



Experience Mardi Gras World and
earn a History of Mardi Gras Patch!



Connections

girl scouts
louisiana east

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JOIN US FOR Girl Scouts Centennial Extravaganza

Be a part of history as we celebrate Girl Scouting's 100th anniversary at the Winn-Dixie GSLE Centennial Extravaganza on Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (carnival remaining open until 9 p.m.) at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales. Girls and their families will enjoy a carnival of rides, games, and other hands-on activities as we learn about Girl Scouting across the years, and celebrate the international sisterhood of Girl Scouting with World Thinking Day activities including a parade of flags!

Tickets to the Extravaganza (excluding carnival rides) are \$8 per person, if pre-ordered by Friday, March 2, and will be \$10 at the door. Children 3 and under and senior citizens 70 and older will be admitted free. Discounted \$5 tickets are available to troops/girls/adults working as presenters, who will also receive free event patches as well as special *Worker Bee* patches.

Carnival Riding Bracelets are \$5 each for unlimited riding. Games and food items will be available for individual purchase at carnival booths. Possible concession stand(s) inside main stage area.

Girl Scouting is only turning 100 once, so don't miss the Party of the Century!

Girl Scouts kick-off Cookie Program during 100th Anniversary

Girl Scouts have set their sights high for the 2012 Cookie Program which begins January 20. As Girl Scouting prepares to turn 100 in March, the council is ushering in a new era of the Girl Scout Cookie Program with new tools and marketing strategies to assist girls in reaching their goals and taking action.

"We have quite a few troops this year who have set high goals for themselves since they want to travel to Washington, D.C.; Savannah, Georgia; and elsewhere to attend Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary events being planned," said Alisha Moore, Director of Sales, at Girl Scouts Louisiana East.

"Everyone is excited about celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting – we've even added a new cookie this year, called *Savannah Smiles*."

According to Moore, the new 100th anniversary cookie is a bite-sized lemon wedge cookie, dusted in powdered sugar. It's named to honor the city where Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low made the decision to start Girl Scouting back in March 1912.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led financial literacy program in the country, in which Girl Scouts learn goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. Last year, Girl Scouts in the local council sold over 1.1 million boxes of cookies, with 186 girls selling 500 boxes or more.

Girl Scouts begin taking cookie orders on Friday, January 20. Cookies are \$3.50 per box upon delivery, and are preservative-free, kosher, with zero trans fat per serving. Cookies will be sold at various booth locations throughout the 23 parishes served by the council March 2 – 18. Customers will be able to find the location and times of Girl Scout cookie booth sales online or through the Cookie Locator mobile app,



downloadable from the iTunes store, or by calling **GSCOOKIES (**472665437) from their mobile phone.

Cookie proceeds fund troop activities with the remainder helping the council to maintain properties, train and recruit

–See Cookies on page 2

Save the date for 2012 Council Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Girl Scouts Louisiana East 2012 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., location to be announced. This yearly meeting is attended by council delegates who vote on the new board and other items of business. Delegate caucuses will be held in various locations around the council prior to the meeting.

The annual Adult Recognition event honoring adult volunteers and religious leaders and school principals is being held separately from the annual meeting, and is scheduled for May 12.

Stay tuned for more information as plans are finalized.

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Update from the CEO

The saying, *Everything is bigger in Texas*, really held true for the Girl Scouts National Convention. Having attended every convention since I began working for Girl Scouts in 1989 (with the exception of the 2002 convention), I can safely say, that this was hands down the most exciting.



Jackie Alexander

An advantage of attending a National Convention is seeing the democratic process in action. We elected a dynamic new Board of Directors, including the re-election of Connie Lindsey as GSUSA's National President, inducted the new national Chief Executive Officer Anna Chávez (see News Briefs same page), and voted on three proposals (see National Council Session, pg. 4).

Each keynote speaker gave a thought provoking and dynamic presentation. TV news anchor and Girl Scout alum Katie Couric started the ball rolling in a vintage Girl Scout uniform complete with beanie and kicking stiletto heels. She took us from laughter to tears as she motivated and encouraged us to bring awareness to the Girl Scout Program, offering her commitment to the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Closing out the program was national media personality Robin Roberts, sister to local WWL-TV Morning show host Sally-Ann Roberts, who began her career in Hammond. Both women credited much of their success to their experiences in Girl Scouting and both are PROUD Lifetime Girl Scouts!

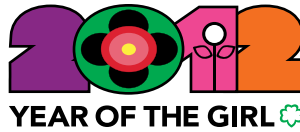
The other speakers were equally as exciting, and the musical entertainment went from the fabulous Yolanda Adams, Katie Armiger, Sara Bareilles (who sent the girls screaming and running to the stage as if we were in a rock concert), Emily Hearn, and the group, From Above. Dynamic!

