

**Ames/Gilbert Girl Scouts
Service Unit / Community Meeting Notes
January 17, 2011**

Cookie Sale

Booth sale sign up online is going well. Dee Hapke was able to give 12 of the 13 troops that had signed up so far their first choice for location and time.

Sign-up for additional booths is now open. The survey used to sign up is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3L9TQZP>.

Please see Dee's email about this and other important cookie booth information, especially deadlines and guidelines to order cookies for your booth sale. Attached to her email is a document outlining what behavior is expected from troops at booth sales. A second document has specific requirements for each booth sale site.

First Aid Training

The training through Mary Greeley in December was attended by 6 leaders. Leaders who attended were pleased with the material covered and the enthusiasm of the instructor. The online portion to be completed ahead of the hands-on session presented no difficulties. This training may be offered again in late spring. Thank you to Joyce Lines for setting this up for us.

Girl Adult Ratios

Jeannette Olson reminded us of the girl-adult ratios required by Safety-Wise (see page 69 in Safety-Wise). In addition the following policies apply:

- Every troop must have two adult **registered Girl Scout leaders**.
- At least one of the registered adults must be present at each meeting and additional adults must also be present to meet the Safety-Wise girl-adult ratios.
- Any adult assisting more than 3 times must complete a volunteer application and be registered as an adult Girl Scout.
- Any adult handling troop funds (including "cookie moms") must be a registered Girl Scout.
- There must be at least two **unrelated** adults at any event or troop meeting.

These policies are for the leaders' safety as well as the girls'.

A leader who does not follow these policies is not covered by Girl Scout insurance and could be held personally liable in the event of an accident or other incident.

Suggestions to help a troop register adults include:

- When asking parents to register, call it becoming a "registered Girl Scout" instead of "registered leader". Many will register as long as they are not expected to "lead" a troop.
- Troops can pay the membership dues for adult members
- More than one troop can meet at the same time in the same building and meet required ratios by "sharing" their adults.

Website

Karla Embleton wants to step down as webmaster for the Ames-Gilbert Girl Scouts website. She currently uses Dreamweaver software to code the pages then FTP's the pages to the server. Cathy Hauck is building a website for another organization and suggested that if the Service Unit could split the cost of the required software with the other organization she could take on our website as well. She will get more information from Karla.

Snowshoeing

The Jan.21-23 snowshoeing event organized by Kate Murray as her Silver Award project is full. All troops who are registered have been notified. Remember to dress appropriately for the weather – winter jackets, snow pants if you have them, hats, gloves, scarves and warm boots!

Father-Daughter Dance

Jenny Lennon and Joyce Lines are planning the Father-Daughter Dance in February. The St Cecilia Social Hall has been reserved from 1-3pm on Saturday, February 12th. Jeannette has an acquaintance who might be able to be DJ at the event.

A volunteer photographer is needed to take souvenir pictures of fathers and daughters. This could be an adult or an older girl. Contact Jenny (jjlennon@hotmail.com, 515-232-2242) if you can help.

March Girl Scout Week activity

Troop can sign up by email (see email from Cathy Hauck) for one-hour blocks (or more if you wish!) to help make tied fleece blankets for Project Linus. This will be in the auditorium at the Ames Public Library from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm on Saturday, March 12th.

The public will be invited in to watch and help. This is a great opportunity to let people know there are Girl Scouts in Ames, and hopefully to encourage more adults to help us provide Girl Scout opportunities to girls.

April Bike Rodeo

There was no new information about this event

June Day camp

Jana has reserved the Izaak Walton League facilities for June 9th to June 11th for day camp. June 11th would be a half-day. There might be a campout for older girls as part of this event. Planning is beginning. Let Jana (janazhan@iastate.edu) know if you would like to help. Older girls are also welcome to help with planning and activities.

Pick-up from Council Shop

Nikki Dempsey (Dempsey_50014@yahoo.com, 515-233-4325) has kindly offered to pick up orders from the Council shop when she is in Des Moines on Thursdays. Contact her if you have an order at the shop that needs to be picked up.

Council Updates

The latest installment of Journey books is now available at the Council Shop.

The GSGI Annual Meeting will be in Ames on April 9th. Melissa Murray and Cathy Hauck will be our delegates. Melissa also informed us that the Girl Scout LEGO League team she coached will be presenting their winning project at the meeting. Congratulations to the team on their success!

New issues of Volunteer News and Connect are available online at www.gsiowa.org. GSGI is now on Facebook. You can "friend" them to receive notes and updates.

100th anniversary planning-

Jeannette participated in a conference call to share ideas about events for the 100th anniversary of Girl Scout USA. The anniversary kickoff will be at the national meeting in Houston in November 2011 and celebrations will continue through 2012.

Our service unit was asked if we would plan and host a "decade encampment", a camp with themes and activities from a decade of our choice. There was some interest in this. Perhaps the 60's or 70's?

We brainstormed ideas for possible location is Ames to stage a historical display about Girl Scout's first 100 years.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Camp books should have arrived. The deadline to register at a \$10 discount is earlier this year: Feb.28.

Next meeting is February 21, 2011.