

First and foremost, our goal was to provide better flow. We have rearranged our pages in an order that made better structural sense. We have added buttons at the top of the home page with drop-down sub-categories to make finding exactly what you are looking for much easier. The content of our new Web site is split up under seven main areas: Home, About Us, Girl Program, Adults, Donate, Shop and Girl2Girl.

An overall new look was incorporated. The actual page size was increased for better readability and visual appeal. Photos have been added, and will be changed frequently to keep the site fresh and up to date. Quick links are available on many of the pages to link you to related topics. We have added a scrapbook page to highlight current Girl Scout program events and workshops. Watch for your troop/group's projects or events to be spotlighted here!

New information is now available with our improved site. You will see newsworthy items, GSUSA updates, special event notifications and press releases posted under the news section. In-depth camp and product sale sections are now also available.

Another big change is the ability to truly shop online. You can now make purchases using PayPal. The new shop section is complete with better visuals and descriptions. Additionally, it is easier to see that you are on a secure connection.

More to come! You may have noticed that the Leader Forum, bulletin boards, and chat functions have been disabled. These features hadn't been working efficiently as a networking option, but will be reintroduced at a later date in a better format. Also, in the near future, you will have the ability to make donations and other financial transactions directly through PayPal.

The new Web site was designed in a way that many of the administrative functions and updating methods can be done in-house. This means that staff will have the freedom to easily update the site, preventing it from becoming stagnant. It will better provide users with new information and images. So check it out often, and send us your comments!

### **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](mailto:info@gs-sybaquay.org)  
[shop@gs-sybaquay.org](mailto:shop@gs-sybaquay.org)  
Website: [www.gs-sybaquay.org](http://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.

**Did you know—When you shop at the Council Shop or the Girl Scout Express, revenues are used to further the Girl Scout program for girls in Sybaquay Council!**

# Photo Highlights



New Board members and officers were elected at Sybaquay Council's Annual Meeting held Saturday, January 27 at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake.



Council delegates along with Board members and staff gathered in the conference center to participate in discussions and listen to presentations.

## PROGRAM NEWS

**Visit Sybaquay Way 2007 and Celebrate Past, Present, Future**—This Girl Scout expo is sure to be a great time for all as we celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouts and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sybaquay Council. There will be troop, council, and vendor booths, as well as stage shows. The event is open to public so encourage your troop members, their families, friends, and Girl Scout supporters to visit. Admission is free (parking is \$3 per car/\$10 per bus).

The event will be held Saturday, March 17, 2007, from 1-5 P.M. at the Northern Illinois University Convocation Center in DeKalb.

In celebration of Girl Scouts' long tradition of community service and Make the World a Better Place Week, a collection of items for local food pantries will be conducted. Donations needed include: fruits (canned and individual serving size), canned vegetables, tuna, boxed cereal (large boxes as well as individual servings), soups (large and small cans as well as single serve microwavable), peanut butter, boxed macaroni and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, Jello, rice, baby food, bath tissue, Kleenex, diapers and bar soap.

Included in the fun will be a SWAPS area, where Girl Scouts of all ages can exchange SWAPS with Girl Scouts from throughout Sybaquay Council and neighboring councils.

SWAPS—**S**pecial **W**hatchamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere—is a Girl Scout tradition that started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song, and making new friends. For the basics, tips, and etiquette of SWAPS, visit <[www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)> and enter SWAPS in the search feature.

No pre-registration is required. Join in the fun of Sybaquay Way!

**Program Updates**—Room is still available in the following workshops:

Junior Girl Scouts:

- “Purse”sonality I, Sunday, February 25, GSC
- Science in Everyday Life, Saturday, March 10, GSC

- Jeweler Badge, Saturday, March 10, GSC

Girl Scouts 11-17:

- “Purse”sonality I, Sunday, February 25, GSC
- Don't Sweat It, Saturday, March 3, GSC (Please note this is the correct day. Day listed in Program Booklet is incorrect.)
- Just Jewelry IP, Saturday, March 10, GSC

**Come Share Your Summer With Us at Camp Pokonokah Hills**—Although the snow is falling and our days are chilly, the time to think about resident camp has arrived.

Camp Pokonokah Hills and the summer staff of 2007 are ready to welcome you to several great upcoming sessions! Please join us for as many as you can!

