



Connect

The newsletter for our volunteers

Girl Scouts®

January 2009 • Volume 1 • Issue 6

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc.

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GSNWGL Service Centers

Appleton
4222 N Lynndale Dr, 54913
920.734.4559

Eau Claire
4222 Oakwood Hills Pkwy, 54701
715.835.5331

Green Bay
2430 Finger Rd, 54302
920.469.4860

Marquette, MI
131 W Washington, Ste C, 49855
906.225.8020

Schofield (Wausau)
3511 Camp Phillips Rd, 54476
715.355.9850

Wisconsin Rapids
3910 Chestnut St, 54494
715.423.6360

General phone number
888.747.6945

Call your local Service Center and we can transfer you to any other Service Center or phone extension!

Visit us at
www.gsnwgl.org

2009 Girl Scout Cookie Program

A special message from CEO Mary Charles

Dear Volunteers and Parents,

We are about to embark on a great American tradition, the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program. This sale is important for so many reasons. It brings critical funding to our troops, the Council and your girls. For troops, it provides funding for activities, trips, campouts and service projects that make a difference in our communities. For your daughter it helps to pay for summer camp. And for the Council, it helps keep our camps in optimal condition, pays for troop leader training and enrichment, keeps program costs low and allows us to keep Girl Scouting available in our area by keeping the most basic functions of our operation moving.

And beyond all of that, the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program offers much more to your girls through skill development. I remember how proud I was to go to friends and neighbors asking them to purchase my cookies, and how much confidence I gained from sharing our troop's messages about our hopes and goals for the year in terms of programs and community service.

We know from research that 95% of people asked will purchase Girl Scout Cookies – and that is exactly what I experienced as a girl. I was so excited to share my goal and tell people what I was doing in Girl Scouting. It gave me confidence just to talk to people. It helped build my organizational and financial management skills when I had to organize orders, develop strategic paths of delivery, and manage the money I collected. All skills I use everyday in my life today. I was also proud that I earned part of my own way to camp each year, and my leaders told me how my cookie sales helped to send other girls whose families could not afford to send them to camp. My troop also used a portion of our funds to buy presents for veterans in the local VA hospital. Selling cookies kept me busy and full of confidence all year long.

So this year please think about what your girls will take away from your support and the time you spend with them helping to reach their goals – rather than focusing on how cold it might be outside, or how much time it will take to pick up and deliver all those boxes. Just remember that your support of each girl is priceless, and they will likely realize later in life how much the experience affected them... and how you helped make it happen. - *Mary*

Please see page 2 for more information about GSNWGL's 2009 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program.

It's Not Too Late to Register for Girl Scouts!

**Give every girl the opportunity to experience
the world's best Leadership Development program!**

With the school year well under way, some families may believe it is too late for their daughter to get involved in Girl Scouts. When you are encouraging girls in your communities to join Girl Scouting this month, you will want to talk about these very important reasons why a complete, life-changing Girl Scout experience still awaits all girls and it's not too late to register!

- For girls of all ages, the most well-known and girl-favored of all programs, the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program, is about to begin. This means girls that register now can still reap all of the financial literacy benefits of the program, as well as the deep sense of belonging that comes from contributing to the team and its goals during the sale.
- For girls ages 11 – 17, there is still time to apply for one of the many *destinations* travel opportunities available throughout the US and the world! From exotic *destinations* to Outward Bound outdoor adventures and in-the-field career exploration, *destinations* offers a world of experiences. Check them out at <http://www.studio2b.org/escape/destinations>.

Please note: active hyperlinks are indicated by underlined text



2009 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program

Imagine if...we could change the world!

Girl Scouts can use the Cookie Sale Program to bring their service ideas to life. Whether the girls are caring for their environment, promoting literacy or campaigning for social issues, the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program can help them:

- * **Discover** more about their values and the world.
- * **Connect** with others when selling Girl Scout Cookies.
- * **Take Action** to make the world a better place with projects funded by Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program proceeds.

Important Cookie Program Dates

January 16	Girls begin taking cookie orders
February 1	Girls stop taking cookie orders
March 7-18	Girls deliver cookies & collect money
March 13-29	Cookie Booths held
March 20	Money due to SACM
March	Girls receive recognitions

Watch our website and the February issue of *Connect* for Cookie Cupboard information!