The highlight was the presentation by the 10 Young Women of Distinction, each one impressive beyond words. They left everyone in the audience in tears of joy and pride in the maturity and grace of these young women. A special moment for me was the hugs and thank you's I received from our four Girl Scouts who represented the council at the Girl Scout Leadership Institute. The excitement of being part of history in the making, meeting girls from around the world, and having a voice in the future of Girl Scouts, has made and will continue to impact the lives of these four young ladies. This is a true testament to building girls of courage, confidence, and character, making the world a better place.

News Briefs

2012 declared Year of the Girl

In a move designed to focus national attention on girls and the issues they face, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has declared 2012 the Year of the Girl: a celebration of girls, recognition of their leadership potential, and a commitment to creating a coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals in support of balanced leadership in the workplace and in communities across the country.



The initiative, which also includes the largest fundraising and advocacy campaign dedicated to girls' issues in the nation's history, will be formally announced in January and will extend well beyond the Year of the Girl in 2012.

During the Year of the Girl, Girl Scout councils across the country will mix celebrations of the organization's 100 years as the premier leadership experience for girls with efforts to create a sense of urgency around girls' issues.

Support the Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary Resolution

Join the Girl Scouts Advocacy Network at www.GirlScouts4Girls.org and encourage members of Congress and Senators to pass the Girl Scout Centennial Resolution. Through this resolution, Congress commends Girl Scouts for its remarkable



national leadership development program, recognizes Girl Scouts for its innovative programming, including its focus on healthy living, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), financial literacy, environmental stewardship, and global citizenship, and celebrates the significant achievement of the Gold Award, the invaluable contributions of the Girl Scout Research Institute, and the many other amazing contributions of Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts of the USA selects new CEO

Lifetime Girl Scout member and award-winning community leader, **Anna Maria Chávez**, is the new Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA, replacing Kathy Cloninger who has retired after leading GSUSA for eight years.



Anna Maria Chávez

Prior to accepting the position, Chávez served as Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT), and previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Urban Relations and Community Development for the former Governor of Arizona and current U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano.



GSUSA CEO Anna Maria Chávez, aka Eagle 1, handed out personalized patches at the National Convention.

Earn the History of Mardi Gras Patch

Ever wonder why we mask for Mardi Gras? Or where Krewes come from? Did you know you can earn the council's *History of Mardi Gras Patch* at Mardi Gras World? They can answer these questions and many more during your troop's fun and exciting excursion to Mardi Gras World located on the water front at 1380 Port of New Orleans Place. Gain a hands-on understanding of how Mardi Gras parades are made, and take the opportunity to learn while having fun! Your troop will watch a 15 minute HD film that discusses the history of the carnival celebration. Girls will learn the history behind king cake and try on costumes.



The guided tour lasts about one hour and includes a 30 minute walk-through of the artists prop shop and float den. Watch the artists as they carve and paint props, then visit the float den where the famous floats of carnival are stored. Ask their professional tour guides about the culture and rich history of Louisiana and the Carnival celebration. Ask about their new café, and adding mask-making to your Mardi Gras experience!

Group packages are available for ages 5-17 and the tour costs \$7.50 per person. For more information visit MardiGrasWorld.com or call 504-527-0388.



Celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting



girl scouts 1912-2012

Our Girls, Our Future Luncheon in Baton Rouge – March 15

Happy Birthday, Girl Scouts! All Girl Scout volunteers, alumnae, and friends of Girl Scouting are invited to the council's 100th anniversary fundraising luncheon on Thursday, March 15, from 12 to 1 p.m. (meet and greet at 11:30 a.m.) at the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

Corporate sponsors include **Albemarle Foundation, Clear Channel Radio Baton Rouge, Georgia-Pacific, Gulf Coast Office Products, LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors, and WAFB 9 TV**, with additional luncheon and 100th anniversary sponsors needed. Table captains who host a table of their friends at the luncheon are also needed. The luncheon is free to attend, but donations will be solicited.

For more information about becoming a table captain or to receive an invitation to the luncheon, contact Cathy Pottschmidt at cpottschmidt@gslc.org or (225) 927-8946, ext. 1238.

Painting with a Purpose – March 25

Corks and Canvas and **Painting with a Twist** have teamed up for a night of Painting with a Purpose on Sunday, March 25, to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be donated to our council. The event is open to the public, so it's the perfect opportunity to invite your friends to enjoy an evening of fun, while supporting Girl Scouts. Children, under 21, are welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent.

Locations include: 1900 Lafayette St. Suite 2A, Gretna; 204 E. Thomas St., Hammond; 488 Corporate Dr. Suit 3, Houma; 17535 Airline Hwy. Suite 1, Prairieville; 2132 East Gause Blvd., Slidell; 711 Jefferson Hwy. Suite 3A, Baton Rouge*; 2689 Florida St., Mandeville; 119 Focis St., Metairie; 4524 Magazine St., New Orleans.