Registration begins Thursday, February 15. Check out the camp co-op brochure and our Web site for more information about registering your camper for camp!

An information session will be held Sunday, March 25, 1-5 P.M. at the Girl Scout Center. Even if you have attended camp before, come and meet the new director, hear about some exciting changes, and participate in some hands-on activities that will help get you geared up for camp! This session runs like an open house, so stop in whenever and stay as long as you'd like. Don't forget to bring your campers! Please note that the date in the camp co-op brochure is incorrect.

**Resident Camp Committee**—Because camp is an ever-changing and evolving environment, it's important to involve the people who have been the biggest part in Camp Pokie's success—You!

The Resident Camp Committee is a way that the camp director and other summer staff can network with adults/parents, campers and leadership campers (CITs) to discuss our overall camp programming and community. If Camp Pokie has been a part of your life, please join us in a monthly meeting or e-mail us your ideas, program thoughts, or concerns as we work to make our camp the best it can be!

If interested, please contact Shena Willbrandt with the days and times you are available! Shena can be reached at 847-741-5521, Ext. 147, or at <[shena@gs-sybaquay.org](mailto:shena@gs-sybaquay.org)>.

**It's not too late for your troop to sign up to have a booth or do a stage presentation at Sybaquay Way! Registration has been extended to Feb. 15. Contact Kay, 847-741-5521, Ext. 130**

## **WE NEED YOUR OLD T-SHIRTS!**

**Do you have any old T-shirts hanging around the house? We're accepting T-shirts in good condition with no stains or tears for a fun and creative art project at Sybaquay Way! All sizes needed. Drop them off at the Girl Scout Center or call us if you have a bunch that you'd like to have picked up.**

**Contact Shena, 847-741-5521, Ext. 147 or e-mail <shena@gs-sybaquay.org>.**

**Campopoly**—Because resident camp is all about fun and quality programs, we're bringing some of those very programs to you at Sybaquay Way! Join us in playing Campopoly, a hands-on game for campers and adults that shows you what kind of activities you can enjoy at camp. Sing some songs, participate in hands-on projects and meet the camp director!

We're also looking for anyone with previous camp experience, campers or adults, to help facilitate the game and activities. Please contact Shena if you would like to help with Campopoly at Sybaquay Way!

**Girl Scout Gold Award Banquet**—The GS Gold Award Banquet is scheduled for April 25. The banquet will honor Girl Scouts who have earned their GS Gold Award (prior to March 1, 2007), graduating seniors and girls in their tenth year of Girl Scouts. Invitations will be mailed by the end of March. If you have girls currently in their tenth year of Girl Scouts, please contact Sarah, 847-741-5521, Ext. 123 or e-mail [sarah@gs-sybaquay.org](mailto:sarah@gs-sybaquay.org) for an invitation and recognition certificate.

## **IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

### **Some March Holiday Observances—**

March 8, International Women's Day  
March 11-17, Girl Scout Week

March 11-17, Make the World a Better Place Week

March 17, St. Patrick's Day

March 21, International Earth Day

March is also National Nutrition Month and National Women's History Month.

**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. Girl Scout church bulletin inserts are available in English or Spanish by request from the communications department at the Girl Scout Center. Call 847-741-5521, Ext. 115 or e-mail <[vanessa@gs-sybaquay.org](mailto:vanessa@gs-sybaquay.org)>. Color inserts can also be downloaded from our Web site under Home/ News/ From GSUSA.

**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](mailto:cindy@gs-sybaquay.org) with details. You might find your 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**

**Adult Recognition**—Appreciation is an ongoing, everyday process for anyone, anywhere, anytime. Showing appreciation for one another is a good way to show respect and to recognize strengths and commitment. Recognitions are tangible reminders of rewarding relationships between people and Girl Scouting. The adult recognition system is designed to be a valuable component of every council's volunteer support system.

Even when a volunteer is already aware that she/he is

doing a good job, it is important to know that others think so, too. Act on your desire to honor special volunteers by nominating them for one of this year's awards.

**Volunteer Recognition Nominee Deadline**—The deadline to submit nominee applications for recognitions is February 28, 2007, 5 P.M. Consult the service unit's adult recognition binder or Sybaquay's Web site for all the forms and information needed to nominate a volunteer/leader, or contact your service unit manager or membership director.

