

**HOLIDAY TOY GIVE-AWAY: Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is once again a co-sponsor of the Elgin Community Holiday Give-Away** Girl Scout troops from throughout our council (specifically from the Elgin/South Elgin area) are invited to donate NEW toys to this give-away. Toys can be dropped off at the Elgin Service Center beginning November 29 through December 14. (While all troops are welcome to donate, troops are encouraged to donate to their local community toy drives.)



The giveaway is held at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin. Toys should be non-violent (no guns, knives, baseball bats or weapons of any kind—this includes action figures with weapons) Suggested price range is \$5 to \$25. The ages range from newborn to 16—newborn/toddler and teen items are the greatest need.

**PRODUCT SALES: Girl Scout Cookie Program** November has come and gone, December is well underway and our Cookie Sale Program begins next month! There is no time like the present to start making decisions and planning your strategy for making this the best year ever for Girl Scout Cookies! Just think of all the exciting things your troop can do with their cookie proceeds when they achieve the goal they have set for themselves.

This is a great time to help the girls with their planning and decision making. The Cookie Activity Kits, available at [www.littlebrownie.com](http://www.littlebrownie.com), are a great way to do this. Just click on the green Volunteers section on the home page and select Cookie Activity Kits from the list on the left side of the screen that comes up. You can choose either the Cookie Activity Kit for the Daisies, Brownies, Juniors level or the Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors level. These Cookie Activity Kits are filled with wonderful ideas and information that will help make the planning fun and exciting. Please be sure and explore this wonderful website. You will find so much more than you expected!

Additionally, GSNI's website will soon have the online Cookie Rally in a box to download. Check back often for updates to GSNI's Girl Scout Cookie pages!

Don't forget to plan your Cookie Booth and enter the Design A Cookie Booth contest! There are all kinds of fun decisions to be made planning this. Council sites will be available for initial sign-up in the e-Budde Online Ordering System on January 10 (6 A.M.) through January 15 (11:59 P.M.). Only 3 date and time choices, each with a different business, will be allowed this first week in order to give everyone a fair chance at getting a site that they want. The second sign-up will be January 16 (12 Noon) through March 20 (11:59 P.M.) and your choices will be unlimited! Sign up for as many Cookie Booths as you like—the sky's the limit!

Remember that our Cookie Sale Program is more than a sale. It teaches the girls skills they will use throughout their entire lives. This year "Starting Today—We're open for business!" is a perfect setting for

## FOCUS ON 5 SKILLS FOR THE GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM!



GOAL SETTING

DECISION MAKING

MONEY MANAGEMENT

PEOPLE SKILLS

BUSINESS ETHICS

### DECEMBER SKILL HIGHLIGHT

**DECISION MAKING:** Your girls help decide how their team will spend their cookie money, furthering critical thinking and problem solving skills that will help them in many aspects of her life.

teaching the 5 skills (Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics). Starting Today, help the girls begin their decision making. How are they are going to try to make this Cookie Sale Program year a success for their troop? What are the different, fun ways they can work together to make this their best year ever? What are some of the ways you can help them achieve that?

GSNI is holding two contests this year during our Girl Scout Cookie season, January through March 2011.

**Rock Your Ride:** GSNI invites all Girl Scouts to “Rock their Ride” the week of January 10 through 16. Using window paints, just decorate the family car to promote the Girl Scout Cookie Program and tell everyone that it’s Girl Scout Cookie time! Be creative and be sure to include the Girl Scout Cookie website: [www.girlscoutCookies.org](http://www.girlscoutCookies.org). Then send your photo electronically to [ckocol@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:ckocol@girlscoutsni.org) by January 31, 2011, and include your name, troop number and town. We will select five finalists whose pics will be posted to our Facebook page where we’ll invite GSNI fans to “like” their favorites. The finalist who receives the most “likes” will be our lucky winner and will receive a free summer resident camp session in 2011!

Please note that this is an individual contest. Each girl must submit their own photo—if there is more than one Girl Scout in your family, decorate Grandma and Grandpa’s car too!