*Check website for Baton Rouge exact date, time and studio guidelines.

Rhapsody in Green gala – June 23

Join us for *Rhapsody in Green, A Night of Glitz and Glamour* on Saturday, June 23, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Enjoy an evening of live music, dancing, a silent auction, food, cocktails and much more!

Gala sponsors include **AT&T Louisiana, Clear Channel New Orleans, Fox 8 TV, and Whitney Bank**, and additional gala and 100th anniversary sponsors are needed. If you are interested in serving on a committee to solicit silent auction items, work the event, secure sponsorships, and help sell tickets/tables for this exciting event, contact Cerise McClendon at cmclendon@gslc.org or (504) 733-8220, ext. 2222. Gala tickets will be on sale in early March.

100th Anniversary Media Sponsors

Girl Scouts Louisiana East thanks the following media sponsors, who are partnering with Girl Scouts Louisiana East, in support of Girl Scouting's 100th Anniversary:

Clear Channel Radio Baton Rouge
Clear Channel Radio New Orleans
Fox 8 WVUE, New Orleans
WAFB-TV Channel 9, Baton Rouge



Girl Scouts overhauls badges to strengthen leadership skills in girls

Girl Scouts of the USA has rolled out an all-new collection of badges aimed at giving girls the skills they need to succeed.

Girls can still earn popular long-time badges such as Cook, Naturalist, and Athlete – topics as relevant today as they were in 1912 – but now they also have badges such as Product Designer, Digital Movie Maker, Customer Loyalty, and even the Science of Happiness. And new “Make Your Own” badges at every level will give girls the opportunity to explore any interest they choose.

Badges now come in categories: Legacy, Financial Literacy, Cookie Business, Skill-Building, and Make Your Own. There are also awards such as a new pin called My Promise, My Faith, which helps a girl celebrate what her faith and the Girl Scout Law have in common. The new badge portfolio, called *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, also complements GSUSA's National Leadership Journeys, which help girls explore how to be leaders in their own

lives and in the world around them as they take on projects to prevent bullying, protect the environment, and more.



Brownie Sarah shows the painting she created while working on requirements for the new legacy badge, Painting.

Gonzales Cadette Troops 10103, 10340 and 10348 earn “New Cuisine,” one of the new Cadette badges during a workshop where they decorated aprons, created dishes from Mexico and Italy, watched cooking shows, discussed healthy choices, baked a dessert, and did clean up duty.



Council Shop now online!

Shop online at your convenience! Girl Scout badges, uniforms, handbooks, and other items are now for sale in the council's new online shop, accessible at <http://shop.gslc.org> or by clicking the Shop link on the council website at www.gslc.org.

Prefer to come shop in person? Shop hours at the two council shops located in the Council Headquarters at 841 S. Clearview Parkway, Jefferson, and the Regional Service Center at 545 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the first Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. August – May.

–Cookies... Continued from page 1

volunteers, and support council initiatives. This year's theme of *What Can a Cookie Do – More than You See* encourages girls to use some of their cookie money for Take Action projects benefitting the community. In addition, *Gift of Caring* remains a popular community service project in which girls encourage customers to buy cookies for donation to a non-profit, service or military organization selected by the troop.

This year Girl Scout troops/groups will have the chance to exhibit their creativity when they “Bling” their cookie booths to gain extra customer attention and win troop prizes.



Delegates attend 2011 National Council Session in Houston

Girl Scout delegates, staff members, volunteers, and girls from our council were among the thousands in attendance at the 2011 National Council Session/52nd National Convention in Houston, kicking off the 100th Anniversary and helping to shape the future of the Movement.

Delegates attending on behalf of the council included: council volunteers **Dr. Kinesha Harris, Wilma St. Amant, Deborah Melancon, Margaret Wilson, CEO Jackie Alexander, Membership Executive Carmen Griffin, Board First Vice Chair Linda Law Clark, and Board Member-At-Large Julie LeBlanc.**

Results from the national council session can be found online at www.gsle.org/100/nationalsessionresults.asp Proposal 1 was adopted as amended which



Delegates from Girl Scouts Louisiana East.



Board First Vice Chair Linda Law Clark shows the council button she had made as a SWAP for the convention.



Celebrating 100 years!

Camp Whispering Pines is site of TV movie

In December Camp Whispering Pines was the site of filming TNT's drama pilot *Scent Of The Missing*, a movie based on Susannah Charleson's non-fiction book about a strong-willed K-9 Search and Rescue volunteer, played by actress Tricia Helfer, and her Golden retriever, Puzzle.



