

## Upcoming 100th Anniversary Activities

Plan to join us in celebrating our 100 years by participating in these fun events!

NOW Available online at [girlscoutsni.org](http://girlscoutsni.org):

**100 Ways to Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup>:** Creative and fun ideas and ways to help celebrate the centennial anniversary of Girl Scouting!

**GSNi's Centennial of Girl Scouting Patch Program:** Activities are designed to inspire Girl Scouts to learn about Girl Scout history, celebrate that they are Girl Scouts and think forward to the future of Girl Scouting. Girls will connect to community service and use their voices to let others know who we are! Patches will be available for purchase in the shop after February 1, 2012.

**Bowling: February 25, 2012**, at the following locations—  
Plum Hollow Family Center, Dixon  
4 Seasons Bowling Center, Freeport  
Brunswick Zone XL Randall Road, Algonquin  
St. Charles Bowl, St. Charles

Times and fees vary by location. Registration will be online by December 15, 2011. Bowling events are for Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors and their chaperones.

**Girl Scout Night at the Slaughter Professional Indoor Football:** June 8, 2012.

Invite your friends and family to join in the fun! Registration flier will be available on our website by January 1, 2012.

Watch for more information after the first of the year on the following:

Girl Scout Night at Magic Waters: August 12, 2012

Girl Scout Night at the Kane County Cougars, date to be determined

Girl Scout Night at the Rockford River Hawks, date to be determined

And don't forget to mark your calendar for GSNi's Centennial Celebration event on April 28, 2012, at the NIU Convocation Center in DeKalb.

For more information on GSNi's anniversary event see our website.



## Attention Girls and Parents!

### Let Your Voice Be Heard And Win Some Great Prizes!

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and Girl Scouts of the USA Research Institute (GSRI) have partnered to provide opportunities for girls and adults to share with us their thoughts and feelings about their experiences in Girl Scouting.

We encourage all girls and adults to visit [www.girlscoutvoices.org](http://www.girlscoutvoices.org)

Completing this initial registration survey will help us send relevant, age-appropriate surveys in the future. Information provided on these surveys is important to help us understand how to create the best possible program for all Girl Scouts. If your daughter is under 13, parental consent is required.

The first 500 girls who get their parents' permission and register on [GirlScoutVoices.org](http://GirlScoutVoices.org) before December 31 will get a participation patch. Then, all girls who complete an online survey in 2012 will be entered in a drawing to win an **Apple iPad 2** and other great prizes!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## Elgin Community Toy Drive

Once again, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is one of the co-sponsors for the Elgin Community Toy Giveaway. The toy giveaway takes place at the Hemmens in downtown Elgin. During the past decade, this community-sponsored event has given thousands of toys to Elgin/South Elgin area children. Last year, with your help, we collected new toys and monies allowing us to distribute approximately 6000 toys to 2700 children from over 1000 families. We anticipate an increase in numbers this year. Share your joy this holiday season by remembering children of less fortunate families.

Donate NEW, unwrapped toys for children ages birth to 15. (No violent toys accepted.) Donations may be delivered to the Elgin Service Center between November 30 and December 14. Volunteers ages 16 and above are needed to assist with the toy drive, which is scheduled to take place Wednesday, Dec. 14 (set up) and Thursday, Dec. 15 (distribution). Contact Kay Flavin at [kflavin@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:kflavin@girlscoutsni.org) or 847-741-5521, Ext. 7130 for further information.

## Girl Scout Cookie Program

Service Unit Cookie Coordinators have begun training their troops and getting everyone excited and updated for our 2012 Cookie Program and doing a great job too! One of the things we've been talking about is the national average for participation rate which is at 62.6%. Our national goal is 80%! The national average for boxes per girl selling is 127.7 and our council per girl average (PGA) last season was 102 boxes. We have a little work to do to get up to the national 128 box per girl average. Just think what we could do nationally if all councils met the 80% goal of participation and the PGA could be maintained at 128—it would increase the cookie sale over \$3,000,000 dollars! Our Girl Scout Cookie Program represents 60% of total council income so this goal is important!