Important Reminders:

- Troop Cookie Managers must collect Parent / Guardian Permission slips before distributing cookie materials and allowing girls to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program.
- Girls should collect money due at the time of cookie delivery, NOT when taking orders.

Gift of Caring

For the 2009 Cookie Program, GSNWGL will not be sponsoring a Council-wide Gift of Caring program.

GSNWGL encourages Service Areas and troops to arrange and participate in the Gift of Caring program on a local level. If your Service Area or troop is interested in arranging and participating in the Gift of Caring program, please contact the Product Program Department: productprograms@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 3348.

2009 Pewter Figurine

Due to extensive safety testing on the 2009 Imagine If... Eco Ellie Pewter Figurine, the figurine will not be available in GSNWGL Council Shops on January 5. The expected arrival date of these figurines has been delayed until late January.

You may pre-order the figurine using the GSNWGL Pre-Order Form available from the Council Shop on January 5.

**Be sure to visit the
2009 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program
section of our website
for activities and resources
for girls, families and volunteers!**

Updates & Reminders from the Membership Department

Membership Goals

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes has set an exciting goal to reach over 23,000 girls this year. We will create and deliver a Girl Scout experience that reaches girls ages 5 to 17 while achieving a member population reflective of our diverse demographics. Service areas also have membership goals. Working with your service teams to use your service area allocations best to reach your goals, we are confident that you will ensure that every girl in your community has the opportunity to become a Girl Scout.

Bring a Friend!

The girls in your troop are gaining great skills and experiences, all because you have stepped forward and said “Yes! I will volunteer!” Thank you for your generosity of spirit as a volunteer. Without your energy and enthusiasm, we would not be able to provide this great leadership program for girls!

Take a second and think about the girls who are in your daughter’s class at school, in your neighborhood, at your place of worship, or that you come in contact with throughout your day who are not in Girl Scouts and are missing out on the leadership experience that is like no other. If you introduce even one more girl to Girl Scouts, that is one more girl whose life you will make a real difference in and who will be impacted in a way that she cannot get anywhere else. Think for a second what sort of impact you would have on your school, your community, your town if you included more girls in Girl Scouting.

We’d like to encourage you to consider holding a “Bring a Friend” event where you open up a troop meeting or event and encourage the girls in your troop to invite a friend who is not yet in Girl Scouts to come along. You can even click [here](#) for an invitation that you can use. You can use this as a template, or create your own. Brainstorm with the girls in your troop on what the meeting could look like to include non-Girl Scout friends, and have them help pick out the activities to do at the meeting or event.

The girls that are brought as friends can be added to your troop. If you do it before the cookie sale program starts or while it is going on, they would even have the chance to start gaining leadership and entrepreneurial skills, increase their self-confidence and self-esteem, and feel like a contributing member of the team right away! Remember, the girls need to register as Girl Scouts at their first meeting, or you need to do extra activity insurance for those that are just seeing what it is all about before joining.

Additionally, the Council would like to make you a special offer:

If your troop registers three additional girls between today and January 16, you will receive a \$5 coupon for the Council Shop (good towards a purchase of \$25 or more) AND for every girl who registers between today and January 16, your troop will be entered into a drawing to win:

- a free weekend at the camp of your choice **OR**
- passes for your whole troop to attend the Science Spectacular Council-Wide program on April 4 **OR**
- a certificate for free use of a portable program box

(All registrations need to be received at a Council Service Center on or before January 16, marked clearly with the troop number and grouped together as three or more girls to be eligible for these incentives)

Our program is truly special - let’s see the impact we can make on the community when more girls take part in the premier leadership experience for girls!

Updates from the Membership Department

January Service Area Leader Meetings

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us it's time to look forward to all the great possibilities in the new year, and you won't want to miss your January Service Area Leader Meeting! Click [here](#) for the GSNWGL Meetings Calendar.

Six Parts of a Troop Meeting

How do you structure your troop meetings? How do you plan for your troop meetings? Click [here](#) for a simple outline for putting together your meetings to keep you organized and prepared and keep your girls focused, interested and involved!