Actress Tricia Helfer gives Jackson (who plays Puzzle) a hug.



allows Girl Scout councils the authority to charge an annual council service fee for girl members, not to exceed the amount charged by GSUSA for annual membership dues. Currently councils send 100 percent of the annual membership dues (\$12 per girl) to the national organization, and charge its members nothing else, even when the cost to provide Girl Scouting to one girl annually exceeds \$200. This becomes effective beginning with GSUSA's FY2013.

Proposal 2A which was a Constitutional Amendment was defeated, and as such Proposal 2B was not considered.

Proposal 3 was referred to the Task Group to study the Dues Structure and Membership Processes. The Proposal had been to allow membership dues to change from Oct. 1 – Sept. 30 to commencing on the date of registration of the member.



Eighteen Girl Scouts from Gretna Cadette Troop 40457 and Junior Troop 40813 attend the National Convention, after 1½ years of money-earning activities to afford the trip to Houston.



Convention attendees got to meet many celebrity Girl Scouts. Here, Julie LeBlanc poses with Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour, author of *Zero to Breakthrough*.



Girl Scouts 'think big' at Leadership Institute

Girl Scouts **Meryl, Emma, Amber,** and **Ekuase** represented Girl Scouts Louisiana East at the 2011 Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI) which ran concurrently with the National Convention. The focus of this year's GSLI was to stimulate the girls to think big, especially with regards to innovation in marketing, business, technology, and science.

"We met very successful women, who encouraged us to follow our dreams and not to let anyone tell us we aren't able to do something, because we can." –Ekuase

"I loved meeting Girl Scouts from so many different places. The Young Women of Distinction, those are girls who earned their Gold Awards, were really amazing. They were really inspirational." –Meryl

"We learned how important it is for women to stand up for other women, to be leaders and to focus on STEM careers." –Amber

"I really liked meeting people from all over the world. It was a great experience for me." –Emma



Amber, Meryl, Emma, CEO Jackie Alexander, and Ekuase find Louisiana's flag used in the convention's parade of flags.

Girl Scouts enjoy 100th Anniversary Corn Maze

Cajun Country Corn Maze in Pine Grove, LA partnered with the council in celebrating Girl Scouting's 100th anniversary by designing their maze using the Girl Scout 100th anniversary logo. Girl Scouts came out in force with their families and troops in November to see if they could make their way through the maze using Girl Scout clues.

Girls brought canned goods to the maze, donating a total of 1,259 pounds of food to the Baton Rouge Food Bank for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who provides hot meals for the homeless and those in need, in addition to a brown bag supper during the week. The Cajun Country Corn Maze also donated a portion of their November 4-6 proceeds to Girl Scouts, totaling nearly \$1,500. Thank you!



Members of Gonzales Troop 10340 navigate the Corn Maze. At right, Alexandra dons her pig nose because her little piggie won the race at the maze.



Mandeville Daisy Troop 31017.



Junior Troop 20024 from Destrehan.



Prairieville Daisy Troop 10467 and brother Gavin, have fun at the maze. At left, Kaitlyn tries out the stocks!



Girls enjoy making corn husk dolls.



Members of Loranger Junior Troop 30539 carry in donations for the food bank.



Baton Rouge Junior Troop 10803.



Daisy Troop 10527 of Central enjoy their first troop outing!



Abita Springs Girl Scout Sarah Grace enjoys the cow rides.



Harahan Cadette Troop 40296.



River Ridge Troop 41014.

Community Service Highlights



Emma, Victoria, and Kayley of Watson Brownie Troop 10237 bathe some puppies while volunteering at the Denham Springs Animal Shelter.



Gretna Junior Troop 40781 sew 100 heart-shaped pillows for patients recovering from breast cancer.



Brownie Troop 40782 holds a food drive at Harahan Elementary, collecting over 260 items that provided nine boxes of food for families in need from the school.

Slidell Troops 30194, 30052, and 30111 help to "Clean Up Slidell!"



Girl Scout Juniors in Troop 30474 in Pine have adopted a soldier serving in Afghanistan to whom they ship monthly care packages.



Members of Daisy Troop 42117 in Metairie hold a peanut butter and jelly drive for Second Harvest Food Bank.



Girl Scouts from St. Bernard Parish help out in the local Breast Cancer Walk.



Brownie Troop 30181 of Slidell pick up trash at Pontchartrain Beach, earning them their beach Clean-up Fun Badge.



Rather than exchange gifts with each other, members of Gretna Troop 40081 bought gifts for Caryn, a local girl with an inoperable brain tumor who is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy.



Baton Rouge Troops 10118 and 10448 prepare and hand out fruit bags to the elderly.



Members of Houma Junior Troop 20497 put together a basket of baby items for the parents of the first baby girl born on October 31, in honor of founder Juliette Low's birthday.



New Orleans Junior Troop 40234 show some of the cards they created for the Holiday Mail for Heroes.



Brownies in Metairie Troop 40635 collect over 400 coats for WGNO-TV's Coats for Kids drive.

