

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Delegate Bulletin

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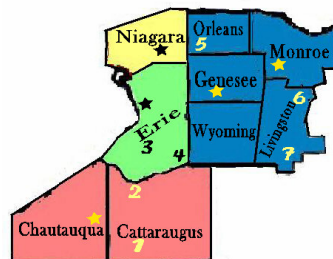
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Welcome to Realignment!

Four (4) Girl Scout Councils comprising 9 counties in western New York state have begun realigning into a "bigger, better council." This map shows where the 4 council boundaries were and where the New Council is. We thank GS of Southwestern NY for this image. The stars indicate the current council offices. The numbers indicate current council camps. GS of Niagara County Council is indicated in yellow; GS of Buffalo & Erie County Council is indicated in green; GS of Southwestern NY is indicated in salmon; and GSGV is indicated in blue. Camp 6 is Camp Piperwood and should be located in Monroe County.



Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes...

This reprint of a GSUSA memo regarding the upcoming membership level and uniform changes that will take effect **October 2008** is done at the request of multiple delegates.

Memo received from GSUSA:

The weekend of August 25, 2006, Girl Scouts of the USA's National Board of Directors endorsed momentous decisions that will guide the future of the Girl Scout Movement. The changes that you are about to read below will begin to take effect in **October 2008**.

Amendment of Membership Standards

To meet social and developmental needs of girls, it became necessary to differentiate groups by grade level, thereby requiring a realignment of membership age groups and the addition of a new identifying name. As a result, three actions regarding the membership standards were approved:

- The membership grade levels have been realigned to better meet the social and developmental needs of girls.
- A new age-identifying name has been added, resulting in six age-differentiated levels. The name "Ambassador" to identify Girl Scouts in the 11th and 12th grades consistently rose to the top in all research with girls, and reflects young women's leadership roles in our global world.
- The words "Girl Scout" will be emphasized at the beginning of each identifying name, highlighting the one consistent Girl Scout leadership experience and strengthening the Girl Scout brand.

Grades ~ Names

K-1 ~ Girl Scout Daisy
2-3 ~ Girl Scout Brownie

4-5 ~ Girl Scout Junior
6-8 ~ Girl Scout Cadette

9-10 ~ Girl Scout Senior
11-12 ~ Girl Scout Ambassador

Girl Scout Uniform

Most uniform conversations centered on how we as a Movement balance our traditions of unity with economic practicality for families. In practice, most girls today are choosing to use a tunic/vest/sash with their own clothing and this is reflected in uniform sales trends. At the same time, it is important to maintain Girl Scout tradition, and create a dress code that will identify Girl Scouts as a leadership organization. As a result, the National Board approved the following:

- Girl Scouts at each level will have one official uniform item (i.e., tunic, vest, sash) for display of official pins & awards.
- Following an official dress code, girls will use their own solid white shirts and khaki pants or skirts with an official uniform item that will unite girls as Girl Scouts.
- The adult uniform will be a scarf worn with the membership pins for women and a tie for men. The scarf/tie will be worn with navy blue business attire of choice.
- Girl Scouts at the Daisy and Brownie levels will continue to have a full uniform ensemble available.
- Girl Scouts in high school will also have an optional scarf, uniting them in the international WAGGGS tradition.
- GSUSA will continue to offer a range of appealing casual wear for girls and adults.

Springboard Answers

Delegate Question and Answer as of 4/17/07

1. **Where will the Service Centers be located?** All indications are that very little will change with the first day of the new council. Per the Guiding Principles for Council Realignment, "Council services will be close to the customer, community-based and community-connected. Services will be based on local needs with proximity being a key factor."
2. **Will we function as one council or as four separate regions?** We will function as one council.
3. **How will multiple United Way jurisdictions affect us?** Currently each council has local relations with all United Ways in their area. We benefit from several different United Way donations. The United Ways are aware or are being very supportive with their financial support of our realignment.
4. **How will the new CEO, President and Board of Directors be chosen?** There is a CEO Search Committee that manages a national search and chooses the new CEO from a group of qualified candidates. A Transition Nominating Committee will assemble a new Board of Directors and set of officers, including the new President.
5. **Will the girls retain the high share of cookie & product sales that our troops see now?** Currently the councils use different bakers, the time of the sales are different, and incentives also vary. This is one of the many issues that will be resolved in the Transition subcommittees.
6. **How will council properties be affected?** This question cannot be answered fully at this time, as it will be the decision of the new council. What guidance we have so far is quoted from the Guiding Principles for Council Realignment, "Wherever possible, decisions about property will be deferred until newly organized councils are able to evaluate the role each property can play in delivering on our promise to girls."
7. **How will ongoing volunteer training requirements be affected?** Best Practices from the New Leader Training from each council could become part of any new training. We will also be introduced to new training that will match the new Girl Leadership Program that will begin to roll out in the fall of 2008.
8. **Can GSUSA be asked to create a national training standard?** GSUSA has been working on the New Leadership Model and a new Single Entry System for volunteers. Both of these should include training.
9. **Could the four councils begin working together on recruiting now so that border communities are no longer divided?** Yes, discussions have already begun.
10. **Could we please work to maintain our Special Funding for girl registrations and Troop Financial Aid for uniform components/insignia programs?** As Girl Scouts is for ALL girls, we agree with this request and will review best practices from our realignment partners. With that, the likelihood is that these types of programs will remain.
11. **Could there be a pro-rated membership dues cost for people joining in the last six months of the membership year?** The National Council establishes dues. Even the National Board of Directors cannot alter this decision.
12. **Is there any way to work quickly with Buffalo & Erie County and Southwestern NY to relax the recruitment restrictions or at least work together for recruitment events?** See Question #9
13. **When we finally implement all of the age changes, will there be a built-in carry-over time for those girls that are in the beginning or middle of an age grouping that will change? Also, for those girls working on multiple-year recognition, will they be given the same time allowances to complete what they have already started?** We have been assured by GSUSA that there will be a gradual rollout with built-in transition from old to new. We have not found any specific detailed information to date other than the knowledge that we all learned a lot from the Studio 2B transition.
14. **Is there any timeline yet for our council as to when we will incorporate the Single Entry Process for volunteers?** There has been no timeline published yet. Field-testing is in process so stay tuned. Volunteer organizers will still be needed.
15. **What will be the process for choosing a new council name, e.g. a contest or sub-committee or will GSUSA just assign it?** We had asked the Delegates to provide name ideas in a previous Delegate Bulletin. GSUSA has give pretty strict guidelines that make the possibilities for creativity quite slim. The CRC (Council Realignment Committee) has this as one of their first agenda items. GSUSA guidelines: Must start with Girl Scouts of, must include our state name, and must contain a geographic location. (Girl Scouts of Western New York for example).
16. **At least two of the four merging councils have "Council's Own" earned recognition programs. Will those programs as well as regional patch program remain available?** We will all benefit from the Best Practices of other councils. Patches are a program unit decision but we see no reason to feel these patches will be deleted. They reflect the local region of interest that will be a highlight of our larger geographic region – examples would be Susan B. Anthony and Niagara Falls.

Correction

In the April 16 Delegate Bulletin, it was stated that the Council Delegate term is 3 years. That term limit is incorrect.
The correct term limit for Council Delegates is 2 years.

For more Q&A from Spring Assembly, see the Delegate Page at gsgv.org