Troops reap the rewards too. For instance if a troop of 12 girls sold 102 boxes each, their troop profit (\$.60 per box) would be \$734.40. If the girls set their goal at 128 boxes per girl that would bring in \$998.40 (\$.65 per box) for the troop. That's an extra \$264 for troop activities! Participation is the key so encourage the girls to be a part of the 2012 GS Cookie Program. Be sure they are registered and remember it's never too late to participate! Set your goals for 128 boxes per girl.

Our GS Cookie Program begins January 2, 2012, and goes through January 22, 2012, but don't forget about cookie booths starting on February 24 and continuing until March 18. This is a great opportunity for the girls to achieve the 128 box per girl goal. It's time to put those 5 skills to work! Make a decision to participate, set a goal of 128 boxes per girl, enhance people skills, manage the money collected, and practice good business ethics. The girls will be well on their way up the ladder of success!

This is such an exciting time to be involved in the GS Cookie Program. We have so many new tools for volunteers and girls, it makes the program incredibly easy! Just be sure that the person who will be collecting your troop's cookie money (Troop Cookie Chair, Leader, Co-Leader) has had a criminal background check. Criminal background checks are good for three years. It is a GSNI policy that anyone handling money for a troop needs to be a registered member and complete the Volunteer Application and CBC (Criminal Background Check) form.

**Girl Scout Cookie Club**—GSNI is one of just two councils in the nation piloting a digital Girl Scout Cookie Program using an enhanced website called Cookie Club. Every local Girl Scout family can create an account with this password-protected website. Girls will now have the ability to switch to an online system to take Girl Scout Cookie orders and turn in their orders to volunteers. To find out more about getting your troop signed up on Cookie Club, go to [http://www.girlscoutsni.org/pdfs/Cookie%20Club%20FingertipFacts\\_Volunteer.pdf](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/pdfs/Cookie%20Club%20FingertipFacts_Volunteer.pdf)

**Training for leaders**—Just in case you feel that your training notes are not as complete as you would like we have great news! Little Brownie has a VIP eTraining website where you can fill in anything you might have missed. There are 5 sections you can go to which cover everything from program, marketing & technology to cookies and our very own council training presentation. You can visit their website and this interactive training at <http://vipetraining.littlebrownie.com/login.aspx>. We also have the council training presentation our own Girl Scout website, [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org).

*Goal Setting    Decision Making    Money Management    People Skills    Business Ethics*

## Girl Scout Cookie Kick-Off with the Rockford IceHogs

The Cookie Kick-off with the Rockford IceHogs will take place at the BMO Harris Bank Center on December 17. Starting at 2 P.M. girls will have the opportunity to explore the five skills of GSUSA's financial literacy program and earn their 2012 Cookie Activity Pin. Then, rally together and celebrate a new year in cookies! Doors open to the public at 6 and the game starts at 7. Cost is \$15 per person—includes entrance to the rally, T-shirt, patch for registered Girl Scouts and game ticket. Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors we are still looking for volunteers to help at the activities tables, if interested please contact Meghan Richards at 815-235-8777, Ext. 7148 or [mrichards@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:mrichards@girlscoutsni.org). Patches will be available for purchase in the shop after February 1, 2012. For more information see the flier on our website, [girlscoutsni.org/pdfs/Kickoff\\_Flier.pdf](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/pdfs/Kickoff_Flier.pdf).

## Make New Friends Alumnae Association Holiday Luncheon

You are cordially invited to attend the *Make New Friends Alumnae Association Holiday Luncheon*

**Saturday, December 10, 2011, at 11:30 A.M.**

Illinois Machine Shed, 7475 East State St. (at Bell School Rd. near the Toll 90 Exit) in Rockford.