Service Area Best Practice Highlight

Paper Cities Service Area

By Leah Bruess, Service Area Manager, and Anneliese Sheahan, Family Partnership Ambassador

Every fall, Family Partnership gets mixed in with the hustle and bustle of national dues, troop dues, uniform updates, registration, product sales, fall activities and well.. just school. So every year after fall registration the troops in the Paper Cities Service Area strategize ways to get troops involved in the Family Partnership Campaign throughout the rest of the year.

We've experienced two primary challenges to gathering Family Partnership during registration. First, some parents can't afford to pay the additional amount all at one time. Many of the girls in my troop have used financial assistance funds in the past to register or to pay, in least a part, for their dues and sashes. Second, some parents don't, for whatever reasons, choose to give to Family Partnership.

We've tackled the first problem by breaking the amount down into smaller units that every parent can afford. Then we encourage parents to give small amounts a few times a year. We start right away in the fall at the first meeting and everyone participates.

The second problem is solved by presenting parents with options that help them to choose to give. It's all about presentation.

Paper Cities' Tips for Positive Ways to Approach Family Partnership Giving:

- At registration time, discuss Family Partnership Campaign before handing out the forms -- make it one of the first topics of discussion.
- Inform parents that as a Service Area we have set a goal amount that we'd like to reach because "we know how important this fund is to area girls."
- Make sure parents know what the goal is.
- Let parents know that this isn't a fundraising event -- it is families supporting the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience through an annual giving campaign.
- Make sure you give concrete examples of how the money is used and tell them the money is kept in our area -- it is not used nationally.
- Encourage parents to give at least \$10, "because \$12 (new registration amount) plus another \$10 is still less than \$2 a month to participate in a group which offers so much to girls --what a terrific value." When you break a large amount into smaller amounts it is often more palatable to the buyer -- like selling a new car or a 60 inch flat screen television.
- Let parents know that if they can't give today that they can and should work with their troop leaders to help reach the goal by the end of the giving year.
- Parents can help leaders by thinking of creative ways to collect the money, talking to other parents in the troop about donating, and by asking other adults in their own family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc.) to contribute as well. It's great when a troop parent leads the collection process.
- Encourage parents to give some at the time of registration and then give again later -- they can break up their donation. Just remember to have them fill out a slip later, similar to the one that comes with the registration form, so that they get credit for both and maybe their daughter will get the HUGS patch after the second or third donation.
- It's all about attitude -- when we each do our part we're spreading the work out over hundreds of people. Help families choose to give instead of making it easy for them to choose to not give. It's easy for parents to overlook giving.
- It's also easy for new families to overlook this aspect of the registration process. Many times, simply highlighting the program is enough to get parents to give. Never let a parent have to ask, "What's this slip for?"

HUGS Family Partnership Update

We have an opportunity for you to make a huge difference - help spread the good news about HUGS (Help Us Grow Strong) Family Partnership! You can make a lasting difference in the lives of girls in your community that would not otherwise be able to participate in Girl Scouts simply by talking to the parents in your troop about HUGS. If you provide a little education or a few personal stories, parents are very willing to contribute. With your help, we can reach our HUGS goals!

Council Communications

Look Who's Playing! Are YOU?

Girls and women everywhere will celebrate the 23rd annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) on February 4, 2009. It is a special day for girls and women to recognize their participation in sports and athletics. "Look Who's Playing" is this year's theme encouraging girls to cheer on their favorite female athletes as well as to join and participate in a sport or activity of their own. Sports are an excellent way to meet and make new friends, to lead a healthy lifestyle, to build teamwork, to develop self-confidence and leadership, and ultimately to have FUN! If you are already playing sports, keep it up and keep playing! If you are not playing sports, find a sport or activity that is right for you! Join the millions of girls and women who are participating in sports.

NGWSD is jointly organized by the National Girls and Women in Sport Coalition. The Coalition combines the experience and resources of the five premiere girls- and women-serving organizations in the United States:

GSUSA, Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, National Women's Law Center, and the Women's Sports Foundation. Collectively, these organizations have been in existence for over 427 years and have a membership reach of 5.5 million girls and women.

Remember, you too can: Spike it like Kerri Walsh and Misty May! Kick it like Mia Hamm! Race it to the finish line like Danica Patrick! Slam it like Lisa Leslie! Serve it like Venus and Serena Williams! Flip like Shawn Johnson!

