



Girl Scouts – Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

Leader's Notes

December 2009

www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org

*The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you
season's greetings and good wishes.*

May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

All Diamonds Council offices will be closed from December 24 – January 1 for the holidays. Offices will close at 1:30 on December 23, and will open again on Monday, January 4.

All Diamonds Councils shops will be closed from January 4 – 6 for inventory.

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN

This month, you'll find information about a new campaign to help finance membership and program activities. The campaign runs from now through March 11, 2010. This is a great way for girls and their families to get involved in philanthropy. The money raised will be used to help girls who couldn't otherwise afford it have opportunities for Girl Scout experiences; to help with upkeep of camping facilities; and to help provide excellent programs.

Membership

- **MCC NOMINATIONS:** It is time to place nominations for our Membership Connection Committee. The Application is printed at the end of these notes. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Membership Connection Committee, please complete the application and return it to Krystal Kinsey by February 10, 2010.
- **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITIONS:** You know that you are all Green Angels, people who make a better future available for our girls. Your work makes it all possible. Now it is time to get a little recognition. Forms are included in Appendix I of your Volunteer Essentials book, or you can access these forms online at www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org. Please complete these forms and get credit for the work you have done or nominate other outstanding volunteers in your service unit for the awards they deserve. Included in Adult Recognitions is also a Trainer's Pin, please have any Council Trainers complete the 2010 form and send it in with other Adult Recognition Forms. **Nomination deadline is February 15, 2010.** Please disregard the March deadline in the Volunteer Essentials book. Information about all adult recognitions is included on pages 14 – 18 of your Volunteer Essentials book. Here are more specific guidelines for recognitions the Leadership Development Pin and Leaves:
The Leadership Development Pin and Leaves represent a leader's hours of Girl Scout related training.

Form of recognition: A round pin with an owl with spaces to attach up to five “learning leaves”.

- Each green leaf represents 10 contact hours of training. Five green leaves are replaced by one silver leaf.
- The silver leaves represent 50 contact hours of training. Five silver leaves are replaced by one gold leaf.
- The gold leaves each represent 250 contact hours of training.

The fulfillment of these requirements authorizes the Leadership Pin:

1. The candidate is a registered adult Girl Scout
2. The candidate has completed one successful year in the position of troop/group leader, assistant leader, co-leader or coordinator
3. The candidate has completed basic leadership which includes Volunteer Essentials and Program Level Training.
4. The candidate has participated in at least two meetings, events and/or trainings beyond the troop or group meeting. An example would be the Service Team Conference.

In addition to the Leadership Development Owl Pin, candidates may be eligible for leaves for that pin. All candidates applying for leaves need to document their hours for any and all workshop/courses taken that improve their work with the girls in their troop/group. The fulfillment of these requirements authorizes leaves for the Owl Pin.

1. The candidate has taken courses or trainings that are pre-approved for leaves. Pre-approval was received from the Adult Development Department.
2. The candidate has taken training offered through Diamonds Council. All Diamonds Council training is approved for leaves. All other training will be reviewed by the Adult Development Department.
 - **Examples of Figuring Leaves and Hours:**
93 hours=4 green leaves (40) + 1 silver leaf (50) (three hours left over)
100 hours=2 silver leaves (take off the 4 green leaves)
315 hours=1 green leaf (10) +1 silver leaf (50) +1 gold leaf (250) (five hours leftover. You must remove one silver leaf)
 - You may only wear leaves that reflect the exact number of hours you have completed and have been approved. If you trade in five green leaves for one silver leaf you need to remove all green leaves. Leaves being traded in need to be given to the Adult Development Department. Record any additional hours so that they may be used in the future.

- **NEW MEMBERSHIP DATABASE:** Diamonds Council has migrated the membership database to Personify, a new software program sponsored by GSUSA. While we have had a slow start in entering memberships this fall because of moving to the new program, we are now well on our way. We anticipate being caught up by Christmas, with the ability for membership staff to provide reports of who is registered by troop.