This luncheon is your opportunity to make new friends, to reminisce with your sister Girl Scouts and to gain the latest news about our Centennial Celebration. Immediately following the meal, local author of *Susan M' Gusan—The Girl of my Choosin'* and Girl Scout alumna, Nancy Hanewall Stacy, will present a nostalgic program *A . . . is for Apron, the power of the apron lies in how it makes you feel and what it helps you remember*. She will have aprons available for sale following the luncheon. While each guest will order from the menu and receive a separate check, we ask that you respond to Bernice Corey by December 7 if you plan to attend. She may be reached by e-mail at [snapshotmom@yahoo.com](mailto:snapshotmom@yahoo.com) or by telephone at 815-963-9851.

## It's Volunteer Recognition time.

The Volunteer Recognition Packet is available on our website under the adult tab. Be sure to nominate those outstanding volunteers who so generously volunteer time to do wonderful things for Girl Scouts.

Please note the following changes from last year. The Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Volunteer awards have been combined into one award—The Volunteer of Excellence! The Leadership Development pin and leaves are also retiring in June of 2012.

Be sure to take a look at the packet and consider nominating someone! Nomination deadline is February 15, 2012. If you have any questions contact Rachel Youngblut at Extension 7170, or e-mail Rachel at [ryoungblut@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:ryoungblut@girlscoutsni.org).

## Upcoming Program Opportunities

### All Ages

**Nutcracker Ballet** Girl Scout VIP Pass! Go behind the scenes to see a real, live, interactive, full dress rehearsal of the seasonal classic, The Nutcracker Ballet. After the show, participate in a conversation with Founder/Artistic Director Linda Cunningham. Girls who attend will receive gift certificates for one free class of their choice at State Street Dance. Event Date 12/16/11, Registration End Date Extended to 12/05/11.

**Verbal Defense Family Day** Learn how to keep your family safe by working together and using skills to reduce conflict, keep fights from escalating, and deal with bullies, all while gaining confidence and having fun together! Event Date 01/21/12, Registration Ends 01/04/12.

### Daisy

**Animal Dance** Run like a cheetah, flap like a bird, jump like a kangaroo! Animals have their own unique moves, and you can, too! Take a side trip and transform yourself into your favorite animal or flower through dance. Event Date 01/07/12, Registration Ends 12/21/11.

### Daisy, Brownie, Junior & Cadette

**Yoga for You and Me** Strike a pose together in this special you-and-me yoga workshop. Leave the stress of school and work behind as you stretch and pose your way to relaxation with yoga instructor Lisa Gniady. Event Date 01/21/12, Registration Ends 01/04/12.

### Brownie

**Where, Oh, Where Does Water Come From?** What do you love about water? Where does water come from? How can you take better care of water? Learn about the water cycle and ways to conserve this valuable and fun resource. Event Date 01/07/12, Registration Ends 12/19/11.

### Junior

**True You!** According to a Dove study, 51% of all women wish their mothers had talked to them more often about beauty and body image when growing up. The *true you!* program is the perfect opportunity girls and their moms or other female mentors to do just that by getting together and getting to know each other a little better. Event Date 01/07/12, Registration Ends 12/21/11.

**Self Defense** Learn how to stand strong and stop the bullying by developing self-esteem and confidence with martial arts. Find out how to identify the signs of bullying, what to do in a stranger situation, and how to stay safe online. Then take a self-defense class and see how staying safe is about using your smarts-not your fists! Event Date 01/07/12, Registration Ends 12/21/11.

### Junior & Cadette

**Chicken Soup for the Girl Scout Soul** There's nothing better on a wintry day than homemade soup! Learn how to make soup from the field to the bowl—make stock, prepare veggies, and make your own egg noodles. While your soup simmers, help the farm crew care for the farm animals, then warm up with a bowl of truly homemade soup! Event Date 01/22/12, Registration Ends 01/04/12.

## **Junior, Cadette, Senior & Ambassador**

**Rock Your World** Do you want to see the world from another angle? Then get ready to rock as you make your way up, up, up the indoor rock climbing wall at Vertical Endeavors! Learn a few climbing basics, then take to the wall for some high adventures. Perfect for first-time climbers! Event Date 01/21/12, Registration Ends 01/04/12.