St. Rose Junior Troop 20165 sort cans during a food drive they held in conjunction with St. Rose Elementary's 4-H club. They collected a total of 286 non perishable food items and toiletries which were delivered to Social Concerns in Luling, St. Charles Boromeo, and St. Charles United Methodist Church.



Denham Springs Troop 10380 visits the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired and made cards for the troops overseas!

Girl Scouts earn Bronze & Silver Awards

Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards have been earned by hundreds of our local Girl Scouts over the years and many more are currently working on projects to be completed this year. Congratulations go to the following Girl Scout Cadettes for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, and the following Girl Scout Juniors for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest awards created for those grade levels.

Silver Awards



Emily, Lauren, and Emily of St. Amant Troop 10842 wanted to promote and influence others in supporting our military troops, so working in collaboration with a quilting group at St. James Lutheran Church, the church council at St. Anne Catholic Church, the Leadership group at St. Elizabeth Hospital, and Soldier Angels Louisiana, the girls assembled 76 prayer squares to be shipped to soldiers in Afghanistan. This represented 532 prayers said for the soldiers, as prayer threads were knotted. Project advisor was **Tammy Belleau**.



Lauren Belleau, Emily Baham, Emily Garrett.

service unit. From painting the backdrop to the clean up afterwards, the girls learned what planning a large event entailed. Project advisor was **Dana Fleming**.

Guided by their love of animals, **Emily, Camille, Danielle, and Sophia** of Slidell Troop 30111 assisted the animal shelter in their hometown by holding a pet supply and food drive. Project advisor was **Delta Colley**.

Heaven, Rebecca, and Amari of Avondale Troop 41343 pulled out their paintbrushes as they beautified Catherine Strehle Elementary School, by painting a large map of the United States in the school's courtyard. Project advisor was **LaShonda Leonard**.



Heaven, Amari, and Rebecca.

Bronze Awards



Brynnan, Dana, Adelaide, Lorelei, Julia, Isabelle, Molly, Sarah, Rayna, Taylor, Kayla, Kiersten, and Mackenzie of Prairieville Troop 10269 organized a Best Guy dance with an 80s theme for their

Girl Scouts love to camp!



Mandeville Cadette Troop 31031 hosts a Camping Skills Workshop for over 180 younger Girl Scouts, teaching them how to roll up a sleeping bag, pitch and take down a tent, and how to safely start and put out a campfire.



Gretna Junior Troop 40813 has a blast at the fall fest Camporee!

These St. Bernard Girl Scouts earn the Polar Bear patch while troop camping at Camp Covington.



Members of Gonzales Service Unit 132 celebrate Girl Scouting's 100th birthday at Camp Marydale. Girls tried: cooking over an open fire, orienteering, semaphore signal flags, learning an outdoor flag ceremony, sewing and horseback riding.



Holden Junior Troop 30819 experiences primitive camping at Tickfaw State Park.

Slidell Junior Troop 30044 and Brownie Troop 30888 enjoy their first campout at Camp Covington!



This photo may be one of the last photos taken of Richard, Camp Covington's beloved pot-bellied pig who died in his sleep at the age of 13 on 11/11/11. He was buried next to his



house, where he spent most of his free time. He will be missed by all. Some St. Bernard Parish troops are creating a plaque in his honor.

Girl Scout friends renew support at fall luncheon in New Orleans

Girl Scout friends, community members, and supporters of Girl Scouting “renewed their promise to girls” at the council’s fall fundraising luncheon at the Audubon Tea Room in New Orleans. Luncheon sponsors were **Energy; Lakelawn Metairie, Funeral Home and Cemeteries; Little Brownie Bakers; Total Graphics & Printing; and Valero St. Charles Refinery.**

WWL-TV Morning Show anchor and Girl Scout alumna **Sally-Ann Roberts** served as mistress of ceremonies, welcoming the many guests who attended the annual luncheon.



“Renewing the Promise begins not only the celebration of Girl Scouting’s 100 years, it is an opportunity for Girl Scout alumnae and newcomers alike to re-commit to the girls, who are the whole reason for Girl Scouting,” said Roberts.

A flag ceremony was conducted by members of **New Orleans Girl Scout Brownie Troop 40178** followed by the invocation by Girl Scout volunteer **Gay Gauthier.**

Roberts in her remarks reminisced about the acceptance she experienced



while in Girl Scouts and the importance of adult mentorship. She introduced the next two speakers – **Erynn Johnson**, a 6th grade Girl Scout Cadette, and Girl Scout mother and volunteer **Julie Lloyd.** Johnson received a standing ovation as she talked about her desire to educate the public about Alopecia Areata, an autoimmune system disease she was diagnosed with as a toddler, which causes loss of hair. After

researching the topic, Johnson’s Girl Scout Bronze Award project was to present it to others at a church health fair.