Be sure that the driver can see out of the vehicle windows and follow local town ordinances with regard to vehicle “decorating.”

**Bling Your Booth—Added Incentive!** You might have heard about the Bling Your Booth contest being held this March. Well, we’ve just added a “Grand Prize” to the winnings! in addition to the \$50 GS shop certificate, the first-place winning troop/group will also receive a free overnight stay at one of GSNI’s camps. What a great way for your girls to experience one of GSNI’s camps for the first time or to go back and visit their favorite!

**CAMP PROPERTIES: Winter Camp Reservations** What do you have planned for your troop this winter? Don’t forget, you can go to any of the camps for sledding and cross country skiing. Plenty of overnights available in January and February!

**Lifeguard Needed** If you or know someone who is a lifeguard and would be interested in becoming a PAID lifeguard for GSNI please contact Toni, Ext 7162. We are in need of lifeguards at Camp Dean & Camp Far Horizons for troops & groups. So far, the pool at McCormick is planned to reopen April 29, 2011.

Do you have pictures of your troop at camp? We would like to use them for our display boards that will be viewed at meetings, open houses and other events. Please e-mail them to Toni, [tmassolle@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:tmassolle@girlscoutsni.org).

## **FUND DEVELOPMENT: Tributes Make Great Holiday Gifts!**

For a minimum contribution of \$15, GSNI will prepare and mail a personalized Tribute to anyone you wish to honor—at any time of the year. Honor a friend or loved one, troop leader—living or deceased—by sending a Tribute or Memorial from the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. Tributes to GSNI support program activities for girls throughout the 16-county region. Tributes are a wonderful way to give a gift to a “special someone” and to support Girl Scouts.

To purchase a GSNI Tribute, visit our website, [www.girlscoutsni.org](http://www.girlscoutsni.org) and click on the [Donate Now](#) button. Make certain to fill out the dedication section, checking the box to send a dedication acknowledgement.

If you prefer to pay by cash or check, please fill out the [memorial form](#) on our website and mail it to GSNI Tributes and Memorials, 2101 Auburn Street, Rockford, IL 61103. For further information e-mail [lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:lbreitsprecker@girlscoutsni.org) or call 815-962-5591, Ext. 7193. Deadline for Holiday Tributes is December 15.

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is proud to welcome Sports Authority as an official corporate partner for the 2010-2011 membership year!** Sports Authority has agreed to provide a sponsorship fee to support our council in exchange for the ability to market directly to our girl members and their parents. This partnership also has significant benefits for our members and volunteers, including:

- All members can receive a reusable discount card, good for 10% off their entire purchase every time they shop at Sports Authority stores.
- Sports Authority will hold two designated weekend shopping events, at which GSNI members will receive additional percentages off of their purchases. One weekend will be before the summer camp season, and the other will be during the back to school season/2011 holiday season.
- Access to other special promotions, via the website and social media.

Sports Authority has retail stores located in Aurora, Crystal Lake (2), Geneva, and Hoffman Estates, as well as many other locations near our service center boundaries. Although most of the stores surround the Elgin and Sugar Grove Service Centers, any GSNI member can take a discount card to be used at any store nationwide.

These discounts will be advertised using GSNI publications, including the Northern Lights, GS'n'I, the program booklets (name identification only), and via e-mail blasts, the GSNI website and social media sites. Furthermore, the help of our volunteers is requested to distribute the 10% discount cards to service units, troop leaders, at events, and directly to girls and their parents. Discount cards will be available at each of the retail shops as well, and packs of discount cards will be available at each service center for volunteers and GSNI staff to take to meetings, programs, and events. More information about this program will be distributed directly to our members, so please direct any inquiries to Emily Keilback at 815-962-5591, Ext. 7216, or [ekeilback@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:ekeilback@girlscoutsni.org).

