

Dunwoody Data

*The Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Leaders of the Dunwoody Service Unit
September, 2004*

Service Unit Directors

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CALENDAR

See *Connections*, *DCNR Data*, and *The Insider* for Council Activity dates, deadlines, and forms

September, 2004

- 11 Sat flag ceremony
Scrapbooking Workshop Troop 276
Girl Scout Saturday—Stonecrest Mall
- 19 Sun New Leader Welcome DUMC 2-4pm
- 20 Mon Service Unit meeting 7:15
Badge/Try-it Night (during SU meeting)
- 25 Sat Kids Cut Out Hunger

October, 2004

- 1 Fri Badge Workshop—Troop 276
- 2 Sat Hands On Atlanta Day
- 18 Mon SU meeting 7:15 pm
Badge/Try-it Night (during SU meeting)
- 22 Fri Badge Workshop—Troop 276
- 29 Fri Brownie Blast
- 30 Sat Birthday Bash--GA Baptist Children's
Home service project
- 31 Sun Juliette Low's birthday
End Daylight Saving Time
Halloween

November, 2004

- 2 Tues Election Day
- 15 Mon SU meeting 7:15 pm
Badge/Try-it Night (during SU meeting)
- 25 Thurs Thanksgiving

IN THE TROOP FILES THIS MONTH

Dunwoody Data
Troop Finance Report info sheet
DCNR Data
Blue Ribbon Troop form
**Dream Chasers workshop
**Preliminary Cookie Sale info
Investiture/Rededication ceremony
Publicity Tips
**BrainMinders program

⊙ ⊙ NOT IN ALL TROOP FILES ⊙ ⊙

SUD Notes

Back in April, as we were starting Spring Registration, Diane Black wrote a very thought-provoking SUD Notes column encouraging all of us to step outside the comfort zone of our troops & consider taking new members. We heard many positive comments about it, and were quite heartened that more than one leader said it really opened her eyes to new possibilities and made her willing to move into new territory. And, thankfully, many of you did just that.

Now, in the Fall, as we are in the process of forming new troops, & training & welcoming an incredible number of new leaders, we think it is a good time to recall the spirit of that writing.

All of our troop organizers have done an exceptional job! Our heartfelt thanks go to Paula Caldarella, Mary Ann Gardner, Joan Holladay, Beth Keith, Julie Kellum, & Luann Miller. They have spent countless hours making flyers, scheduling meetings, and talking with parents & prospective leaders, giving their best effort to help every girl who wants to be a Scout follow her dreams. We were amazed -- and delighted! -- to receive phone calls from women who wanted to start new troops--without even being asked to do so! Thanks to these ladies, we now have troops based at All Saints, Dunwoody Methodist, Kingswood Methodist, and North Atlanta Church of Christ, in addition to the school & neighborhood troops. Awesome!

Unfortunately, though, we still have a number of girls who are waiting to be placed in troops, but existing troops are unable or unwilling to take new members. We must remember Council's "Every girl, everywhere" slogan. Our current members are so fortunate that dedicated, willing people (YOU!) accepted the challenge to be leaders. You were fearless enough to offer an incredible opportunity to your girls. For the most part, you had no idea what lay ahead, but you took the plunge anyway, with probably more than a little hesitation & uncertainty. And aren't you glad you did? A whole new world was opened to all of you, both girls & adults. Look into your heart again, and see if there's a little more room in that world for just one more (or maybe two, or three...). A new spark, some fresh air, a different point of view, maybe even another new world -- you just never know what excitement a new member might bring! Take a chance -- just like you did before. Remember, it worked out right that time, and it can again.

