

May 1, 2009

GIRL SCOUT VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

(Elgin) Whether it's leading a Girl Scout troop, training fellow volunteers, or serving on the Board of Directors or a council committee, Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council depends on their dedicated adult volunteers to help fulfill the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. To celebrate their volunteers, Sybaquay Council held its annual Adult Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, where some of these outstanding volunteers were recognized and nominated by their peers for their dedication to and enthusiasm for helping girls grow strong through Girl Scouts.

The first award presented was the Sybaquay Bronze Charm, which is unique to Sybaquay Council and recognizes outstanding service to at least one geographical area/service unit or program delivery audience by an adult member in a service unit position. There were 38 adult volunteers who received this award, including Renita Overstreet of St. Charles; Laura Rabe, Carrie Zaccaria, and Suanne Bowman of Elgin; Denise Cullen of Plainfield; Ann Murray, Mary Chris Arnesen, Tammy Bowers, Cathy Johnston and Nancy Zumski of Crystal Lake; Gina Wynn of East Dundee; Kelly Harkins and Carolyn Krich of Huntley; Cindy McGowan and Laura Morgan of Hawthorn Woods; Debbie Hudziak of Streamwood; Ann Freeman of Kildeer; Shelley Cooper, Kim Guercio, Risa Levitan and Gail Ludwigsen of Lake Zurich; Sheila Bliujus, Brenda Jones, Jody Jones, Cathy Plauck, Jacqueline Tull, Pam Umekubo, and Dan Yuneck of Sycamore; Brianna Michael of Genoa; Sara Montgomery, Jennifer Dick, Carol

Lee Duffin and Carol Genis of DeKalb; Geri Golonka, Kaye Heinhold, Denise Kennelly, D'Anne Matzuka and Sandra Rosenthal of Cary; Ann Murray, Mary Chris Arnesen, Tammy Bowers, Cathy Johnston, and Nancy Zumski of Crystal Lake; Kelly Harkins and Carolyn Krich of Huntley.

Twelve volunteers were awarded the Appreciation Pin which recognizes an adult member of Girl Scouts whose outstanding service to at least one geographic area or program delivery audience has helped to further the council's goals. Volunteer recipients include Miriam Fleig of Hanover Park; Jeffrey Schmidt of Bartlett; Debbie Leach and Noel Smith of Sycamore; June Kubasiak of Genoa; Lois Wollney of Barrington; Pam Sirt of Lake Zurich; John McCough of Elgin; Carolyn O'Neal of South Elgin, Michael Peddle of DeKalb; Kathy Mullard and Barb Pagano of Crystal Lake.

Kim Colness, Evie Fiandace and Mary Tull, of Sycamore, all received the Honor Pin which recognizes outstanding service by an adult volunteer to at least two or more geographic areas/service units or program delivery audiences.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Thanks Badge and Thanks Badge II, the highest and most meaningful award a Girl Scout volunteer can be given. This award recognizes truly outstanding service benefiting the entire council. Volunteers receiving the Thanks Badge included Harriet Kunesh of Bartlett; Janna Link of Sycamore; Monica O'Neill of Algonquin, Georgianne Chromczak of Johnsburg and Beverly Dow of Harvard.

Monica O'Neill is a troop leader, council delegate, troop service coordinator and service unit manager. Through her hard work and positive values, she has increased service unit meeting participation and helped her service unit to become a group that works together. Monica lives the Girl Scout Promise and Law and is always there for the girls and the leaders of Sybaquay Council.

Harriet Kunesh has shared her love of Girl Scouts through service in roles both at the council and service unit levels. Her many volunteer positions include troop leader and day camp director. In her role as council trainer she is consistently marked by her students as excelling at her facilitations. Most of all Harriet is truly appreciated for her tremendous gift of giving of herself to help further the organization and its commitment to girls.

As an outstanding Girl Scout volunteer for over 18 years Janna Link has helped many leaders through difficult times. She makes an effort to provide training in all areas of the council, including program aide training. She has served as a member of the Program, Property, and Day Camp Committees, as well as the task group charged with eliminating the girl waiting list. She has held numerous service unit team positions and is currently the Doubletree Service Unit co-manager. With all of this, she still finds the time to help with Sybaquay's girl events like the 2008 archery program event. We could all take a lesson from her selfless commitment to Girl Scouts Sybaquay Council.

Georgianne Chromczak is a volunteer trainer of adults and girls, a certified trainer of adults in archery and has also been trained as a program-aide trainer. Georgianne is committed to Girl Scouts and has had a very positive impact on the adults and girls she has trained. This past October, she accompanied a group of girls to Girl Scouts of the USA's Leadership Convention in Indianapolis, helping to make their experience positive and fun. She is an excellent example of a leader, exemplifying the values of the Girl Scout Promise and the Law.

Beverly Dow has generously given her time to Girl Scouts through her service at both the council and service unit levels. She has offered adult training sessions, lead girl activities, and been a valuable member of various council committees, including the Adult Recognition Committee as chair. She has served in many different capacities over the years, always focused and enthusiastic.

Many of these positions are vital and do not receive the accolades they deserve. She is truly cherished for her service, advice and guidance she has given all of us.

Already having received the Thanks Badge previously Jean Murawski of Lake in the Hills and Lesley Tennessen of Holiday Hills were presented with the Thanks Badge II. Over the past 35 years, Jean has held a variety of volunteer positions, including advisor to the service unit, registrar, and Girl Scout cookie shop coordinator. As a dedicated volunteer, Jean is always willing to mentor Girl Scout adults who take on new roles. She continues to provide invaluable wisdom and support to everyone associated with Sybaquay Council.

Lesley Tennessen has been the driving force behind outdoor training and facilitation of volunteers, as well as being an instructor of new facilitators. She is the leading member of the Adult Recognition Committee and has run the Leader Jamboree for many years. Lesley has touched the lives of hundreds if not thousands of Girl Scouts, from Girl Scout Daisies to Adults, through her service to troops, program, property use, wider opportunities/*destinations*, adult recognition and Troop Trek. She has unquestionably provided service to the council far above and beyond the call of duty. She is the most amazing Girl Scout many of us have had the pleasure to know.

Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council is headquartered in Elgin and serves over 9, 500 girls and 2,225 adults in more than 50 communities in McHenry County and parts of Lake, Cook, Kane, DuPage, DeKalb and LaSalle counties.

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