

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

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Thank You

Thank you to all delegates, alternates and guests that attended the Special Meeting called by the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley. The eligible members in attendance that evening unanimously voted to approve the Plan and Agreement to Merge documents in their entirety.

We are one step closer to becoming Girl Scouts of Western New York!

Girl Scout Supports Student Nurses Association Drive

Traci Labash is a long time Girl Scout and most recently a nursing student nearing her graduation. While busy with all that graduation includes, she has taken time out to collect items that will be sent to our soldiers in Iraq.

Please find some time and spare change to support the Student Nurses Association Drive for collection of items for our troops in Iraq. If you will drop off your non-monetary contributions at the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Program Center (1020 John Street, West Henrietta), Traci will retrieve them to add to other donations for shipment to our soldiers.

Suggested Items for Donation

sun block lotion	power bars
air fresheners	dried fruit
beef jerky	water-guns
energy bars	water balloons
peanut butter/chocolate	blow up pools
trail mix	nuts
Cheetos/Pringles/similar snacks	nonperishable candy

Please drop our donations off by Tuesday May 27th
& thank you!

**Transforming Leadership
For Girls
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: Why change?

A: It was determined that the core business strategy needed a major transformation. One that is centered on building the world's best leadership experience

- 1) that ties activities to outcomes,
- 2) provides a differentiation for girls from kindergarten through high school,
- 3) offers flexible pathways for today's diverse and busy girls and volunteers

Q: What are the Core Business Strategies for GSUSA?

A: There are five strategic priorities in the GSUSA Core Business Strategy. They are:

Brand – transform the GS image with a compelling, contemporary brand

Program Model and Pathways – personal leadership development model that defines activities and outcomes differentiated by age-level, for girls 5-17 and offers flexible pathways for participation

Organization Structure and Governance – focus on producing a council/GSUSA structure this is efficient, effective and accountable organization that maximizes resources in support of our Mission

Volunteerism – develop a nimble, state-of-the-art model that mobilizes a diverse and appreciated cadre of volunteers committed to embracing the mission, open to continuous learning, and flexibility in the way they serve

Funding – substantially increase contributed income to fund a vibrant GS organization in a manner that reduces the over-reliance on internal funding (product and program material sales) by creating avenues for external funding

Q: How are the Core Business Strategies being implemented?

A: A key component of the transformation of Girl Scouts is a focus on Culture. Although our program and delivery systems are evolving, girls are and will remain the focus of everything we do.

Q: Why is Girl Scouts focusing on leadership?

A: Girl Scouts has always been about leadership, so this is not new only more deliberate. Even at the youngest ages of Girl Scouting, girls can gain leadership skills they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Q: What's changing in how we teach leadership to girls?

A: In the Girl Scout leadership experience, activities are organized around three pillars or keys – DISCOVER, CONNECT and TAKE ACTION – which translate into knowing yourself, reaching out to others, and taking action to contribute to society in sustainable ways, making a difference in the world. This means that in every Girl Scout program delivered to girls of each age group, there will be a Discover, Connect and Take Action component.



Q: When will the transition begin?

A: Fall 2008 marks the **beginning** of the transition to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. GSUSA will be providing guidance on managing membership and programs over the next several years.

Q: What are Girl Scout Pathways?

A: A pathway is the way girls and volunteers join Girl Scouting. They can choose from several pathways, including an ongoing troop, destinations, a short-term opportunity, a day or resident camp, a special interest topic or event, or a virtual connection.

Q: What can girl members expect to change?

A: Girls say it is important to be with other girls their age, and currently they are bored with too much repetition. Research also found that girls learn best and have the most fun when they are with the right developmental/social grouping. Here are the new age levels:

- Girl Scout Daisy – Grades K-1
- Girl Scout Brownie – Grades 2-3
- Girl Scout Junior – Grades 4-5
- Girl Scout Cadette – Grades 6-8
- Girl Scout Senior – Grades 9-10
- Girl Scout Ambassador – Grades 11-12

Q: What about multi level groups of girls?

