

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

www.gsgv.org

Sept. 9, 2007

e-mail: board@rochester.rr.com

Vol. 1, Iss. 13

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

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

When will the changes become effective?

Not right away. The most important thing we can do right now is to continue using all current available resources—the Web sections, awards, books and clothing. Changes will *begin* to be phased in October 2008, and girls and volunteers will have time to transition.

How will this affect what girls are doing now?

It won't. Girls in all age groups will continue enjoying the experiences they are already engaged in, earning awards and badges as they exist right now. Materials will continue to be available in Girl Scout council shops and online. **When the transition timeframe is put into place, girls will have time to complete projects or awards they have already begun at their current age levels, using existing materials.**

Why change age groups?

Girls have told us that it's important to be with other girls their age, and currently, they get bored by too much repetition. As one 13-year old Girl Scout wrote in, "It makes us more comfortable to be with the same age group as ourselves." Our research found that girls learn best and have the most fun when they are with the right developmental/ social grouping. The new grade-level groups are:

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

*The word ambassador represents young women leaders, paving the way in a global world.

Major Changes

Kindergarten and grade 1 girls will have the opportunity to share fun experiences and learn from each other. Girl Scouts of the USA will be designing new program resources especially for this level.

Middle School (6th to 8th grade in many parts of the country) can be a difficult time in girls' lives. New program resources will address their progression through the early stages of adolescence, ultimately preparing them for the next phase of life and Girl Scouting.

Girls in 9th and 10th grade will have their own unique program resources making leadership relevant to their lives as they seek healthy relationships, deal with the pressures of high school, and figure out who they are. While **girls in 11th and 12th grade** have expressed interest and focus more on preparing for their futures and demonstrating leadership skills.

Why group by grade? Can other grades still go together?

Girls identify with social groups based on grades. Grouping by grade allows girls to be with peers who share a closer level of emotional and social maturity.

Older and younger girls can continue to interact—in fact, that's a great way for girls to practice leadership! As new Girl Scout Leadership Development Program materials begin rolling out in October 2008, Girl Scouts will establish a national curriculum offering age-appropriate, differentiated activities at each level.

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