Visit <http://www.aahperd.org/ngwsdcentral/> for more information and ideas to celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Fun Girls and Women in Sports Fact:

When Title IX was enacted in 1972, 1 in 27 girls participated in athletics in high school.

Today, 1 in 3 girls participate in athletics in high school!

World Thinking Day: Celebrating our Sisters around the World

Girl Scouting may seem as American as apple pie, but the Girl Scout movement is definitely global. What began in 1909 as the Girl Guides Association in the United Kingdom, evolved into the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Today, 145 countries have Girl Scouts and Girl Guides who are members of WAGGGS.

February 22nd is World Thinking Day. Every year on this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides devote one day to thinking of one another with love and friendship. There are a many ways in which Girl Scouts celebrate World Thinking Day. From creating a food dish from El Salvador, to learning songs and games from New Zealand, Girl Scouts take a moment to reflect on the global sisterhood to which they belong. Some troops choose to send money to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, or to support the WAGGGS World Centers (located in Switzerland, Mexico, India and England).

The theme for 2009 Thinking Day is "Stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases". More information and ideas to celebrate Thinking Day may be found at www.worldthinkingday.org. Thinking Day patches (pictured at left) are for sale through the Council Shop. Quantities are limited so order now!

**2009 World Thinking Day patches are on sale now in the Council Shop!
Quantities are limited so order today!**

Council Communications

Highlights from the 2008 Girl Scout National Council Session / 51st Convention

The 2008 Girl Scout National Council Session/51st Convention was held in Indianapolis, IN, from October 30 through November 2. Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes was well represented with almost 40 delegates and visitors. Overall, almost 10,000 people, including more than 1,800 National Council members and thousands of Girl Scouts and participants, attended the convention. They were treated to interactive exhibits, riveting speeches by adult and girl members, great entertainment and, most importantly, engaging business elements that prove Girl Scouts Can Lead Anywhere!

GSNWGL Board Chair Beth Schad, of Kewaunee, WI, truly enjoyed her experience at the National Convention and was inspired by the numerous girls and attendees. She was particularly impacted by the young women (ages ranging from 11-17) who led various sessions, as were many of the other attendees. "Their confidence, poise and skills as they led sessions in front of almost 10,000 people were phenomenal and breathtaking. Watching them certainly provides us with results of our efforts and confirms why we do what we do." In addition to being impressed by these girls, Beth was equally inspired by GSNWGL's very own Sarah Wydeven as she received her recognition as one of only ten national Young Women of Distinction. Sarah (18, Little Chute, WI, daughter of John and Peggy), was honored on Friday, October 31, as a 2008 Girl Scout Gold Award recipient.

Beth applauded the representatives from GSNWGL for their attendance, attentive participation and camaraderie. She said, "Our delegates and visitors proudly represented GSNWGL, and I thank them for their efforts." Lastly, Beth encourages everyone involved, past or present, to continue telling personal stories about Girl Scouting, because they are important stories to share with our communities and they help unite girls, families and communities.

Simone Okray, of Plover, WI, attended the National Convention as a voting delegate, and it proved to be an awesome experience for her as well. Simone was impressed with the democratic process and speakers from the National Board of Directors while voting on various proposals presented to the delegates. In addition to participating in the proposal process, she also attended many events and exhibits such as History Gathering, Open Space Sharing and Learning, Gathering of USA Girl Scouts Overseas, Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance Reception, Power of Children Exhibit at the Children's Museum, and a Juliette Gordon Low Birthday Party at the Indiana State Museum. Lastly, Simone shared that she was inspired by the various guest speakers – Tatyana McFadden, a Paralympics athlete who shared her struggles and accomplishments; Geena Davis, actress and founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media; Marie Wilson, author and founder/president of The White House Project and co-creator of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day – as well as two young Girl Scouts who served as emcees for the event. She stated, "The audience was wowed with their confidence, mature insight, sense of responsibility, and professionalism beyond their years." Simone lastly remarked, "All in all, I remain proud to be a Girl Scout, proud to be part of the movement, thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the National Convention as a voting delegate, and excited about the future of Girl Scouting in our Council!"

Board member Carol Romback, of Negaunee, MI, also attended the National Convention and had a wonderful experience. She enjoyed meeting many new friends from across our council and was most impressed with the camaraderie amongst GSNWGL delegates and visitors. With these lasting memories, she remarked, "I came away reinforced in the feeling that Peninsula Waters had made the right decision to join with Wisconsin to form a new council."