Thinking Day Postcard Exchange

This is not sponsored by Girl Scouts, but it might be fun for your troop. To read more about the program, visit http://www.geocities.com/gsc_troop_788 & click on the Thinking Day link. The exchange will begin the first part of October. To get your troop on the list of participants, send a clean email to: tdexchange@yahoo.com with the following information:

Leader name

Council name

Troop level & number

Leader mailing address

Leader email address

****Please do not allow girls to use their own names or contact information on the Internet. As always, check Safety Wise for other guidelines.**

Thanks to Donna Traner for recommending this. Her troop has participated in it in the past.

North Dekalb Day Camp?

Terry Otto, Girl Program Specialist for Dekalb, has asked if the Dunwoody, Chamblee, & Haverhill Service Units would be interested in sponsoring a day camp in the north Dekalb area. She is looking for someone to be the director, & for other leaders to serve on the staff. If you're interested, you can contact Terry at totto@girlscoutsnwga.org or let Carol or Alisa know.

Speaking of Safety Wise (again)

If your troop participates in any community event as a troop, please be sure that you follow Safety Wise guidelines. This includes participating only in activities that are appropriate for your troop's age group, and volunteering for activities that are appropriate for Scouts to assist with. Also remember permission forms & to file either an entry in the Tripping Adventures logbook or a Trip Application, whichever is correct for the activity & time involved.

It is good for leaders to be aware of the rules, but even better if the girls know which guidelines apply to their activities. When planning events, take Safety Wise out & make it available for your girls. This should be a part of the girl planning for any trips & events.

New High Harbour Requirements

From now on, any troop that attends High Harbour (or any other camporee) must have a Troop Camping Basics: Cabins certified camper & a certified First Aid/ CPR adult attend with the troop. We are trying to reserve the weekends of August 19-21 & 26-28, 2005. This notice should give you ample time to plan ahead & get your troop camper if you do not already have one, & to make sure your First Aid/CPR certification will be current at that time.

Volunteer Advisory Committee News

The Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) is made up of volunteers who represent various positions in Girl Scouting, geographical locations & professional/personal experience. A new group has met throughout the year for the past seven years to share ideas regarding ways to best support you as volunteers. This group has served as a great resource for many of the innovative changes made in our Council over the last several years. These include on-line registration for training courses; implementation of criminal background checks for all new volunteers; development of *Connections* and revision of many other publications; creation of the new Council Guide for Volunteers; creation of an orientation for all new volunteers (this, incidentally, was developed with the assistance of the training already used by DSU!), and many others. In the past few years, the VAC has expressed concern that feedback from the committee only represents a small group of volunteers. As a result, a survey will be sent to a sample of 2,000 volunteers from various positions & counties in our Council. The results will be compiled & reviewed by the GS staff, the board of directors, & the 2005-06 VAC. (There will not be a 2004-05 VAC.) Recommendations to improve upon those areas of most concern will be made by the 2005-06 VAC and staff members.

The survey will be distributed in the first quarter of 2005. If you receive one, please fill it out & submit it. This is your opportunity to give feedback directly to Council, and you can make a difference! Council cannot promise overnight results for every concern. But, if you have patience, you will see the results of the survey utilized in improvements made in the months & years to come as the necessary resources become available.

(beyondwords@mindspring.com, 770-399-6731).
See you there!

No December SU meeting

Since December 20 is the third Monday, we've decided **not** to have a SU meeting that month. To accommodate this, the Dunwoody Data will be available on the SU website by Dec. 20, instead of the usual two weeks after the SU meeting date. There will be no printed copies of the Data that month. We'll send an email to alert you of any pressing information you'll need, & let you know if there is anything in your troop file to pick up before the January meeting. If you have an upcoming event that you want to publicize in December, please be sure to email the info to Carol by Dec. 13 so it can be put in the Data.

Family Community Partnership

Many thanks to all the troops that have made their contribution to the current campaign. We have reached about 75% of our goal, but the Service Unit still has to raise \$6,000. We can do it! Every single registered member, both girl and adult, benefits in some way from the use of FCP funds, so we all need to support this campaign to the best of our ability. Some troops are holding fund-raising activities so that they can make their goal. This is a great idea! Remember that Election Day is coming, & it's a wonderful opportunity to do a bake sale at polling places to raise FCP funds. If you have any FCP questions, please contact Kathy Simcoe or Joan Patton, the SU chairs.