**PROGRAM: Registration Reminder** The registration for council-sponsored programs being held in January through May opened December 1. Don't miss out as some programs have December registration deadlines. Along with the programs listed in the 2010-11 Program Booklet, you will find the following “Just Added” programs:

- Bugs, Beetles & Bookworms, DA/BR, Sat., January 8, 2011, Sterling, IL
- Be a Friend, Not a Bully, BR, Sat., January 15, 2011, McHenry, IL
- Making Maple Syrup, DA/BR, Sat., March 5, 2011, Bartlett, IL
- It All Adds Up, BR, Sat., February 26, 2011, Sterling, IL

- It All Adds Up, BR, Sat., March 19, 2011, Sterling, IL
- Look Closer, BR Sat., April 16, 2011, Dixon, IL
- The Great Outdoors, BR, Sat, May 7, 2011, Dixon, IL
- Bugs, Beetles & Bookworms, BR/JR, Sat., January 8, 2011, Sterling, IL
- Get Moving, JR, Wed., January 12, 2011, Rockford, IL
- Wild About Wildlife, JR, Sat., March 12, 2011, Dixon, IL
- Lights and Optics, JR, Tues., March 22, 2011, Rockford, IL
- Focusing on Furry Friends, JR, Sat., March 26, 2011, Dixon, IL
- Show me the Money, JR, Sat., April 9, 2011, Sterling, IL
- Cast Iron Chef, JR/CD, Sat., March 26, 2011, Dixon, IL
- aMAZE Journey, CD, Begins Jan. 22, 2011, Elgin, IL
- Service with a Smile, JR/CD/SR/AM, Wed., February 9, 2011, Dixon, IL
- Service with a Smile, JR/CD/SR/AM, Sat., April 2, 2011, Dixon, IL
- PA Overnight—Basic and Outdoor Training, CD/SR, Sat., January 8 to Sun., January 9, 2011, Harvard, IL
- PA Overnight—Basic and Outdoor Training, CD/SR, Sat., April 9 to Sun., April 10, 2011, Stillman Valley, IL
- Crocheting 101, CD/SR/AM, Wed., Apr. 6, 2011, Morrison, IL
- Knutty Knitters, CD/SR/AM, Tues., May 3, 2011, Morrison, IL

**Resident Camp at Camps Dean, Far Horizons and McCormick** Watch for camp brochures in your mailbox in January 2011. Registration will open February 1.

Camp Dean runs from June 19 through July 29

Camp Far Horizons runs from July 24 through July 29

Camp McCormick runs from June 17 through July 22

**The Bluespring Caverns Overnight Adventure! April 2-3, 2011** Registration begins Dec. 1 and ends Jan. 3. Spaces fill quickly, so don't wait! Are you ready to test your sense of adventure? Did you know that there's an amazing other world right under your feet? Want to explore a land millions of years in the making? Then hop on the bus and head down, down, down to Bluespring Caverns in Southern Indiana's Cave Country. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is seeking out Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors who are interested in spending a weekend 100 feet down in the beautiful and majestic limestone caves of Bedford, Indiana for an overnight experience you'll never forget. For complete information, visit the Program Events page of the GSNI website or contact Brooke Radford at Ext. 7147 or [bradford@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bradford@girlscoutsni.org).

**Journey Open House** The newest journey series will be released in December and feature a new book for each level. Come to our Journey Open House and learn more about It's Your Story—Tell It!, check out all the new girl and adult books and awards, and do some fun journey activities for each level. Journey materials will also be available for purchase (with the exception of the Sterling location). Your GSNI journey guides will be there to help you get started, offer tips for making each journey a great experience for girls and leaders and show you how to tie in traditional Girl Scout awards to the journeys. This event is FREE, but pre-registration is required. To register, e-mail Brooke Radford at [bradford@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bradford@girlscoutsni.org) with "JOURNEY OPEN HOUSE" in the subject line. Please include which location you will be attending and ALL participants' names, troop number, age level, and city as well as a phone number for the contact person. Contact Brooke Radford at Ext. 7147, or [bradford@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bradford@girlscoutsni.org) to register.