Adult Development News

Do You Know a Volunteer Whose Courage, Confidence & Character Truly Inspire Others?

Show them how much their efforts mean by nominating them for a Council award. ***Nominations and all supporting documents are due February 15, 2009.*** Award categories include Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Leader, and more! Complete information on specific awards, criteria and nomination procedures may be found in Section F of *The Source*, or by visiting the [Adult Recognition section of our website](#).

Council-Wide Leadership Conference Announced

This spring, GSNWGL's Adult Development Department will be hosting a Council-wide leadership conference for adult volunteers and Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors. The tentative dates selected for the conference are March 7-8, 2009. The event will be held in the Fox Cities area, with accommodations available at Camp Winnecomac as well as area hotels. An email with full details and registration information will be sent out soon. This is a great opportunity for networking, idea sharing, and gaining additional resources. A wide variety of breakout sessions will be offered, including using the new Journey materials, relational aggression (bullying), multicultural awareness, teambuilding activities, and more. Don't miss out! If you have an idea for a breakout session topic, are interested assisting with the event, or have additional questions, contact the Adult Development Department: training@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 3341.

Reminder

All Volunteers must have an application, background check, and three personal references on file, plus be a registered Girl Scout. Required volunteer training should be completed within two months of appointment.

For more information on these and other learning opportunities, visit the [Training Section](#) and [Trainings Calendar](#) on our website.

Training Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I have noticed that there are no upcoming training sessions listed on the website. When will additional training opportunities be available?

The Spring Learning Opportunities calendar will be available on the GSNWGL website by January 15th. In an effort to avoid the winter holidays, challenging road conditions, and the hustle and bustle of cookie season, most sessions will be held February 15 - May 22. However, sessions will be offered in some communities throughout the winter months, so continue to check the [Trainings Calendar](#) frequently.

Q: There have been many changes in the required volunteer training process. What training is required for volunteers?

GSUSA Volunteer Orientation: (required of all new volunteers only) This is a self-directed course, available through our [website](#).

Council 101: (required of **ALL** leaders and co-leaders) This is a self-directed course, available on our [website](#).

Leadership Essentials: (required of **ALL** leaders and co-leaders) Leadership Essentials is available in face-to-face sessions, and as a self-directed course, available on our [website](#). Face-to-face sessions are recommended whenever available, as they provide a great opportunity for networking and idea sharing.

For the self-directed online training options, visit the [Training Courses](#) page of our website.

Paper copies of all self-directed courses are available for those with limited internet access. If you need a paper copy, please contact your Membership Manager or the Adult Development Department.

Q: I would like to attend Leadership Essentials, but have not been able to identify a session in a community nearby. Any suggestions?

We are committed to meeting the needs of our volunteers, and finding creative solutions to every challenge! If you are unable to find training sessions in your area, please contact The Adult Development Department to explore further options, such as teleconferences, group self-directed sessions, and more!

Program Updates

Council-Wide & Council-Sponsored Programs

Troops and individual Girl Scouts will love the Council-Wide and Council-Sponsored Programs! These programs have limited space and they fill up fast, so register EARLY! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note: individual Girl Scouts attending Council-Wide and Council-Sponsored Programs must attend with a parent or guardian, and everyone must bring a health form to the event in case of an emergency (the form may be downloaded [here](#)).

There's Still Time to Register for Sweet Success!

Sweet Success

Date/Time: Saturday, January 10, 2009, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Locations/Maximum Number of Participants:

- Appleton North High School, Appleton, WI - Maximum: 150
- Center Point Marketplace, Stevens Point, WI - Maximum: 150
- Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire, WI - Maximum: 125
- East Town Mall Community Room, Green Bay, WI - Maximum: 125
- Nativity of Our Lord St. Mary's Gymnasium, Rhinelander, WI - Maximum: 100
- UP Children's Museum, Marquette, MI - Maximum: 100

Girls will unleash their inner entrepreneur while exploring their hidden business talents and learn what it takes to achieve *Sweet Success*. Girls will participate in a variety of grade-level appropriate activities about setting goals, designing and marketing products, and learning financial literacy skills. Girls will also learn how to use the power of their imaginations with the power of Girl Scout Cookies to make a difference in their communities. Imagine if... every girl's Girl Scout Cookie Program experience could be sweeter, more successful, more fun than ever before!