## **Cadette**

**Whoosh** Discover the ins and outs of that stuff you breathe in this hands-on workshop all about air. Check out real working lungs, perform science feats that look like magic, experiment with "liquid air," and be blown away by the power of wind energy. Event Date 01/14/12, Registration Ends 12/27/11.

## **Cadette, Senior & Ambassador**

**Your Best Defense** Did you know that one out of five victims of violent crime are between the ages of 12 and 17? Every girl wants to have a sense of safety, whether it's at school, with friends, at home, or walking around town. Join us in a safe and comfortable environment to learn self-defense skills designed to stop sexual harassment; how to stay safe at school, at home, and while dating; and, how to deal with bullying. Event Date 01/07/12, Registration Ends 12/21/11.

**Balance Through Yoga** Computers, cell phones, Internet, texts, and tweets! We're plugged into technology most of the day. Unplug for a while and find tranquility through yoga. Clear your mind and strengthen your body as you learn the beauty of calm. Event Date 01/21/12, Registration Ends 01/04/12.

## **2012 destinations are here!**

Do you dream of working in Hollywood? Sailing in San Diego? Exploring the Australian Outback or catching waves in Costa Rica? The GSUSA *destinations* program for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can help you get there. Applications for the new 2012 *destinations* are now being taken and it's your chance to make your travel dreams come true. Check out <http://www.girlscouts.org/forgirls/travel/destinations/> to see a description of all 31 *destination* opportunities as well as application and reference forms. Financial Assistance may be available for those who qualify. Got *destination* questions? Contact Brooke Radford at [bradford@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bradford@girlscoutsni.org) or 847-741-5521, Ext. 7147.

### **Important Deadlines:**

January 15, 2012	Early Applicants are notified of status
February 6, 2012	"Late" applicants/references due to the Elgin Service Center
March 2, 2012	"Late" applicants are notified of status

## **MEdia Journey Series for Cadettes**

Have you ever wondered how much of your life you're spending in someone else's reality? When you glance at a billboard, open a magazine, settle in for a movie, or surf the Web, you're really reading someone else's story. Using the power of girls, you'll work together to create your own MEdia message to break stereotypes and tell your story. Go behind the scenes to see how those stories get made, and you're bound to find some you'll want to change—to capture the real ME in media! Join together with Girl Scout Cadettes as you work toward completing your MEdia journey. This is a great opportunity for girls planning to work on their Girl Scout Silver Award to complete the journey prerequisite. Girls are also welcome to invite a non-Girl Scout friend to register for this series as well.

<b>Who:</b>	Girl Scout Cadettes
<b>Dates:</b>	Dec. 16, Jan. 6, 20; Feb. 3, 17; Mar. 4, 18; Apr. 6, 20; May 4
<b>Time:</b>	5:30 P.M. –7 P.M.
<b>Location:</b>	Hilltop Ministry Center, 8301 Mitchell Road, Roscoe, IL
<b>Fee:</b>	\$3 (Field trips may be added at an additional cost)
<b>Includes:</b>	materials for projects, crafts
<b>Registration:</b>	\$12 Girl Scout fee
<b>To register contact:</b>	Carolyn Wolfe at 815-494-0508

## **Girls Go TECHbridge—Programs-in-a-Box Training**

Discover how to deliver the Girls Go TECHbridge Programs-In-A-Box. Learn how to guide girls as they explore the wonderful world of engineering through hands-on projects and career exploration activities. We will complete the soldering activity in the "Power It Up," review the evaluation processes, and review the "Make It Green," "Design Time," "Engineers to the Rescue!" and "ThrillBuilders" leader guides. The Girls Go TECHbridge program is designed for girls in grades 4 – 12. This required training will enable you to check out all of the boxes for your troop, service unit event or camp use!