- **BLUE BOOK / LEADER'S DIGEST PRINTED PUBLICATIONS DISCONTINUED:** GSUSA has discontinued printing both the Blue Book and Leader's Digest. These publications contained the bylaws for the national organization, as well as other rules by which councils must abide. From this point forward, the publications will be available on-line. By only publishing copies online, GSUSA will be able to keep the books up-to-date, and reflect the latest changes from the National Board of Directors. You can find a link on the Diamonds website for the Blue Book.

Program

- **EVENT FEES:** Payment for event fees must be included with event registration. This includes adult fees as noted in the event description. ALL adults (leaders, parents) should pay the adult fee unless otherwise noted. Refer to page 5 of *Program Essentials* for complete information regarding fees charged and refund/transfer policy.
- **TAGALONGS:** In Girl Scouting, a "tagalong" is defined as any child and/or adult other than the specific age/grade level being served by an event or activity. (i.e., a registered Junior GS is a "tagalong" at an event hosted for Brownie GS) Unless otherwise noted in event descriptions, tagalongs are not allowed at council events due to liability issues and limited space at many venues. Leaders should inform their troop parents of this regulation. There are various events throughout the year that families can register to attend.
- **ADULT SUPERVISION & GIRL/ADULT RATIOS AT EVENTS:** Adults accompanying girls to council events should follow current *Safety-Wise* guidelines for proper girl/adult ratios. These guidelines can be found in Chapter 5 of *Program Essentials*. At council events, leaders/adults should be responsible for the supervision of their own troop. **Juliette GS:** Unless otherwise noted, Daisy, Brownie and Junior Juliettes should be accompanied by a supervising adult (parent/guardian) to events. Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Juliettes will not need a supervising adult at events unless otherwise noted.
- **REMINDER – PROGRAM UPDATE LINE:** Council extension 3114 contains the latest updates/cancellation notices for council program events. The recording is updated weekly.
- **SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT UPCOMING PROGRAMS** (Listed in *Program Essentials*):
 - The service project for the Jan 23 Brilliant Brownies – Holidays event in Fort Smith is disposable diapers or baby wipes to be donated in the name of Girl Scouts – Diamonds to a local children's shelter. Due to the holiday closing of council offices from Dec 24-Jan 4, the regular registration deadline has been extended to Jan 4. Complete details on page 61 of *Program Essentials*.
 - The Junior Jewels – CSI: Diamonds originally scheduled in Crossett for Oct 24 has been **rescheduled** for Jan 23, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines (For drop-off registrations, please keep in mind that our council offices will be closed from Dec 24-Jan 4):

Early registration (by Dec 23)	\$10 per girl	\$2 per adult
Regular registration (Dec 24-Jan 4)	\$12 per girl	\$4 per adult
Registration deadline: December 30, 2009		

All other information will remain the same as on page 35 of the *Program Essentials* book

- The service project for the Feb 5 Baby Think-It-Over program in Fort Smith is hair accessories to be donated in the name of Girl Scouts – Diamonds to local women’s shelter. Deadline to register for this event is Jan 20. Complete details on page 64 of the *Program Essentials* book.

- The Dazzling Daisies – Olympics originally scheduled in Crossett for Sept 26 has been **rescheduled** for Feb 27, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines:

Early registration (by Jan 27)	\$6 per girl	\$2 per adult
Regular registration (Jan 28-Feb 3)	\$9 per girl	\$5 per adult

Registration deadline: February 3, 2010

All other information will remain the same as on page 19 of the *Program Essentials* book.

- The Junior Jewels – CSI: Diamonds originally scheduled in Texarkana for Sept 26 has been **rescheduled** for Feb 27, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines:

Early registration (by Jan 27)	\$10 per girl	\$2 per adult
Regular registration (Jan 28-Feb 3)	\$12 per girl	\$4 per adult

Registration deadline: February 3, 2010

All other information will remain the same as on page 20 of the *Program Essentials* book

- The Dazzling Daisies – Olympics originally scheduled in Jonesboro for Sept 26 has been **rescheduled** for March 27, 2010. Registration fees and deadlines:

Early registration (by Feb 24)	\$6 per girl	\$2 per adult
Regular registration (Feb 25-March 3)	\$9 per girl	\$5 per adult

Registration deadline: March 3, 2010

All other information will remain the same as on page 18 of the *Program Essentials* book