Grade Levels: All

Cost: \$10/girl

To Register: [Online registration](#) is highly encouraged for this event as the Service Centers will be closed from 12/24-1/4.

Deadline to Register: January 2, 2009

Science Spectacular!

Date/Time: Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Locations: Held at six locations throughout GSNWGL jurisdiction

Calling all mad scientists - your brain power is needed in the lab! We'll be doing a little mixology, a bit of designology, and a lot of grossology! Here's a chance to get down and dirty all in the name of science. At Science Spectacular, girls will watch their ideas take flight – literally!

Grade Levels: All

Cost: \$15/girl; \$5/adult

Did you know that two of the main obstacles females say they face regarding science and technology fields are discrimination and a lack of mentoring? (*Women and Girls in Science, Technology & Engineering, 2008*) While the good news is that current trends show more females entering into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) areas, we still have a lot of work to do to break down the barriers women feel still exist.

Science Spectacular! is GSNWGL's answer for gaining and maintaining girls' interest in STEM related fields. This Council-Sponsored event scheduled for April 4, 2009 is slated to take place at colleges and universities throughout our Council jurisdiction and encourage girls to survey STEM subjects through fun, informative, and hands-on workshops. Girls will be given a chance to examine STEM fields in a safe, non-competitive setting that fosters learning and exploration with their peers. See program description above.

We are currently looking for professionals in STEM related fields who would like to share their expertise with the girls. If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of this great event, or if you'd like more information, please contact Carrie Andringa: candringa@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 5513.

Remember that ALL girls must be registered Girl Scouts prior to participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program! Be sure to have EVERY girl in your troop registered! If you have any questions please contact your Membership Manager.

Program Updates

It's Never too Early to Think about Summer Camp!

As the cold winter snow blows, warm up your thoughts by thinking about summer camp! Remember those days of swimming, campfires, fun and excitement? They will be back before you know it!

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes offers eight different camp opportunities that are perfect for your daughter and your troop to enjoy the very best in summer camp offerings. Girls have the opportunity to be a rock star at Camp Winnecomac, ride horseback at Camp Nawakwa, kayak and canoe at Camp Birch Trails, show off their inner artist at Camp Cuesta, spend the weekend with their troop at Camp Ishnala, cook amazing creations at Camp Del O'Claire, conquer the ropes course at Camp Nesbit, or create awesome art projects at Camp Sacajawea and more!

Watch for your camp book to arrive mid January so you can start planning your summer to include Girl Scout Camp. Whether your girls are experienced campers or this summer will be their first time away from home, GSNWGL Summer Camp is sure to have something for everyone! Registration begins February 1.

Portable Programs

The Portable Programs have been flying off the shelves and into the hands of troop leaders almost faster than we can restock the supplies! Here's what leaders have been saying about the Portable Programs:

"[The Portable Programs had] lots of fun and informational activities."

"[It was] fun and kept the girls interested and thinking."

"We are planning to use the Portable Programs again because it is less planning for the leader."

And the best part is that according to the girl evaluations, 100% of girls would recommend the Portable Program they chose to other Girl Scouts! There's still plenty of time to reserve your Portable Program for the school year, so talk with your girls and decide which one you want to try. But do it quickly – they're going fast!

Reserve your Portable Program today by completing and returning the [Portable Program Reservation Form](#) (also available in *The Source*). For more information please contact Carrie Andringa: candringa@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 5513.

destinations: Where Do Your Girls Want to Go?

Girl Scout *destinations* are activities for girls 11-17 that go beyond the troop/group experience. Encourage your girls to visit GSUSA's website just for girls 11-17, STUDIO2B.org, to explore all *destinations* and choose the perfect experience. **The application deadline has been extended to February 9, 2009.** Girl Scout *destinations* applications can be mailed to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, Inc., 3511 Camp Phillips Road, Schofield, WI 54476 or dropped off at your nearest Girl Scout Service Center.

For more information please contact Michelle Carr: mcarr@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 4517.

Property Updates

Service Center / Camp Closings

Camps and Service Centers will be closed for the upcoming holiday break observed by the Council. All Council facilities will be closed and no reservations will be accepted during December 24 - January 4. Our facilities will reopen for business on January 5 at 9:30 a.m. Happy Holidays!