<b>Who:</b>	Girl Scout Adult Leaders
<b>When:</b>	Tuesday, January 24, 2012
<b>Time:</b>	6–9 P.M.
<b>Where:</b>	Sauk Valley Community College, Founders Room 173 IL Route 2, Dixon, IL
<b>Fee:</b>	\$5/person—includes program supplies and all five leader guides.
<b>Registration ends:</b>	January 17, 2012

## GSNI's **FIRST** Lego League Team Tournaments

Come cheer on one of GSNI's First Lego League Teams as they compete in the Food Factor Challenge. You can stop by for a short period or stay the whole day. Show your support by wearing a Girl Scout T-shirt or the teams' color: pink for the **24/7 Builders**; neon green for **Wonder Women**; and light green for the **Mississippi Pearls**. Admission is free!

Competition Schedule:

**24/7 Builders**—from West Dundee area

Saturday, December 3, at Harvard Jr. High, 1301 Garfield Street, Harvard

Opening ceremony at 10 A.M. and the robot performances, research & technical judging is from 10:30 A.M. – 3:45 P.M.

Award and closing ceremonies begin at 4 P.M.

**Wonder Women**—from the Crystal Lake area

Saturday, December 10, at Lake Zurich High School, 700 Church Street, Lake Zurich

Opening ceremony at 9 A.M. and the tournament ends at approximately 4 P.M. Enter through the main door.

**The Mississippi Pearls**—returning team from the Galena area

Saturday, December 10, at Eisenhower Middle School, 3525 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

Opening ceremonies begin at 10 A.M. and the tournament ends at approximately 3:30 – 4:30 P.M.

## The Volunteer Troop Trek Committee Needs Your Help! This includes Program Aides!

Do you like the great outdoors? Does cooking over a campfire equate to a fine dining experience for you? Do you enjoy working with girls? Is your idea of a 5-star hotel include a sleeping bag, tent, and the smell of a campfire? Would you like to spend the weekend at one of GSNI's beautiful camps? If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions, then the Troop Trek Committee is for you!

The number of volunteers and program aides who step forward will be one of the determining factors that will decide if we can serve the campers registered for each session. So lend a hand and help Troop Trek be a success in 2012! For more information or to join this fun committee, contact Felecia Dupczak at [fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org) or Ext. 7161, and put TROOP TREK in the subject line. Next Troop Trek Committee Meeting: Sunday, January 22, 2012, 12 NOON – 2 P.M.

## Volunteer Day/Twilight Camp Committee Trainings

Will you be new to a volunteer day/twilight camp committee in 2012? Attend this informational meeting about policies and procedures, paperwork, and idea sharing. One copy per day/twilight camp in attendance will receive a 2012 Day/Twilight Camp Manual and CD with forms.

**Who:** GS Adults

**Location:** Thursday, January 12, 2012—Sugar Grove Service Center

Tuesday, January 17, 2012—Elgin Service Center

Wednesday, January 18, 2012—Freeport Service Center

**Time:** 6:30–8:30 P.M.

**Cost:** Free, but registration is required

**Staff Contact:** Felecia Dupczak, Ext. 7161 of [fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:fdupczak@girlscoutsni.org)

**Registration Deadline:** Day before training

**Register at:** <http://www.girlscoutsni.org/training.html>

## Girl's World Forum in Chicago

Do you want to change the world? The Girls' World Forum (GWF) is the third and final event in a series of forums that are part of the WAGGG's global centennial celebrations. The World Forums, previously hosted by Girl Guiding UK in 2010 and the World Centers in 2011, have already engaged over 250 young women in discussions of the WAGGGS Global Action Theme—girls worldwide say, "Together We Can Change Our World"—which addresses the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

The 2012 GWF will take place in Chicago from July 14-16, 2012, and will bring together 250 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world to take action to help solve issues like poverty, hunger, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. GSNI will be sending two girls to this once-in-a-lifetime centenary event who meet the following criteria:

Ages 14 to 18 at the time of the forum

Actively engaged in your Girl Scout Council

Interested in the United Nations MDGs

Willing to develop skills and networks to bring about change in their community and country

Fluent in Arabic, French or Spanish (to contribute and benefit fully from the Forum)

Applications will be available on the GSNI website soon, but interested applicants should contact Brooke Radford at [bradford@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bradford@girlscoutsni.org) or Ext. 7147 for more information.