- Remember to check the *Program Essentials* book and the Diamonds website for exciting opportunities each month and/or updates/cancellations of existing programs. As new events are scheduled throughout the year, they will be added to the website and in the following “Additional Program Opportunities” section of monthly *Leaders’ Notes*.
- **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES** (Not listed in *Program Essentials*):
 - Badge/IPA **Car Care** workshops will be offered in the Little Rock area to Junior – Ambassador Girl Scouts on **Saturday, January 30, 2010**. The workshop for Cadettes – Ambassadors will be from 9:30-11:30 to earn the Car Sense IPA; workshop for Juniors to earn the Car Care badge will be from 1:30-3:00. Refer to

flyer in NLR regional handouts or contact Mindy Baird, 501-758-1020 ext 6225, 800-632-6894, ext 6225 or mbaird@girlscoutsdiamonds.org for complete details.

- The Jonesboro Garden Club will host a workshop for all Girl Scout levels on **Saturday, February 6, 2010** from 10 am to noon. From Master Gardeners, participants will *discover* – learn about native plants, *connect* – partner with a local garden club and *take action* – participate in a planting project! Through the activities planned for the day, girls will earn the National Garden Club Girl Scout Patch. Please note: Registrations for this event will not go through Girl Scouts – Diamonds. Refer to the flyer in the Jonesboro regional handouts or contact Sandy Risi (Jonesboro Garden Club) at 870-802-0080 or sjrisix@aol.com for complete details.
- Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts are invited to a fun-filled day gone to the dogs at **K-9 Can Do!** You'll learn how to become a responsible pet owner, how to stay safe around animals, meet the Southwest Service Dogs, see a demonstration by a Sebastian County Deputy and his four-legged partner and MORE! This event will be held on **Saturday, February 13, 2010** at Kelley Cabin in Fort Smith.
Registration Information:

Early registration (by Jan 13)	\$7 per girl	\$2 per adult
Regular registration (Jan 14-20)	\$10 per girl	\$3 per adult

Registration deadline: January 20, 2010

Participants are asked to bring a roll of paper towels to be donated to local animal organizations as a service project. For complete information, contact Linda Archer, 476-452-1290, ext 4022, 800-632-6894, ext 4022 or larcher@girlscoutsdiamonds.org.

- **UA Fort Smith** will host its annual **Season's Greetings and Campus Lighting with a free concert** in Stubblefield Center on **December 7 at 7pm**. The evening begins with a **free Christmas concert** in Stubblefield Center and continues afterward on the Campus Green for the lighting of the Christmas wonderland. There will be **free hot chocolate/cookies and free "sleigh" rides through the lighted area of campus**. Girl Scout troops are welcome and can sit together at the concert if they wish and then walk over to campus for the refreshments, lights, and "sleigh" rides. This is a **FREE event**, but just as in the UW night... **YOU MUST HAVE A TICKET!**
 - Troop leaders can go to the box office at Stubblefield anytime during box office hours (beginning tomorrow) to pick up their free tickets.
 - If a whole **Service Unit** wants to attend, please ask them to call Marian in Ft. Smith first and **she will order those bulk tickets for them to pick up at the Ft. Smith office** so that they don't have to wait and the box office for them to be printed up