Troop Meeting Information Needed

We need the day, time & place for your troop meeting. If you didn't write it on the sheet at the September SU meeting, please email your info to carol@dunwoodygirlscouts.com. Thanks!

Badge and Try-It Night

Cadette Troop 1304's next Badge & Try-It Night will be during the Service Unit meeting on October 18, featuring Junior Badge "Fun and Fit" and Brownie Try-It "Girl Sports". All Brownie & Junior troops received copies of the registration form in their troop files & the form can be downloaded from the Service Unit website. Pre-registration (by Friday before) is \$6, or \$8 at the door. Badges & Try-Its are included for all pre-registered girls, & available while supplies last for those registering at the door. Contact Diane Black with questions

SU Website Sponsor

Our website is quite a resource for Girl Scouts in our community, but there is also some cost to our Service Unit to maintain this web presence. One way we could cover some of this overhead is through sponsorship of our website. If you work for a company or know of a company that might be interested in sponsoring www.Dunwoodygirlscouts.com, we would love to discuss this with you. Please direct inquiries to Alisa.

Also related to our website, we can provide a link to your troop's website from our SU site. If you are interested in this, please email the link to your website to alisa@dunwoodygirlscouts.com

Thank You for High Harbour!

Many thanks to Karen Kelly, the chair who coordinated everything so beautifully; to Karen Sibold, who spent at least one sleepless night making the activity schedules; and to Jean Lane Foster & Julie Kellum, the leaders in charge of the second weekend. We enjoyed two fabulous weekends! Thank you, also, to the CASE troops who ran Badge & Try-It workshops for the younger troops. They seemed to have as much fun as the girls who attended them! What a great idea!

September 11 Flag Ceremony

Thank you to the girls and leaders who participated in the flag ceremony to open the Atlanta Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual meeting on Patriot Day, and to Diane Black for coordinating the participants. We truly appreciate those of you who volunteered, especially those at the last minute, to participate in this service event. The participating Scouts are Cadette: Catherine Black; Juniors: Megan Sales, Meagan Huff, and Allison Arra; Brownies: Kayla Sales, Erin Huff, and Madison Leonard. Well done!

Archaeology Workshop for Juniors & Cadettes

Junior & Cadette Scouts are invited to attend a "Digging Through the Past—Exploring Archaeology" program at the VSC on November 13, 2004 from 10 am- 2 pm. The program will feature archeologist Dr. Bobbi Hohmann of the Fernbank Museum of Natural history. She will present a slide show of her excavation in the Maya ruins in Central America. The program will also include Native American Crafts & Cultural Exploration. This program is a Gold Award project for Jennifer Williams, a Senior Scout in the MLK, Jr. Service Unit.

Girls are asked to bring a non-Scout friend who is interested in becoming a Scout. Girls need to bring a sack lunch; beverages & dessert will be provided. Registration is free, and the deadline is October 29, 2004. Permission forms, medical & photo releases are required. Email carol@dunwoodygirlscouts.com & I'll forward the information & registration form to you.

Help With Badges

Do you get confused trying to coordinate your Junior activities with badges? Do you ever think, "this activity must fulfill a badge requirement *somewhere*"? Check out this website:

<http://jenefer.speedyweb.com/badgefiles/juniorindex.xls>

Some brave women actually picked out every single activity in the Junior Badge Book & cross-referenced it! Diane Black has a few copies to distribute—first come, first served!

"Bear's World"

We received an email about a program called "Bear's World", which teaches children age 4 – 12 "how to interact safely in any setting with any animal they may encounter by helping them recognize how animals think and behave—and how they should behave around animals" (quoted from the email). If you'd like more information, please check the website: www.bearsworld.org