Rockford Service Center, January 10, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 6

Freeport Service Center, January 12, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 6

Elgin Service Center, January 18, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 4

Sugar Grove Service Center, January 25, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 21

Sterling-CGH Hospital, January 26, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 21

McHenry Bank and Trust, January 31, 2011, 6-8 P.M., Deadline: Jan. 27

**Training for Council-approved Day/Twilight Camp Committees, Directors, and Bookkeepers** If you participated in GSNI's day/twilight camp training last year, you do NOT have to attend; however, you're welcome to if you would like. For more information on council-approved day/twilight camp, contact Pam Schnecke at [pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org) or Ext. 7140.

Wed., January 5, 2011, 6 - 8 P.M. at the Rockford Service Center

Mon., January 17, 2011, 6 - 8 P.M. at the Home State Bank, 611 S. Main Street, Crystal Lake, IL

Wed., January 19, 2011, 6 - 8 P.M. at the Sugar Grove Service Center

### **aMAZE! Journey Series**

Life is a maze of relationships and this journey has Girl Scout Cadettes maneuvering through all its twists and turns to find true friendships, plenty of confidence, and develop skills to help promote peace for you, your world, and your planet! In this 8-session series, girls will earn and receive the Interact, Diplomat, and Peacemaker Journey Awards through fun and interactive activities at each session. You'll also work together on a Take Action project to help others navigate the maze of teenage life. Working toward your Girl Scout Silver Award? This workshop will help you meet the pre-requisite Journey requirement.

<b>Who:</b>	Girl Scout Cadettes
<b>Date:</b>	Jan. 22 & 29, Feb 5, 12, & 26, March 5, 12, & 26
<b>Time:</b>	9 A.M.-12 P.M.
<b>Location:</b>	Elgin Service Center
<b>Fee:</b>	\$50 per girl
<b>Includes:</b>	aMAZE! Journey book, 3 Journey awards, all program supplies
<b>Min/Max:</b>	5/20
<b>Registration:</b>	Ends Jan. 3
<b>Staff Contact:</b>	Brooke Radford, Ext. 7147

*NOTE: In order to complete the aMAZE Journey earn all 3 awards girls will need to attend all sessions. Some sessions may be made up on their own at the discretion of the facilitators.*

### **Girl Scout Bronze Award**

Did you know the Girl Scout Bronze Award was created by a troop of Girl Scout Juniors and introduced at the Girl Scouts of the USA's 2001 National Meeting of Presidents and Executive Directors in Savannah, Georgia?

In 2009, GSUSA introduced new guidelines for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award focusing on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and using the new Journeys as the prerequisites.

The first step to earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award is to go on a Girl Scout Junior journey with her troop/group. Remember the theme of the journey does not have to match the theme of the project the troop/group decides to complete.

After she completes the journey, she helps build her GS Junior Team—earning the GS Bronze Award is a team experience. It can be a troop/group endeavor or if the girl is a Juliette, she can connect with other girls her age, including non-Girl Scouts—but the non Girl Scouts should be encouraged to join in the fun of Girl Scouts too!

The team explores their community; chooses, plans and puts their plans into motion completing their GS Bronze Award Project. As they work as a team completing their project, they should take pictures, videos, journal their experiences and have fun.

Once their project is complete, each girl having completed the suggested minimum of 20 hours each, the

leader approves the project. The team then completes the GS Bronze Award Final Project Form to be submitted to the GSNI's—Elgin Service Center. Once the office receives the report, the girls' GSUSA registration is confirmed along with their GS level and certificates are created for each girl. The certificates and original report will be returned to the troop/group via the service unit meeting.

For further information on the Girl Scout Bronze Award, please visit the Awards page on GSNI's website.

**The Volunteer Troop Trek Committee Needs YOUR Help!** Do you like the great outdoors? Does cooking over a campfire equate to a fine dining experience? Do you enjoy working with girls? Is your idea of a 5-star hotel 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 answered yes to any of these questions, then the Troop Trek Committee is for you!

