

Cookies! Unbelievably we are already half way through our 2011 Girl Scout Cookie Program! Our initial orders are in and everyone is eagerly waiting for the February delivery of those luscious cookies.

- Our troop initial orders last year were 1,585,476 packages.
- This year our troop initial orders are at 1,554,852.

Now that we have completed our initial orders we can really focus on Cookie Booths to zoom past last year's sales total and make up for the initial order deficit! Cookie Booths begin this month on February 25 and go through March 20. **Don't forget that troops can sign up for unlimited Cookie Booth dates and times for both Council sites and Troop sites in eBudde.** Cookie Booths are an important part of the Girl Scout Cookie Program experience. This is the perfect way for the girls to learn the 5 skills (Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills*, and Business Ethics) which are so important. The girls can be using those skills in school, in sports, and in their future.



Troops can sign up for Council Sites for a Cookie Booth or a Troop Leader may contact any small business not listed as a Council Site and set up a Cookie Booth with the manager. Be sure you request your Cookie Booth between February 25 and March 20 and then add that site into the eBudde Online System immediately. Remember that all Cookie Booths entered into eBudde will be automatically transferred into the Cookie Locator. Customers searching for a place to buy cookies put in the zip code of the area they are interested in and all sites in that zip code will pop up for them. **Please be sure that you remove your Booth site if you are unable to make your scheduled date and time.** Customers would be very disappointed to come to an advertised site and not find cookies there!

Starting Today the girls can plan to make their Cookie Booths irresistible. Help them to be creative in their vision.

- Offer suggestions to make the booth colorful, festive and fun!
- Create a name for your Cookie Booth, make posters, display cookie varieties, offer free recipe cards and cookie samples—there are so many ways to make your booth exciting and enticing to a customer.
- Encourage creating cookie bundles to sell such as: I Love Chocolate (all chocolate cookies), Café Companions (varieties great for dunking) or create your own bundle.

continued...



Focus on 5 skills for the Girl Scout Cookie Program!

**PEOPLE
SKILLS**

**MONEY
MANAGEMENT**

**BUSINESS
ETHICS**

**DECISION
MAKING**

**GOAL
SETTING**



FEBRUARY SKILL HIGHLIGHT

PEOPLE SKILLS: Your Girl Scout learns how to talk to, listen to and work with all kinds of people while selling cookies. These experiences help her develop healthy relationships and conflict resolution skills she can use throughout her life.

This is a great time to coach the girls on people skills. Help them respond to different customer scenarios in a fun way using skits and games. Make sure the girls feel comfortable making a sale and answering questions about the cookies and the Gift of Caring project they are promoting, whether it is for the soldiers or a local community cause. Help them to be a cookie “know-it-all” by playing Cookie Concentration and learning cookie facts. Knowing a product builds confidence and it impresses the customer. Be sure the girls know how to make change or give the correct number of cookie boxes to the customer. These are all ways to help the girls have a positive learning experience when interacting with a customer. People skills are important in just about every situation both now and in the future. The girls will be using these skills in school, on the playground, during extra-curricular activities, at home as well as in social settings and work environments. Cookie Booths are an outstanding way to develop people skills! Be sure your troop takes advantage of this great learning tool!

While your troop is planning a Cookie Booth put the girls to work developing a “**Bling Your Booth**” theme to enter the Design A Cookie Booth contest (see our website for details)! Troop prizes include:

First prize: \$50 Girl Scout Shop Certificate, Free night at one of GSN’s camping facilities

Second prize: \$30 Girl Scout Shop Certificate

Third prize: \$20 Girl Scout Shop Certificate

Remember, having a Cookie Booth is all about fun and learning. Be sure your troop signs up for more than one Cookie Booth to maximize teaching the 5 skills and experiencing another opportunity to earn troop funds for all the great activities the girls want to plan. Just as a reminder, resources are still available at www.littlebrownie.com. There are many ideas and creative bits of information to inspire you to make your Cookie Booth a success. The Cookie Activity Kits are available on the website, don’t forget to check them out for some great ideas!

Starting Today—We’re open for business! Let’s get our Cookie Booths planned and ready to go!!!!

Rock Your Ride –Also, Check out and vote for your favorite Rock Your Ride entry on Facebook by the end of February.