## A Century of Girl Scouts: Then and Now

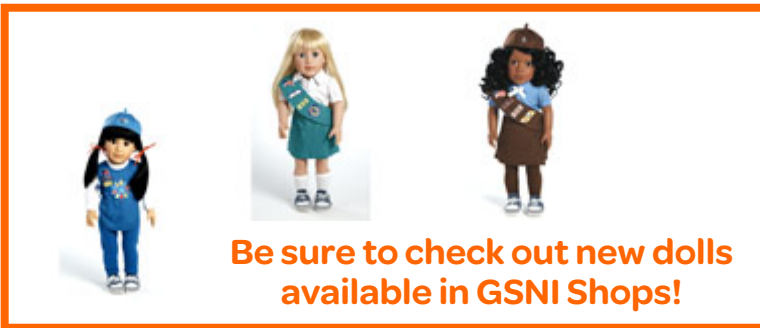
You are cordially invited to attend the Opening Reception for the new exhibit, *A Century of Girl Scouts: Then and Now* at the David L. Pierce Art & History Center, 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Second Floor Exhibit Hall on Friday December 9, 2011, 5-8 P.M.

This exhibit is co-curated by Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois and the Aurora Historical Society. In the spirit of the Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary, guests are welcome to wear vintage Girl Scout uniforms and pins.

### Rockford Foresters Baseball Fans— \$1 Opening Day Tickets Available

All tickets for the home opener on Thursday, June 7, 7 P.M. will be \$1 each. To get your tickets, e-mail [tickets@rockfordforesters.com](mailto:tickets@rockfordforesters.com). The deadline to place your ticket order is December 31, 2011.

**Help Rockford Foresters Hit 1,000 Facebook Fans!** Rockford Foresters will be giving away some special prizes to random facebook fans once they hit 1,000 fans, so be sure to add them!



## January Observances:

Keep these January observances in mind when planning your troop/group activities!

- Financial Wellness Month
- Get Organized Month
- Women's Self Empowerment Week (5-9)
- New Year's Day (1)
- National Motivation & Inspiration Day (2)
- National Cut Your Energy Costs Day (10)
- Dress Up Your Pet Day (14)
- Humanitarian Day (15)
- Martin Luther King Day (16)
- National Compliment Day (24)

### GSNI CALENDAR

DECEMBER 17, 2011	GS Cookie Kick-off at the Ice Hogs
DECEMBER 26-30	GSNI Service Centers Closed
JANUARY 2-22, 2012	Cookie Program Order Taking
JANUARY 9-14, 2012	GS Cookie Booth Initial Sign Up
JANUARY 15-MARCH 18, 2012	GS Cookie Booth Secondary Sign Up
FEBRUARY 2, 2012	GSNI Service Centers Closed
FEBRUARY 25, 2012	Bowling Events
FEBRUARY 9-17, 2012	GS Cookie Delivery to Service Units (Freeport & Rockford)
FEBRUARY 13-18, 2012	GS Cookie Delivery to Service Units (Elgin & Sugar Grove)
FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 1, 2012	GS Cookie Booth Sales

**FYI –**  
The registration help desk  
fax number:  
847-264-5554



Elgin Service Center, 12N124 Coombs Rd., Elgin, IL 60124	847-741-5521
Freeport Service Center, 5040 Business Rt. 20 W, Freeport, IL 61032	815-235-8777 or 800-925-3327
Rockford Service Center, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61103	815-962-5591 or 800-242-5591
Sugar Grove Service Center, 200 New Bond, Sugar Grove, IL 60554	630-897-1565