Troop Trek is a 3-day, 2-night first-time camping experience for troops. The volunteer committee, adults and Program Aides plan and lead various activities based on a theme—this year's theme is "Back to the Basics." They also provide support for first-time troop campers at one of GSNI's camps. The number of volunteers who step forward will be one of the determining factors that will decide at which camps Troop Trek will be offered. Help bring Troop Trek all across GSNI! For more information or to join this fun committee, contact Pam Schnecke at [pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:pschnecke@girlscoutsni.org) and put TROOP TREK in the subject line.

**Program Date and Time Change for Get Moving** Learn about the design process and put it to the test as you invent an indoor game for one or two people that gets you moving!

**Who:** Girl Scout Cadettes  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 (new date)  
**Time:** 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. (new time)  
**Location:** Bartlett Log Cabin, 102 N. Eastern, Bartlett  
**Fee:** \$10 per girl  
**Min/Max:** 15/35 girls  
**Registration :** Ends January 29  
**Staff Contact:** Pam Schnecke, Ext. 7140

*NOTE: Troops/groups must meet girl/adult ratio*

### **JANUARY 2011 TOWN HALL MEETINGS:**

All members 14 years of age and over are invited to attend. Presentations on proposed Bylaw changes, upcoming National Convention and Strategic Learning Process we've just completed to be implemented over the next 3 years. Open discussion will follow.

**January 4** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Combined with Pegasus Service Unit Meeting at First Baptist Church, 15 Oak Ave., Aurora

**January 10** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Combined with Choctaw Service Unit Meeting at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 932 McHenry Avenue, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

**January 11** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M. Combined with Apache Service Unit Meeting at the Elgin Service Center, 12N124 Coombs Rd., Elgin, IL 60124

**January 12** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Combined with North Central Service Unit at Beth Eden Church, 3201 Huffman Blvd., Rockford, IL 61103

**January 13** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Combined with Stephenson Service Unit at the Freeport Service Center, 5040 Bus. Rt. 20W, Freeport, IL 61032

**January 20** 6 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Combined with Whiteside/Lee Service Units at Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL Rt. 2, Dixon, IL 61021

## JANUARY OBSERVANCES:

*Keep these observances in mind when planning troop/group activities with your Girl Scouts!*

Financial Wellness Month  
National Be On-Purpose Month  
National Get Organized Month  
National Mentoring Month  
Women's Self Empowerment Week (4-10)  
Universal Letter Writing Week (8-14)  
Healthy Weight Week (17-23)  
New Year's Day (1)  
Trivia Day (4)  
Humanitarian Day (15)  
Martin Luther King Day (18)  
National Compliment Day (24)  
National Speak Up and Succeed Day (26)  
Inspire Your Heart with Art Day (31)

### Service Project Highlights

Don't forget to let us know about your troop/group service projects!  
E-mail photos and information to [vcampbell@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:vcampbell@girlscoutsni.org).

## GSNI CALENDAR

JANUARY 9–23, 2011	Order-Taking Portion of Girl Scout Cookie Sale
JANUARY 31, 2011	Rock Your Ride Contest deadline
FEBRUARY 18–23, 2011	Cookie Delivery to SU
FEB. 25–MAR. 20, 2011	Cookie Booth Sales
MARCH 31, 2011	Design A Cookie Booth Contest entry deadline
APRIL 5, 2011	Girl Scouts Forever Breakfast, Geneva
APRIL 16, 2011	2011 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition
APRIL 28, 2011	Girl Scouts Forever After Hours, Crystal Lake

Watch for the January issue of GS'n'I  
to be e-mailed and posted online January 7!



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, 2101 Auburn Street, Rockford, IL 61103	815-962-5591 or 800-242-5591
Sugar Grove Service Center, 200 New Bond, Sugar Grove, IL 60554	630-897-1565

## Calling All Girl Scouts, Past and Present

  
girl scouts  
alumnae association

As our 100th Anniversary approaches, we are reaching out to our alumnae and asking you to share your contact information so we can keep you informed about upcoming alumnae events. We look forward to reconnecting with you!

Visit [www.girlscoutsni.org/ForAdults/Alumnae](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/ForAdults/Alumnae). Sign up today!