A: Keep going! Girls benefit greatly through opportunities to give and get from one another at different levels. All of the girls can be engaged in exploring what it means to be leaders based on the Girl Scout philosophy. Just ensure that plans do not always rely on engaging older girls as helpers of younger girls. Teens need opportunities to network with their peers and participate in challenges especially for their own level.

Q: When will new program materials for these leadership journeys be available?

A: New program materials will be phased in gradually with lots of input. Each grade level will have one “launch” journey in the fall 2008.

Q: What are the prices for the journey books?

A: Retail prices have just been confirmed. The girl books will be \$7.00; the adult set, consisting of a girl book packaged with the adult guide will be \$15.00. These prices are the same at every grade level. Detailed information on ordering opportunities will be available soon.

Q: What about our current program resources and awards?

A: Keep using them. It will be several years to create sufficient new program materials for each age level and there are many great examples of our Discover, Connect, and Take Action leadership philosophy in existing materials. It’s not planned to begin phasing out existing materials until around 2010.

Q: What is being done to avoid disruption during this period?

A: Throughout the transition period, girls will not experience loss of experience, projects, or awards they have already started. Girls at every level can continue to use all the available existing materials as new resources are phased in. And as always, our adults will use their best judgment to assist girls in choosing projects that are appropriate to their grade level.

Q: Why is the transition period so long?

A: The transition has been set up intentionally as a multiyear process so that councils may balance national action plans with local needs, making choices as needed to reach the organization’s goal of providing girls with a unified Girl Scout experience by fall 2010.

Q: Will there be changes to uniforms and awards?

A: Our symbols of belonging will be one official uniform item for girls at each level (tunic, vest, sash) so they may proudly display the pins and badges they have earned. This uniform item will be required when girls participate in ceremonies or when they officially represent the Girl Scout Movement.

Q: How can we have all these changes and still keep our tradition alive?

A: Girl Scouts has a wonderful 96 year history that is unsurpassed. In keeping with the vision and passion of Juliette Gordon Low, our Core Business Strategy will marry the best aspects of our tradition with new ways of doing things, so that we can continue to meet the challenges of girls today and beyond.

Q: Tell us about “Journeys”.

A: Journeys represent the experience Girl Scouts engage in to achieve leadership outcomes. For each Girl Scout grade level, GSUSA is creating a series of leadership journeys accompanied by new resources and new awards.

Q: What is a leadership journey and how will it change program materials and awards?

A: Girl Scout leadership journeys are coordinated series of activities grouped around one theme that is delivered over a set period of time with the intention of being a complete leadership experience module. Each journey is tied to some of Girl Scouts’ 15 national outcomes for girls. For the launch of the leadership experience in fall 2008, GSUSA is creating one leadership journey for each level, accompanied by awards and facilitator guides. These initial journeys invite girls to explore a specific leadership theme suited to their level.

Q: What else can you tell us about these initial journeys?

A: The first journeys planned for fall 2008 are referred to as Leadership Launch Journeys because they kick-off the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience and serve as a “launch pad” for future experiences in Girl Scouting. Each launch journey presents a central theme that tie to the three keys of leadership – Discover, Connect, Take Action. These journeys deepen girls’ understanding of what it means to be a leader at each progressive level of Girl Scouts.

Q: Is there any flexibility or are the volunteers bound to follow specific details?

A: The launch journeys are made up of 5-8 sessions and are intended for local customization. Journeys can be done in a variety of Girl Scout Pathways, including stand-alone, short-term experiences. A print resource for each level will bring the journey to life for girls and incorporate important elements of Girl Scout history and tradition.

Q: How do we learn more?

A: GSUSA is holding six sessions for teams of council staff and volunteers. An emphasis for these sessions will be on preparing and coaching volunteers to use the girl-led, cooperative learning, and learning by doing processes to ensure high-quality experiences. Nine members from GSGV have attended the sessions and are preparing a plan for introducing the new model.