“I’ve learned that it’s okay to be different, that no one is exactly alike -- it’s just some differences are easier to see,” said Johnson. “Being in Girl Scouts has been really good for me, because my friends accept me for who I am, whether I’m wearing my wig, or not wearing my wig.”

Lloyd shared the story of an agonizing two years of bullying her daughter experienced in school, before Lloyd attended a girl bullying seminar sponsored by the Girl Scout council last June.

“When I heard the keynote speaker Dr. Beane say, ‘you HAVE to be the advocate for your child’ and that ‘as parents we have to do WHATEVER it takes to make bullying stop,’ I knew I was finally getting the right advice,” said Lloyd. “Other doctors were telling me differently, but for the first time I was talking with someone who could give me the tools I needed to help my child.”

“I don’t know where my family would be today, if I had not attended that seminar,” said Lloyd, who is grateful the council saw the need to address this serious issue by educating adults about truly effective Bully Awareness programs.

Former legacy board president **Mary Jane Becker** then invited guests to join the council’s multi-year giving society, and the program concluded with a raffle of two Rhapsody in Green gala tickets.



Luncheon speakers Erynn Johnson, mistress of ceremonies Sally-Ann Roberts, and Julie Lloyd.



Girl Scout Cadette Erynn Johnson is joined by proud grandmothers, Ethel Johnson and Nellie Perkins.

Families give generously to Girl Scouts

Girl Scout service units across the council proved they could put on successful fundraising events, raising 63 percent of the 2012 Annual Family Giving Campaign’s \$57,000 goal. A total of 24 service units met their goals, earning them a free service unit encampment at Camps Whispering Pines or Covington and/or donor dollars.

Girl Scouts Louisiana East would like to congratulate the following service units for surpassing their 2012 Annual Family Giving Campaign goals: **104 Baton Rouge Central; 112 Baton Rouge Sherwood; 119 Baton Rouge Capitol; 120 Baton Rouge McKinley; 216 St. Charles Parish; 217 St. John Parish; 235 Donaldsonville; 260 Galliano/Cut Off; 265 Houma; 267 Lafourche; 270 Patterson/Morgan City; 323 Livingston; 355 Greensburg; 379 Slidell; 380 Covington; 382 Ponchatoula/Hammond; 385 Amite; 408 Metairie/Kenner; 420 New Orleans East/9th Ward; 428 St. Bernard; 435 New Orleans Gentilly/Lakeview; 442 New Orleans Uptown/Central City; 444 Bridge City/Marrero; 453 Gretna/Terrytown/Harvey.** A thank



you goes to the many participating service units, troops, and parents who contributed to the success

Central Service Unit 104 teams with Menchie's Frozen Yogurt to raise money for the Family Campaign. Here local troop members stop in to say thank you.

of Girl Scouts by making a financial contribution.

Additional thanks go to all family campaign volunteers and lead volunteer, Gay Gauthier, Annual Family Giving Chair, for their hard work and dedication to Girl Scouts.

To all other service units, you still have time to reach your goal. The deadline to meet your Family Giving goal is September 30, 2012. To learn more about the 2012 Annual Family Giving Campaign or to contribute to Girl Scouts Louisiana East, contact Carrie Thomas, Marketing & Development Associate, at 800-644-7571, ext. 2245 or cthomas@gsls.org.



Daisies from Walker Troop 10355 and their “best guys” enjoy Service Unit 122’s dance and cake contest!



St. Charles Parish Service Unit 216 holds a cake bingo!



These Girl Scouts are all smiles during Gentilly/Lakeview Service Unit 435’s popular Fish Fry.

Troop Highlights



Girl Scout ceremonies recognize accomplishments, pass on traditions and reinforce the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Seventy-one Girl Scouts bridged to the next level in Girl Scouting at Prairieville Service Unit 131's annual bridging ceremony.

Baton Rouge Brownie Troop 10193 helps a sister troop complete their "bridging to brownies" ceremony at the Hilltop Arboretum.



Metairie Girl Scouts in Troop 40106 bridge from Juniors to Cadettes!



Girl Scout participants from six troops learn about nuclear science from Entergy employees at the River Bend Nuclear Plant during a Girl Scout Journey workshop.



Members of Destrehan Troop 20024 take a field trip to Longue Vue Gardens.



Girls get silly at a Girl Scout Zumba class!

Schriever Girl Scout Juniors in Troop 20522 earn their Theater badge during the Renaissance Festival Workshop.



These Prairieville Girl Scout Daisies explore a pumpkin patch on a troop outing. At left, Metairie Troop 40317 has fun at Miss Heather's Pumpkin Patch.



A Gonzales Girl Scout "rings up a customer" in the Winn-Dixie exhibit at the Louisiana Children's Museum.



New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu talks to a Girl Scout from New Orleans East during a Night Against Crime event.