Now Your Favorite Girl Scout Cookies are Just an App Away—This year, our council is part of a pilot program offering the new Cookie Locator Mobile app. Search for sales in your neighborhood, get details on your favorite Girl Scout Cookie, have fun and find your Cookie Personality on the new mobile phone app available for smart phones. Download the app for your iPhone from the iTunes Store or call **GSCOOKIES (**4722665437) from your mobile phone. For Android call **GSCOOKIES or search cookie locator in Android Marketplace. For more information visit www.littlebrownie.com/app.

Girls’ World Forum Girl Planning Team Opportunity: Encourage Girls 14-16 to Submit Planning Team Application Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana is working with Girl Scouts of the USA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to host the Girls’ World Forum in July 2010. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois has been invited to choose two teen Girl Scouts to be a part of the Girl Planning Team for this exciting event. The planning will start in March 2011, and continue through the presentation of the forum in July 2012. Being part of the Girl Planning Team means that you will have the chance to work with two young women volunteers, WAGGGS volunteers and GSUSA and Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana staff.

As a member of the Girl Planning Team, girls (current ages 14-16) will work together to plan an international forum that will draw approximately 700 participants. Each Girl Scouts of the USA council, Girl Scouts Overseas and each World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Member Organization will be invited to send two girl representatives (ages 14-17) to the forum.

To read more about this exciting girl leadership opportunity, please access the [Girls’ World Forum Girl Planning Team Position Description](#) located on our website, on the For Girls/Program Events page. Interested girls must complete an [application](#) and a [reference](#) (from someone other than a parent) and return to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, ATTN: Brooke Radford, 12N124 Coombs Road, Elgin, IL 60124.

If you know of a Girl Scout in the age range of 14-16 who might consider applying for this unique leadership opportunity, encourage her to become familiar with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>, especially those pertaining to eradicating poverty, environmental sustainability and gender equity.

Girl Scout Leadership Institute On November 10-13, 2011, more than 1,200 girls from across the nation will gather in Houston, Texas for the 2011 National Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI): Leadership and Innovation...the Next 100 Years. GSLI will be offered to girls 13 and older as an integrated track within the National Convention. GSLI will begin on Thursday morning and culminate on Sunday morning.

- Who:** Girl Scouts ages 13 and older as of September 1, 2011
Adult chaperones
- When:** Travel on Wednesday, November 9
GSLI on November 10-13
Travel home on Sunday, November 13
- Fees, girls:** Hotel: Rates will run from \$140-\$190, plus tax per night.
Food and airfare TBD
- Reg. fee:** \$150, includes access to all dedicated GSLI sessions, access to opening/closing ceremonies, keynote speakers, Young Women of Distinction, Strategic Conversations, Hall of Exhibits, and more!
- Fees, adults:** Hotel rates will run from \$140-\$190 plus tax per night, food and airfare TBD
- Reg. fee:** \$195 A \$50 non-refundable deposit will be due immediately upon acceptance to this event. (It's part of the event fee, not in addition to it.)
- NOTE:** Each council is limited to 10 spaces and is responsible for managing their girl selection process. All troops/groups/individual girls from Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois must follow the application procedure below.
- Maximum:** 10 girls/2 adults
- Application:** Girls and adults interested in attending should complete and submit the proper Girl Scout Leadership Institute Application along with one complete reference form. (Reference must be a non-related, Girl Scout adult.)

Applications can be found on the GSNI website beginning February 11 or by contacting Brooke Radford at bradford@girlscoutsni.org or Ext. 7147. All applications (girls and adults) are due to GSNI's Elgin Service Center by 5 P.M. on Friday, March 18, 2011.

Girl Scout Camp Registration opened February 1, 2011! The camp brochure for summer opportunities at Camp Dean, Camp Far Horizons, and Camp McCormick was mailed in January. If you know of someone who did not receive the booklet, it is available on the GSNI website or extra copies are available at each of the service centers. Don't miss out—Register today!

Money Smart Kid 2011 Essay Contest This contest is open to students in grades 5-8. Answer this year's Money Smart Questions with an essay of 300 words or less and you may win a \$5,000 scholarship from HSBC-North America. For complete information, see the GSNI website on the For Girls/Program Events page. Note: There are two applications. One for the greater Chicago area (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties) and one for the Rockford Area (Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago counties).