- **CALLING ALL GOLD & SILVER GIRLS:** All girls who have received, or are currently working on, either the Gold Award or Silver Award are invited to a special event. The Rotary Club in Downtown Little Rock is hosting a Scout Day on **Tuesday, February 16, 2010**. This meeting is centered around Scouting and the leadership opportunities offered to girls and boys who participate in the Scouting Program. All Scouts will be recognized at this event.
 - Girls will meet at the North Little Rock office at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, February 16, 2010 for a short “meet and greet” program, then caravan to the Double Tree Hotel in Downtown Little Rock for the meeting.
 - This is an opportunity to recognize Award recipients and future recipients for their hard work and dedication. We want to take the opportunity to also let them know how proud we are of them! It promises to be a very special day for our girls.
 - Girls should wear full uniform, if they have it, or Khaki slacks, a white collared shirt and their vest. They will be the center of attention, and need to look SHARP!
 - **PLEASE R.S.V.P by February 1st to: Mindy Baird 1-800-632-6894 ext. 6225 (or)mbaird@girlscoutsdiamonds.org**
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, March 20, 2010 is the date for Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts to attend **NASA Girl Scout Day** focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics all related to NASA’s mission. The event will be held at Cutter Morning Star Elementary School in Hot Springs. Fees, registration deadlines, etc will be announced later.
- **CONTINUING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Many council-sponsored events have an opportunity for community service included in the description. Items collected at events are donated to local agencies in the name of the Girl Scouts – Diamonds Council. Instead of simply providing the requested items, leaders/adults are encouraged to talk to the girls about the request -- explain the reasons we do this, who will benefit and then ask each to participate in helping those less fortunate. Allowing girls to “take action” in this way, will help them develop a strong sense of community awareness and caring.
 - Runnin’ WJ Ranch in Texarkana is seeking volunteers to assist as Horse Leaders/Side Walkers with their Therapeutic Horse Program. Needed are adults and/or mature 9th – 12th graders who can volunteer Monday – Saturday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. For more information, contact Beth Corbin at 800-632-6894, ext 2016 or bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org.
 - Like to **sew**? The headquarters building at Camp High Point is in need of new curtains. If you have the talent and time to provide this service, please let us know. Window measurements will be given to a suitable seamstress once identified. For more information, contact Beth Corbin at 800-632-6894, ext 2016 or bcorbin@girlscoutsdiamonds.org.

Camping Services

- **CAMP CROSSED ARROWS GRAND OPENING DATE CHANGE:** Please Note –Camp Crossed Arrows Grand Reopening Bash has been rescheduled to May 1! Bring the whole family for a fun day of camp activities and to see all of the new improvements at camp!
- **SPRING TROOP ENCAMPMENTS SET FOR OUTDOOR FUN:** SAVE THE DATE for a Troop Encampment this Spring! Troop encampments will be held across the council. Overnight camping will be available for Brownie through Ambassador troops, and Daisies are welcome to join the fun on Saturday during the day. More info will be coming soon via Leader's Notes, Membership Specialists, and www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org.
 - March 23-25 Yale Camp Spring Encampment
 - April 9-11 Camp Crossed Arrows Spring Encampment
 - April 9-11 Camp Cahinnio Spring Encampment
 - Dates TBA Camp NOARK Spring Encampment
 - April 23-25 Camp High Point Eco-Actioneers
- **ARCHERY WITH YOUR TROOP OR SERVICE UNIT!** After the holidays, you will be able to sign up your Junior and above troop to do archery with a certified instructor at Camp Cahinnio, Camp Kemp, or Camp NOARK. There will also be an opportunity in early summer for Troop Leaders and other Adult Volunteers to become certified as archery instructors. Be on the lookout for more info and have some dates picked out when your troop might want to do archery in 2010! Cost is only \$5 per girl!

Shop News

- **SUPER SHOPPING SATURDAY – 9 am to 12 noon**

December 5, 2009 is our last Saturday of this year for the council shop to be open. We will have all kinds of activities going on including drawings, extreme markdowns and unadvertised specials for that day only. **If you need stocking stuffers, prizes or gifts for your troop we have several items under \$1.00.** We have Holiday pens and pencils as well as fun patches for all occasions. You should also come see our new Girl Scout Tin Ornaments. So go to your local Diamonds shop for all your Holliday needs.

- **COOKIE MOM GOODIES**

Diamonds shops will continue taking pre orders for **COOKIE MOM** merchandise this month. This year you have more choices of design and there is even an apron that you could order. These products will also make great **EXTRA COOKIE INCENTIVES** for adult leaders, volunteers and helpers. **Service units this would be a great way to get your leaders and volunteers ready for cookie booths. These Tees will be a great way to advertise our Exceptional Product. All service units buying 10 or more of one item will receive a discounted price on that item. Please contact Keri Pompella directly for special pricing on orders over 10 per item.** Get your preorder form from your MMS or SUD or go on line to get the form. Please send all forms to your local Diamonds shop.

