



Discover, Connect, Take Action!

Program Department News, October 2008

Save The Date!

Make the Connection	10/25/08 10/26/08
Cookie College	1/10/09
Ski Trip	1/31/09
Girl Scout Day at NASM	3/14/09
Science, Get Psyched	3/28/09
DC Step Show	4/18/09
In Your Honor	5/3/09

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Program Grants

Who is eligible?

Girls and adults who would be unable to participate in a program due to financial need. This is not a replacement for responsible planning by the troop.

How do you apply?

Use the B252 form, available online. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month and the panel meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Please allow at least 6-8 weeks before the event.

How are grants funded?

Through SHARE and corporate donations.

Who do we contact with questions?

Jessica Russell at jrussell@gscnc.org or 202-237-1670, ext 271

Journey Programs

Girl Scout Journeys: It's Your World, Change It!

- *Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden*
- *Brownie Quest*
- *Agent of Change (Junior)*
- *A-Maze (Cadette)*
- *GirlTopia: Toward an Ideal World for Girls (Senior)*

Bronze, Silver and Gold Prerequisites

The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards will remain the highest awards in Girl Scouting.

New guidelines will be available in spring 2009.

During the transition years (2008-2010), girls will be able continue earning the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards based on existing standards. As always, we allow for girls to finish what they started!

The first series of journeys have been designed to engage girls in a critical thinking process related to:

- identifying issues they care about
- developing community networks, and creating and implementing plans to take action.

Upon completion of a journey in this series, at the appropriate grade level (see below), girls will be prepared to create an amazing Bronze, Silver or Gold Award project. GSUSA anticipates that upon completion of the journey, girls will have completed much of the prerequisite work.

At this time, girls should continue to work on awards with the current prerequisites. If they find that their Journey activities and prerequisite activities overlap, that is fine. We are allowing "double-dipping" in this case.

Stay tuned for more information as we learn more from GSUSA.

Grade Levels for

Earning the Awards

Bronze Award: Earned by Juniors (4th-5th grade)

Silver Award: Earned by Cadettes (6th-8th grade)

Gold Award: Earned by Seniors or Ambassadors (9th-12th grade)

- *Your Voice, Your World: The Power of Advocacy (Ambassador)*

Journeys are accompanied by detailed leader guides. Look for council programs that are extensions or "side trips" rather than activities from the books— Journeys are best taken by troops or girls working together in small groups!

Program Fun Facts

223 Girls earned the Gold Award from April 3, 2007 to April 1, 2008—a record!

103 Girl Scouts served as Congressional Aides in Summer 2008

35 Teen Girl Scouts attended Girl Scout destinations—they went to India, England, Peru and all over the United States!

85,000 Girl Scouts, family and friends were served by Girl Scout programming last year—you're keeping us busy!

The Nutcracker sold out in less than **eight** hours when registration opened on September 15.

High Adventure Vendor Approval Process

Check to see if the vendor is currently on the Approved High Adventure Vendor List. <http://register.gscnc.org/vendor/>.

If yes, make sure that their insurance expiration date is *after* the date of your activity. Continue planning as necessary.

If no, when scheduling your activity, tell them that because ___ (your activity) is considered High Adventure by GSUSA safety guidelines, which can be found in *Safety-Wise*, the company needs to provide a copy of their Certificate of Insurance that:

- Indicates at least \$1,000,000 General Liability Insurance
- Lists GSCNC as a Certificate Holder
- Lists GSCNC as Additionally Insured. Not all organizations are able to do this; please con-

tact the Program Department at 202-237-1670 ext. 271 if this occurs.

- Must be sent to the GSCNC Council Office prior to the event.
- Certificates of Insurance should be sent to:

GSCNC

4301 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008
OR Fax: 202-274-2161

Attn: Program Events Specialist

GSCNC must have this paperwork in order for your troop to participate in activities with this vendor.

Go over the Safety Wise guidelines with the vendor to ensure that they meet Girl Scout safety standards.

Submit the B240 Notification Form for the activity.

Vendor approval is a fairly simple process, but it can take time. Please plan for it to take at least four weeks to be completed.

Special Circumstances:

Please note that if a vendor is operated by a **federal, state, or local government** agency they are automatically approved by GSCNC. They do not need to appear on the vendor list; you troop is free to use them.

If you are planning a **Pool Party in a private home's backyard** you must submit a copy of the homeowner's insurance for special approval.

Questions concerning the High Adventure Vendor approval process can be directed to Jessica Russell, Program Events Specialist, at jrussell@gscnc.org or 202-237-1670 ext. 271.

Key points for while talking to High Adventure Vendors

When working with a vendor who offers High Adventure activities it is important to remember that safety is our number one concern. We ask for a Certificate of Insurance to ensure Girl Scouts only work with vendors who also see safety as a top priority.

Here is a sample dialogue to use when asking a vendor for their COI:

Troop Leader: "Our troop is very excited to work with you. In order for our Council to grant approval we must know that safety is as important to you as it is to us. Therefore, we need a copy of your Certificate of Insurance that:

- Indicates that you have at least \$1,000,000 in General Liability Insurance
- Lists GSCNC as a Certificate Holder
- Lists GSCNC as Additionally Insured.
- Must be sent to the GSCNC Council Office prior to the

Possible Response from Vendor: "But we work with troops all the time and we've never been asked for this before."

Troop Leader: "I understand. I cannot speak for those troops, but these are the necessary steps we need to take in order for my troop to participate. On the bright side, once you have submitted your COI to our Council office, your organization's information will be listed in an Approved High Adventure Vendor database used by the entire Council. This way all 4,500 troops in our council (over 80,000 members!) will be able to see that you are a reputable organization and will know they can contact you to plan their own activities."

Vendor: "So I only need to do this once and that's it?"

Troop Leader: "Your information will be available through the end of your COI policy date. Once it expires you will

be contacted by the Council to submit a new copy of your policy in order to stay on the Approved High Adventure Vendor List. It will be completely up to you if you would like to continue working with us. Some insurance companies can automatically send new policies once they are created. This way, if you wanted, you could be automatically renewed on the list each year."

Key Points

- \$1,000,000 in General Liability may seem like a lot but that is the current minimum standard for most businesses, both large and small.
- Some vendors do not want to be listed on the Approved High Adventure Vendor List. This is okay. If a vendor does not want to be listed, we do not have to post their information. Your troop will still be able to use the vendor as long as we have a copy of their COI.

•This is also a good time to discuss *Safety-Wise* with the vendor. Find your activity listed in *Safety-Wise* and make sure that they meet all of the necessary safety guidelines and checkpoints.

•Vendors may require their own waiver of liability in order to participate. Any agreement of this type is directly between the vendor and the parents. Leaders are not authorized to sign a waiver for any girl other than her own child or a child that they are a legal guardian of.

If a vendor requests a copy of GSCNC's COI, please direct these requests to Debra Neverson, Finance Assistant, at dneverson@gscnc.org or 202-237-1670 ext. 242.