Elgin Service Center, 12N124 Coombs Rd., Elgin, IL 60124
Freeport Service Center, 5040 Business Rt. 20 W, Freeport, IL 61032
Rockford Service Center, 2101 Auburn Street, Rockford, IL 61103
Sugar Grove Service Center, 200 New Bond, Sugar Grove, IL 60554

847-741-5521
815-235-8777 or 800-925-3327
815-962-5591 or 800-242-5591
630-897-1565

Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance GSNI is proud to announce the formation of a Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance group to the Alumnae Association. If you earned one of Girl Scouts' highest honors for girls, this group is for you!

Girl Scout Gold Award (1980-present)
First Class Award (1963-1980)
Curved Bar (1938-1963)
Golden Eaglet (1916-1938)

The purpose of the Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance is to educate, promote and support the significance of earning the Girl Scout Gold Award. Membership in GSNI's Gold Award Alliance will offer renewed friendships with others who have earned these distinctive awards; invitations to social and council events; participation in Girl Scouting's 100th Anniversary through special activities; and the opportunity to mentor today's Girl Scouts as they proceed through the process of earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Please join this group of distinguished Girl Scouts of GSNI and step up to serve as mentors to the next century of Girl Scouts in northern Illinois. Visit the website for membership forms and more information.

Girl Scouts Forever There will be two after-hours fundraising events (See the Girl Scouts Forever on the Forms Page of the website) scheduled in April. The Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will be celebrating its first complete year as a new, bigger and more dynamic council, four smaller councils having successfully merged into one. The one-hour program includes remarks from the CEO, Board Chair, a Girl Scout, a couple of special guests and a short video presentation.

The two events (based out of the Sugar Grove and Elgin Service Centers) are:

Geneva—April 6, 2011, 5:30 P.M.

Eagle Brook Country Club
2288 Fargo Boulevard
Geneva, IL 60134-7501

Crystal Lake—April 28, 2011, 5:30 P.M.

Crystal Lake Holiday Inn
800 South Illinois Route 31
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Family Partnership Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Family Partnership thus far. This campaign is in full swing but we still have a long way to go before meeting our goal! The Family Partnership campaign gifts enable the council to continue to provide high quality Girl Scout programs. Current program fees paid by parents and volunteers do not cover the actual costs of the programs.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois subsidizes these costs so that fees continue to be affordable to parents and volunteers. The cost for providing Girl Scout programming for each girl for one year is approximately \$275. Your gift to the Family Partnership Campaign "Round-Up for Girl Scouts" supports that many things that GSNI needs to make each girl's experience complete, including:

- *Programs to over 21,000 girls in our 16-county service area
- *Screenings for all adult volunteers
- *Leadership training curriculum and classes for all of our 5,500 adult volunteers
- *Development of council-sponsored programs, summer camps, badge workshops, engineering, sports, the outdoor environment, and healthy living choices.
- *Four Illinois camp properties and two Wisconsin camp properties
- *Four council service centers and five Girl Scout Shops
- *Website and publications
- *Membership development and support services to adult volunteers

Incentives include a patch and letter of acknowledgement (\$10-\$49) a patch, letter of acknowledgement and recognition in the annual report (\$50 & Above).

Update on Existints Many of our volunteers have been eagerly waiting for this new Internet-based networking system to be rolled out for GSNI. The site was supposed to be up and running for service team members right after the holidays. Some of you have noticed that the site hasn't been updated and have probably been wondering what was happening. The good news is that this delay was

indeed intentional. They have been hard at work on an all-new revamp of the site to be more in line with our goal of providing a easy to use web application to help everyone within GSNI communicate with teams, groups, and help coordinate all of their events. The development team took quite a bit of time to focus on the feedback from all of the early users and has decided that our current interface wasn't quite living up to the expectations.

A recent e-mail from Existints announced that they are in final testing of the new interface and should be releasing it for testing in the next few weeks!

Here's a sneak peak of what to expect:

- New streamlined interface
- More application-like look and feel
- Upcoming Events at a Glance
- Great new message features like ordered lists

We are all very excited about the changes and understand that Existints Staff have been working very hard to get everything put in place. As soon as they finish internal testing over the next week to ten days, those who were part of the initial test group will be invited back. If all goes as planned, the platform should roll out soon after that initial test period.