Brownie Troop 10237 from Watson enjoy a trip to the Children's Discovery Center in Hammond.



Cadette Troop 40354 of Metairie rest on the porch of the Myrtles Plantation during a weekend trip to Camp Marydale.



Cadette Troop 10437 learn about the FISH! Philosophy from Kara Still of Capital Area United Way.



A Pro-start culinary student helps Brownies in Livonia Troop 10013 with their cooking skills.



Covington Girl Scouts enjoy a Powder Puff Derby competition where the girls designed and painted their own wooden cars before racing them.

Members of Girl Scout Cadette Troop 10040 visit the Fantasy Oak Stable and Farm in Prairieville.



Baton Rouge Junior Troop 10263 visits the Oakley Plantation.



Girl Scouts in Metairie Service Unit 405 meet residents of Colonial Oaks Living Center during a Halloween outing.



St. Pius X Cadette Troop 40821 dress up for a Night at the Opera.

Gretna Girl Scouts enjoy the Aquarium in Houston during their trip to the National Convention.



Leisure Learning Weekend Camp Marydale April 27-29, 2012

Join your friends for a great, fun, educational and relaxing weekend at Camp Marydale. We do the cooking and you enjoy your choice of workshops with topics such as:

Advanced Outdoor Cooking, Archery, Geocaching, Leadership Essentials, Low-Ropes Challenge Course, Project



Adventure, Quilting, Songs/Games/Ceremonies, How to develop a Take Action project, How to plan Travel & Trips with your troop/group.

Girl Scouts Louisiana East has a commitment to its volunteers to provide an ongoing adult education program. Learning and developing new skills and insights are all part of the Girl Scout program, and not just for girls!

For registration and information go to <http://www.gsle.org/learning/enrichment.asp>.



Girl Scouts compete in Lego competitions

Two Girl Scout First LEGO league teams from the New Orleans and Baton Rouge regions competed in the state competition in December, after qualifying regionally. Teams competed in the areas of robot design and programming, teamwork, research and project presentation, putting their robot head to head with other teams from around the state.

A special thank you goes to the **Society of Women Engineers** whose members volunteered their time, often weekly, with both teams and League sponsors **Valero** and the **Bruce Heim Foundation**.

The council hopes to increase the number of teams competing in 2012.



Members of the New Orleans team wear chef's hats to go with this year's theme of "Food Factor."

Adult Volunteer Recognition – why is recognition important?

People volunteer for countless reasons, but underneath it all, most volunteers are motivated by the quality of their performance. When volunteers know their time and energy are appreciated and that they are valued by Girl Scouts, they commit themselves to the organization.

Informal Rewards for Volunteers

Informal rewards are day-to-day ways to say "thank you" to volunteers—they are intangible benefits and heartfelt displays of recognition. These sincere expressions of appreciation are based on specific contributions and are given in a timely manner. Examples of meaningful informal rewards include: A welcome or thank-you card or letter; Skill-building learning opportunities (For example, how to use social media to network); Showing interest in a volunteer's personal life (such as asking about a volunteer's grandchild or weekend plans)

Formal Awards for Adult Volunteers

Unlike informal rewards—which are given as often as possible—formal awards are the periodic presentation of tokens of recognition and are more official in nature. Examples of meaningful, formal awards include: Achievement certificates; Public recognition in front of peers and/or media; Personalized gifts or awards (such as a twenty-year – Years of Service Pin)

GSUSA Adult Awards – "Formal" recognitions awarded at the council's annual adult volunteer recognition event.

The **Thanks Badge** honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.

The **Thanks Badge II** honors a previous Thanks Badge recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role, resulting in a measurable impact that benefits the entire Girl Scout Movement.

The **Honor Pin** recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which has had measurable impact on two or more geographic areas of service, allowing the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.

The **Appreciation Pin** recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. This service, which has had measurable impact on one geographic area of service, helps the council reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals for that area.

The **President's Award** recognizes the efforts of a service-delivery team or committee whose exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience surpassed team goals and resulted in significant, measurable impact toward reaching the council's overall goals.

NEW – The **Volunteer of Excellence** award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the Journeys series and The Girl Guide to Girl Scouting or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

The **Juliette Low World Friendship Medal** is awarded to individuals and councils who have enriched and leveraged the global understanding of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to grow responsible global citizens. This prestigious national award is approved by the Girl Scouts of the USA National Board of Directors.

GSLE Council Adult Awards – "formal" recognitions awarded at the council's annual adult volunteer recognition event.

The **Outstanding Principal Award** recognizes principals who provide outstanding support and encouragement for Girl Scouting in their schools.

The **Outstanding Religious Leader** recognizes religious leaders who provide outstanding support and encouragement for Girl Scouting in their religious community.