Presentations are made at the annual Sybaquay Council Adult Recognition Dinner. Mark Wednesday, April 18, 2007, on your calendar to attend. The Adult Recognition dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn in Elgin. Check our Web site for a reservation form. Come and join us at this special event. There will be great food, games and prizes.

**CPR Procedures**—As of October 1, 2006, the American Red Cross has incorporated new changes to the CPR procedures. So, if your troop/group needs a first-aider for your event and/or activities, Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council will be offering both the traditional and blended learning First Aid/CPR training starting April 2007. Please check our Web site for more information on which CPR training you will need, the cost, date, place, time and how you can register. The American Red Cross module will be used for this training.

## FUND DEVELOPMENT

**Family Partnership**—By the end of February we will be sending out another Family Partnership Ask to all the families who have not yet given to our 2006/2007 campaign. We want to thank all those who have given and supported Family Partnership as it helps with furthering the mission of Girl Scouting in Sybaquay Council. Be on the look-out for the Family Partnership Booth at Sybaquay Way, March 17, at the NIU Convocation Center. Stop by and check us out. If you have any questions, please contact MaryBeth, 847-741-5521, Ext. 112, or e-mail <marybeth@gs-sybaquay.org>.

**Golf Classic**—This year's annual Sybaquay Golf Classic is scheduled for July. Lisa Sheldon of Osceola service unit has agreed to chair the committee that will plan the

event. We would like anyone who may be interested in golfing, or to help sponsor the event to contact MaryBeth at 847-741-5521 Ext. 112, or send an e-mail to <marybeth@gs-sybaquay.org>. We are still looking for volunteers to help with this event. More information to follow as the committee finalizes the details.

**Golden Gala**—In celebration of Sybaquay Council's 50th anniversary, a Golden Gala Dinner will be held June 23, at the Chicago Marriot Northwest in Hoffman Estates. Please let us know of anyone you think should be included on our invitation list!

**Thanks again for talking up Sybaquay Council's fund development projects within your service units, troops/groups. Every bit helps to bring a quality Girl Scout program to all girls within our community.**

## PRODUCT SALES

**Thank you cards available for use**—As part of this year's Girl Scout Cookie Kick-off event, a contest was held for thank you card design. Winners were chosen and notified and the designs are available on our Web site to download and print to use for your own use. Check out our first, second and third-place winners!

## 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.**

**FROGS**—F.R.o.G.S. is an acronym for the four councils that will be coming together in the 2008 realignment: Fox Valley, Rock River Valley, Green Hills and Sybaquay. It is not meant to be a name for the new council entity, just a temporary working name!



## COUNCIL UPDATES

**Membership**—As of February 2, 2007, we had 9,204 girls and 2,226 adults entered into our membership system for the 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). Please send your forms A.S.A.P.

**New Staff**—Please join us in welcoming new staff members Kelly Barnett, shop clerk; Sara Flavin, shop clerk; Shannan Krist, membership director; Blanca Lopez, office assistant; Melissa Margason, membership director; and Pam Schnecke, program specialist.



### PATCHES AND T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE!

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

*Come in to either the Council Shop or the Girl Scout Express, or contact Becky at 847-741-5521, Ext. 138, or <[becky@gs-sybaquay.org](mailto:becky@gs-sybaquay.org)>.*

## CALENDAR

World Thinking Day	Feb. 22
Nomination Deadline for Adult Recognition	Feb. 28
Make the World a Better Place Week	March 11-17
Girl Scout Sunday	March 11
Girl Scout Sabbath	March 17
Sybaquay Way	March 17

**Save the date**—Mark your calendars and watch for more information on these upcoming events!

Adult Recognition Dinner	April 18, 2007
Girl Scout Gold Award Banquet	April 25, 2007
Girl Scout Silver Award Ceremony	May 20, 2007
Golden Gala Dinner	June 23, 2007
Mary Ann Beebe Camp Tours	June 24, 2007
2007 Sybaquay Golf Classic	July 2007

## SHOP TALK



**Happy Anniversary!**  
*This year is the 95th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, and the 50th anniversary of Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council. Stop in to see our selection of anniversary items!*

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



Shop online on our Web site at  
<[www.gs-sybaquay.org](http://www.gs-sybaquay.org)>.