All GSNWGL properties will also be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will reopen for business on Tuesday, January 20 at 8:30 a.m.

If you have any questions concerning the equipment rentals, please contact the Property Department: property@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 3349.

Featured Property

Each month we will highlight a GSNWGL property to help you get to know all of the incredible properties that are available to your troop/group and Service Area!

Camp Sacajawea

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

60 acres of forest with serene Lake Tapawingo, this camp includes three lodges, cabins, platform tents, and a tent site. There are plenty of forests and ponds to explore in at this camp located in Wisconsin Rapids.

Baptiste Lodge Capacity: Fee: Available:	50 – 70/day; 30/overnight \$24/day; \$36/overnight September – May	Heated lodge with electricity. Fireplace, tv/vcr, fully equipped kitchen, microwave, stove/oven, toaster, coffee pot, refrigerator, tables, chairs, bathrooms, and phone.
Charbonneau Center Capacity: Fee: Available:	50/day; 30/overnight \$24/day; \$36/overnight September – May	Heated lodge with electricity. Fireplace, tv/vcr, fully equipped kitchen, microwave, stove/oven, toaster coffee pot, refrigerator, tables, chairs, bathrooms, loft area, and phone.
Mead Hall Capacity: Fee: Available:	30 day; 20 overnight \$24/day; \$36/overnight September – May	Heated lodge with electricity. Fireplace, tv/vcr, fully equipped kitchen, microwave, stove/oven, toaster, coffee pot, refrigerator, tables, chairs, bathrooms, and phone.
Mandan Capacity: Fee: Available:	32 \$18/day; \$30/overnight April - October	5 cabins are in this unit. All include electricity, no heat, access to water and bathroom, mattresses, fire circle, rake, bucket, picnic table.
Shoshone Capacity: Fee: Available:	36 \$18/day; \$30/overnight Year round	3 cabins in this unit. All have electricity and heat, access to water and bathroom, mattresses, fire circle, rake, bucket, picnic table.
Minataree Capacity: Fee: Available:	12 \$18/day; \$30/overnight April – October	3 platform tents in this unit. Access to water and bathrooms, fire circle, rake, bucket, and picnic table.
Red Arrow Capacity: Fee: Available:	30 Additional refundable deposit of \$50.00 September – May	A rustic, log-cabin style building that is used for programming only. There are nature program boxes available to use. This building is not heated. Access to water and bathrooms nearby.
Tent Site Capacity: Fee: Available:	40 \$15/overnight April - October	Clearing near Baptiste Lodge that can fit 10 (4-person) tents. Access to water and bathrooms, fire circle, and picnic tables.

Wildlife at Camps

We are fortunate to have many beautiful properties that we share with many woodland critters. Some of these include raccoon, pine marten, black bear, mice, coyote, squirrel, wolf and wolverine. All the critters we share our properties with naturally shy away from humans and prefer to stay clear of us. Still, you will want to take steps to reduce the risk of an unwanted encounter. The number one attractant for many of these animals is FOOD.

To help keep these beautiful animals wild, please follow these tips whenever in the outdoors.

1. Don't cook, eat, or store food in your tent.
2. Store food and cooking utensils away from your campsite, preferably in a vehicle, a building or hung in a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 5 feet out on a limb.
3. Dispose of scraps in designated containers away from the campsite, not in the fire.
4. Clean up and put away outdoor grills after you are done using them for the day.
5. Bird feeders can also attract more than birds. If you are doing a bird feeder project consider treating the feeders and feed as food (see #2).
6. Even in daylight, animals will still visit a campsite if food is present. If you are leaving for the day, please make sure to take the same precautions as listed above.

If you are fortunate enough to see any of these animals while out, please remember they are wild animals and we want to keep them that way. Make noise and wave your arms to let them know you are there so you don't surprise them. They will normally leave an area once they know a human is around. If you happen to surprise an animal at close range, back away slowly. If you are near a vehicle or building, go inside until the animal wanders away.

Enjoy watching from a distance. Respect them and their right to live along side of us. If you have any questions, please contact your local DNR or the Property Department: property@gsnwgl.org or call your nearest Service Center and ask for extension 3349.