The **Years of Service Pin** recognizes an adult member registered with Girl Scouts of the USA for years of active volunteer service at five-year intervals.

GSLE Service Unit Adult Awards – formal" recognitions awarded at Service Unit's volunteer award events.

The **Outstanding Volunteer Award*** recognizes an adult volunteer in a position other the leader or in addition to leader whose service benefits a service unit or program delivery group that is beyond the expectations of the position.

The **Outstanding Leader Award*** troop/group leaders, assistant troop/group leaders, or group coordinators whose performance in working with girls is so outstanding that it merits recognition by the service unit or program delivery group..

*The Outstanding Volunteer and Outstanding Leader awards will be **retiring** at the end of the 2013-2014 membership year. Criteria for these awards are similar to the "Volunteer of Excellence" award .

All award criteria and nomination forms for the Adult Awards can be found at www.gsle.org/forvolunteers/adultrecognition.asp

SAVE THE DATE: This year's "formal" annual adult volunteer recognition event will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Clarion Inn Conference Center, Gonzales, LA. Nominations for adult volunteer awards that are intended to be presented at this event must be submitted no later than March 1 to the council offices.

In Memoriam

Girl Scouts Louisiana East is saddened by the death of several of its volunteers and supporters, including Girl Scout supporter **Ruby Joyce Bagnetto-Matthews** of Marrero who passed away in October at age 84.

Longtime Girl Scout volunteer **Sally Bennett** passed away in December at age 78. Bennett, who loved wearing her vintage Girl Scout uniforms, was a mentor to adult Girl Scout volunteers for more than 60 years, continuing to support the Girl Scout leadership team in Algiers, and consulting with troops of all age groups. A memorial service will be held at the council headquarters on Thursday, January 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Environmental activist and devoted public servant **Mildred Fossier** died in November at age 98. Described by legacy board chair Margie Loud Zeno as a “force of nature and catalyst for positive change



Sally Bennett

in Louisiana,” Fossier was honored by the Girl Scout council at an educational leaders weekend at Camp Whispering Pines in 2003. One of the woman pioneers of the state environmental movement, Fossier was a former board member of the Southeast legacy council in the 1980s, and also served on its Service Center site selection task group. She was a member of the council’s Juliette Gordon Low Heritage Society.



Mildred Fossier

New Orleans community leader and a former board member of the legacy Girl Scout Council of Southeast Louisiana, **Georgia Simmons**, passed away in November at age 70. Activities included helping to found the Louisiana Nature and Science Center, serving as its chair in 1988.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends during this time of grief.

Friends of Girl Scouting

Donors* from 10/1/11 to 12/31/11

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The Girl Scout Mission

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

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

- To serve God and my country,
- To help people at all times,
- And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be

- honest and fair,
- friendly and helpful,
- considerate and caring,
- courageous and strong, and
- responsible for what I say and do,

and to

- respect myself and others,
- respect authority,
- use resources wisely,
- make the world a better place, and
- be a sister to every Girl Scout.

What are you doing this summer?

Summertime will be here before you know it, so now is the time to start planning all the fun you will be having this summer! Girl Scouts Louisiana East (GSLE) wants you to be part of a FABULOUS summer of fun. We will be offering activities including camps – just for the day or sleep away– as well as special events and exciting trips!

Trips? Pack your bags, it is Go Time! Do you want to get away from your ordinary summer routine? GSLE Travels will add memories for a lifetime and let you experience different cultures and cuisines throughout the United States. We will offer several trips throughout the summer, geared for girls entering 6th – 12th grade.

One Day Activities? Here’s a math equation for you! No school equals time for fun! There will be no sleeping all day this summer vacation! Girl Scouts will be swimming, Girl Scouts will be experimenting in science, Girl Scouts will be taking elected office positions, Girl Scouts will be doing so much more! Just wait and see!

Camp like a girl? Learn to be more independent and self-reliant, how to work with a team, and how to take action to protect the planet’s nature

resources. Weekday, weekend or overnight camps offer girls in 1st – 12th grade a fun-filled atmosphere where they develop their talents, explore new things, strengthen their self-worth, develop group living skills and broaden their awareness of nature as well as their surrounding natural resources.

Summer Camp Open House

Camp Marydale
Sunday, April 15 – 1 to 3 p.m.

Camp Covington
Saturday, April 21 – 1 to 3 p.m.

Camp Whispering Pines
Sunday, April 22 – 1 to 3 p.m.



Camp Open House is for parents and girls new to our camps and the overnight camp sessions, to allow you to visit with summer staff and tour the grounds. No registration needed.

Look for more details by clicking on the “Summer 2012” link on the Council website at www.gsle.org

This year Girl Scouts Louisiana East goes GREEN, and will be mailing a post card to all Girl Scout households in late January, notifying you when the “Summer 2012” information is available on the website.

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Juliette Gordon Low

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