- **NEW UNADVERTISED SPECIALS IN YOUR DIAMONDS SHOPS**

Our Diamonds shops have started UNADVERTISED SALES SPECIALS each month. These temporary markdowns can be found within each shop and will be announced to our email customers only. These markdowns of 25% to 50% and more are well worth you going to your local shop or signing up for our emails/blast on our website. www.girlscoutsdiamonds.org You could be saving big bucks while helping out your local Diamonds Council and the Girls that are served within it.

- **DIAMONDS TOP SHOPPER DRAWING**

Each month you have the chance to be entered into a year long drawing. It started last month during Customer Appreciation Days and will end in September 2010. The lucky winner will be announced at our 2nd Inclusion meeting and celebration. So head for your nearest Diamonds shop and shop till you drop you don't want to miss out on this opportunity. Details will be posted over the next few months in your leader notes and in your local Diamonds Shops. Congratulations to October's winners and first to be entered into this drawing. The Winners were **Jennifer Howard in Fayetteville, Darlene Kent in Jonesboro, Michelle Horan in Fort Smith, and Shannon Strother in Texarkana.** Thank you for shopping **BIG** in the Diamonds Council.

- **LOCAL SHOP PURCHASES HELP SERVE GIRLS IN OUR COUNCIL!**

Please keep in mind that every time you make a purchase in a Diamonds Shop all dollars generated from your purchases remain in the **Diamonds Council and HELP** provide programs and services for **YOUR GIRLS.**

- **DIAMONDS SHOP ADDITIONAL CLOSING**

All Diamonds shops will be closed the same days as the office for the holidays. The shop will also be closed January 4-6 for inventory and will reopen on January 7, 2010. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION COMMITTEE APPLICATION

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FEBRUARY 10, 2010

WHAT IS THE MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION COMMITTEE (MCC)?

The Membership Connection Committee is the entity within the Girls Scouts—Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas governance system that connects Council governance and operations to members of the Girl Scout Movement throughout the council's jurisdiction. Marcella Dalla Rosa, Second Vice-chair of the Board of Directors will facilitate the work of this group. Nineteen members represent the six regional areas comprising the new council. Two to six girls also represent the regional areas. Five board members serve on the MCC as well as the current National Council Delegates.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MCC?

The purpose of the Membership Connection Committee ("MCC") is to provide input, direction and influence over major policy issues of Girl Scouts—Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The MCC will provide annual forums for girls and adults to give input on strategic plans, celebrate achievement, and participate in program events. The MCC will also provide input to the Board Development Committee on the nominating process.

NEEDED QUALITIES FOR MCC MEMBERS:

- Open mindedness
- Appreciation of and ability to work with diverse groups – rural/urban, racial/ethnic, social/economic status, profession/skills, physical or developmental abilities – for the benefit of the Council as a whole.
- Values volunteerism and/or has demonstrated stewardship of Girl Scouts
- Honest and understandable communication style
- Collaboration skills

REQUIREMENTS FOR MCC MEMBERSHIP:

- Acceptance of the principles, beliefs, and purpose of Girl Scouting, and its statements of values found in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and register as a member.
- Understanding of cultural, social, and economic trends within our council jurisdiction and your governance area that might affect Girl Scouting and its activities.
- Availability to attend/participate in the MCC Annual Forum, varying local events, occasional conference calls and to act as a conduit between the membership and the Board of Directors.
- Willingness to make an annual financial contribution to the Girl Scouts.
- A girl or adult 14 years of age or older

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marcella Dalla Rosa (mdr1@me.com)

Denise Stewart (dstewart@girlscoutsdiamonds.org)

MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION COMMITTEE APPLICATION

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

STREET: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTY: _____

SIGNATURE

DATE

CURRENT GIRL SCOUT POSITION(S):

CURRENT OCCUPATION OR GRADE IN SCHOOL:

PERSONAL QUALITIES AND STRENGTHS YOU WILL BRING TO THE MCC:

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THE MCC:

WHAT ISSUES FACING THE NEW COUNCIL DO YOU FEEL ARE MOST CRITICAL:

REFERENCES:

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY:

MAIL: Girl Scouts—Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas

Attn: Krystal Kinsey

615 W. 29th Street

North Little Rock, AR, 72114

EMAIL: kkinsey@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

DEADLINE TO APPLY: FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for Girl Scouts!