Registration Procedures for Camp Facilities All requests to use any camp properties of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois must be sent to the camp site coordinator at least three weeks prior to the desired date and **MUST** include the deposit or full payment. Any request with less than three weeks notice will be considered on an individual basis.

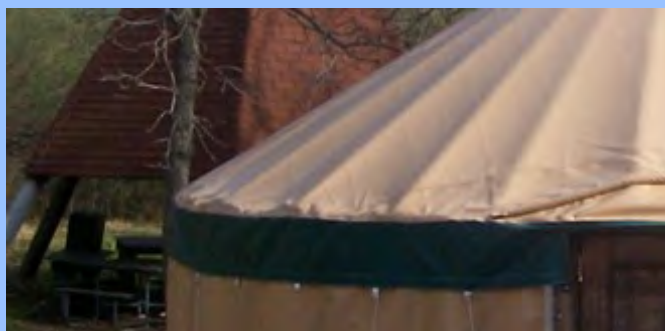
Registration forms must be accompanied by the deposit of payment in form of either a check made out to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) or with a charge card. Authorization to make charges to the card is required and all information pertaining to the card must be completed and signed by the card holder.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois follows the guidelines of the Girl Scout *Safety-Wise* checkpoints. Groups must provide their own trained and currently certified first-aider. Groups renting canoes, and/or creek hiking or fishing must provide their own trained personnel in accordance with these guidelines. Lifejackets must be worn in the water and on the dock. Please contact the outdoor program staff of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois or the Sugar Grove Service Center if you are unfamiliar with these requirements.



Julia M. Scout has arrived! Julia M. Scout is currently at Camp McCormick. Take an afternoon to go sledding and stop by the friendship center to see her. She has a journal to keep track of all of her visitors.

This month, she will be moving to her next location. Can you guess where with these photo hints?



Reservation Timeline—Beginning July 1, reservations will be taken for October, November, December and January. On November 1, reservations will be taken for February, March, April and May. On March 1, reservations will be taken for June, July, August and September.

Confirmations—Before sending in your rental request and deposit/payment, please check availability by calling the camp site coordinator at 815-962-5521, Ext. 7162 or e-mailing tmassolle@girlscoutsni.org.

Deposit—A \$50 deposit is required with all rental requests. The deposit WILL be cashed. Provided the ranger confirms a deposit can be returned and the Troop Camp Report has been returned to the camp site coordinator (within 48 hours), a check will be issued back to you for your deposit. Confirmation packets will be sent once the request form and deposit have been received.

Service Unit Events—Any Service Unit events renting three or more sites at a property may submit a reservation at ANY time and is subject to approval by the Camp Site Coordinator. Deposit for any Service Unit Event is \$150. This is a refundable deposit that will be returned after the event. This does NOT go towards the site fees.

Camp Service Day Camp Dean Spring Service Day is March 26, 9 A.M. –Noon. Contact Toni to sign up. Register online for your outdoor camp training. Sessions being held in April and May.

Girl Scout Week (March 6-12) The first Girl Scout meeting was held on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. To observe this birthday, many troops plan how they want to celebrate. This year, during Girl Scout Week, Girl Scouts all over the country will celebrate 99 years of Girl Scouting by eating birthday cake and ice cream, attending service unit events, joining with other troops and singing songs, conducting a service project or attending a council-sponsored event. Girl Scout Week begins Sunday, March 6 and concludes March 12 this year. This arrangement allows our membership of diverse faiths to celebrate on their chosen day of worship. For GS Sunday and GS Sabbath, bulletin inserts are available for download on the website on the Adult/Leader page.

