

# Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

[www.gsgv.org](http://www.gsgv.org)

Sept. 23, 2007

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Vol. 1, Iss. 15

PROGRAM STRATEGY UPDATE – from March 28, 2007 *Strategy News*

*Build the world's best model of leadership development, differentiated by age, for girls from Kindergarten through High School*

## More About Leadership Program Resources, Awards, and Pathways

Work is underway to create the first wave of program resources, awards, and facilitator guides that will bring our new leadership experience to life for girls.

**Fun, Coordinated and Serial:** GSUSA will develop a coordinated series of fun, modular resources and corresponding awards for girls at each level based on the Discover, Connect and Take Action leadership outcomes and indicators.

**Thematic Journeys:** Each journey will be designed around an age appropriate "guiding theme" and engage girls in exploring a variety of interests. The first segments will provide a "leadership launch" for girls. Girls at each level will explore a specific leadership theme, earning small awards along the way and the leadership award for the level at the end of the journey.

- Field testing of the "leadership launch" will occur with girls and volunteers in summer 2007, and will continue through spring 2008. Corresponding "facilitator guides" will make it easy for volunteers to coach girls at each level by applying the *girl-driven, learning by doing* and *cooperative learning* processes.
- The new leadership awards will provide a springboard to the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold awards at the relevant levels.
- Over time, we expect to develop many fun and multi-interest thematic strands for each level, accompanied by facilitator guides for volunteers.
- This serial and modular approach has a number of advantages for Girl Scouting:
  - Responds to learning needs by shifting our paradigm from a myriad of "single topic" badges to exploration of varied topics tied to a larger, overarching guiding theme.
  - Engages girls in fun and purposeful seeking and exploring related to a thematic issue that is larger than any one activity along the way—the journey is the reward.
  - Enables GSUSA to update program experiences for girls in a timely way. For example, nationally, we could replicate a journey created locally by girls to reflect current interests.

## Toward Nationally Consistent Membership Pathways

Each program segment will be designed for use within a troop year or as a national, short-term pathway, promoting:

- Consistent and high quality experience for all girls
- Participation by busy girls and families
- Collaboration opportunities with schools and other community groups

Girl Scouts can continue to enjoy participating through membership in a troop of girls progressing through the years together.

Given the busy lives of girls and volunteers, Girl Scouts can also choose to participate via serial, shorter-term experiences (e.g., 8 – 12 sessions).

***We will gain national consistency and quality when girls in troops and in short-term pathways use the same high-quality Leadership Development Program.***

Be sure to check both the **Delegate** Web page and the **Realignment** News Web page at [www.gsgv.org](http://www.gsgv.org). Updates are made frequently!