

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

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**Girl Scouting builds girls of
courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.**

Third Installment

More questions and answers from GSUSA regarding the changes coming in the Fall of 2008

Why is Girl Scouts of the USA changing now?

Since 1912, Girl Scouts has risen to the challenge of meeting the unique needs of each generation of girls. Girls today are asking for compelling, relevant and impact-driven experiences. This change is part of the next-steps in the Core Business Strategy as expected since 2004. Imagining the power of the Girl Scout Movement speaking in one, consistent, national voice about what we do: leadership development for girls!

What about the Girl Scout history and traditions?

"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers." ~ Juliette Gordon Low

Change is perhaps the oldest tradition in Girl Scouts. Ever since Juliette Gordon Low returned from England in 1912 and changed "Guide" to "Scout" in response to the preference of American girls, those in the Girl Scout Movement have prided themselves on their ability to make timely adjustments to fulfill the evolving concerns of modern girls. Girl Scouts has a long history of updating clothing, awards, age groupings and so on to meet the needs of girls. While continuing to maintain the values that have been at our core for 95 years, this renewal allows Girl Scouts to remain relevant.

How will we still know we're Girl Scouts?

The values of the Girl Scout Movement, as expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, remain the cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience. In fact, the renewed Girl Scout leadership development experience places increased emphasis on teaching girls to live out the commitments expressed in the Promise and Law. The leadership development program will do this through Discover, Connect and Take Action activities.

Outwardly, the revitalized program also retains many of our important Girl Scout symbols. Girls will continue the practice of earning official awards to display proudly on a tunic, vest or sash, culminating with the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Additionally, Girl Scouts will remain united by a national dress code [see the May 17, 2007 Delegate Bulletin].

Who had input into the changes and decisions?

Thousands of girls and adults from across the Girl Scout Movement have been part of an open and honest dialogue for the last 18 months. Following our tradition of participation, members responded to questions and contributed ideas through forums such as a specially designed e-mail address; strategy cafés held at the 2005 National Council Session in Atlanta; focus groups with volunteers and girls within and outside of Girl Scouts; online surveys; and work sessions held at Girl Scout councils. A panel of experts in the youth development field also weighed in and gave their seal of approval to the new Girl Scout leadership model.

The information gathered through all of these sources was reviewed and summarized by teams of Girl Scout councils and national staff members. The National Board of Directors made the final decisions in August 2006.

How will the national focus on leadership incorporate girls' varied interests?

Leadership skill-building can be incorporated into everything a Girl Scout already enjoys—from rock climbing to collaborating on a puppet show to volunteering at a soup kitchen.

What if I like things the way they are?

So much remains the same! Continue celebrating everything that girls love about Girl Scouting—troops, camping, the Promise and Law, badges, uniforms, a *girl-driven* approach and much more. In fact, when girls strive to live out the Girl Scout Promise and Law, they're already on their way to becoming confident, courageous leaders. As Girl Scouts of the USA continues to honor the traditions that have always made Girl Scouting such a positive experience, join the national effort to move forward and make that experience even better.

Be sure to check both the **Delegate Web page** and the **Realignment News Web page** at www.gsgv.org. Updates are made frequently!