*Consider winter camping!
Share this word search with
girls to encourage fun
outdoor activities during
the winter months.*

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Boots | Hotdog |
| Chapman Hills | Igloo |
| Cocoa | Lodge |
| Cross country skis | Pieiron |
| Dean | Sledding |
| Far Horizons | Sleepingbag |
| Flashlight | Snowman |
| Gloves | Winter |

GSNI WORD SEARCH

C	S	D	E	A	N	H	R	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G
H	R	P	U	T	R	V	H	S	L	K	O	V	G	B	M
F	Q	O	E	R	T	W	I	N	T	E	R	P	L	M	N
L	Z	G	S	V	B	B	O	O	T	S	H	Y	O	T	R
A	P	O	I	S	U	Y	T	W	R	C	O	C	O	A	C
S	W	E	R	L	C	Y	U	M	O	P	L	K	J	H	H
H	G	F	D	E	S	O	A	A	Z	P	X	C	V	B	A
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I	A	S	D	P	F	G	H	N	J	E	N	F	U	L	M
G	U	G	Y	I	T	R	E	W	T	I	D	F	G	H	A
H	Y	L	H	N	N	M	K	I	G	R	U	Y	T	L	N
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L	K	V	J	B	H	G	D	F	D	N	S	S	A	X	I
Z	X	E	C	A	V	T	B	N	M	L	K	J	K	H	L
Q	W	S	E	G	O	R	T	Y	U	I	O	O	P	I	L
N	M	G	H	H	F	A	R	H	O	R	I	Z	O	N	S

Answer key on next page

GSNI Is Looking For Trainers If you are a certified trainer in one of the following, please contact Jenny Savage at extension 7119 or e-mail jsavage@girlscoutsni.org.

- First Aid and CPR
- NADA Archery Instructor Level 2 (Intermediate)
- Small Craft Safety for Canoeing or Kayaking

Nominate those outstanding volunteers! Adult Recognition nominations are due by midnight on February 15, 2011. The information and the nomination form which can be mailed or e-mailed to jsavage@girlscoutsni.org.

Doodle for google Girl Scouts of the USA has partnered with the fourth annual Doodle 4 Google contest. Doodle 4 Google is an opportunity of a lifetime: design the Google.com homepage doodle for millions of people to see, and while you're at it, take home a \$15,000 scholarship and a \$25,000 technology grant for your school or your Girl Scout troop/council. This is the first time that Google is opening up their annual art and design contest to After School Programs, and the Girl Scouts of the USA is one of their premier pilot partners. In the spirit of thinking big, the theme this year is "What I'd like to do someday..." - giving all of the talented young dreamers an opportunity to flex their creative muscles.

Registered Girl Scouts can submit their doodle artwork via mail by March 16th. The top 40 regional finalists will receive a trip to New York City and a visit from Google in their hometown, and their artwork will be featured in a special exhibition in partnership with the Whitney Museum of American Art. For more details, check out www.google.com/doodle4google.

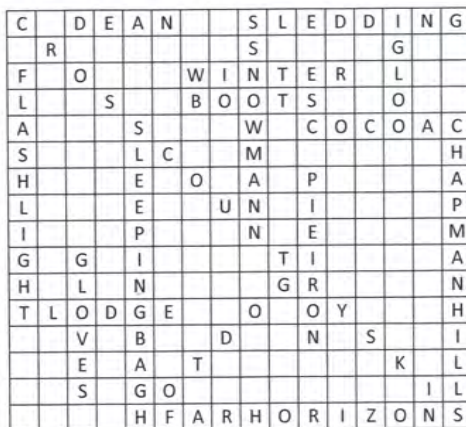
March Observances:

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

- American Red Cross Month
- Expanding Girls' Horizons in Science and Engineering Month
- International Women's Month
- National Nutrition Month
- National Women's History Month
- National Write a Letter of Appreciation Wk (1-7)
- National Anthem Day (3)
- Girl Scout Birthday (12)
- Maple Syrup Day (20)
- Spring Equinox (20)
- Letting Go of Stuff Day (25)

FYI

The registration help desk now has its own fax number. The number is 847-264-5554.



GSNI CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY 18-23, 2011 Cookie Delivery to SU
- FEB. 25-MAR. 20, 2011 Cookie Booth Sales
- MARCH 6 Girl Scout Sunday
- MARCH 6-12 Girl Scout Week
- MARCH 12 Girl Scout Sabbath
- MARCH 31, 2011 Design A Cookie Booth Contest entry deadline
- APRIL 6, 2011 Girl Scouts Forever After Hours, Geneva
- APRIL 16, 2011 2011 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition
- APRIL 22, 2011 Leader Appreciation Day
- APRIL 28, 2011 Girl Scouts Forever After Hours, Crystal Lake

Watch for the March issue of GS'n'I to be e-mailed and posted online early in March!

