

# Avenues To Program

## Volunteer Conference

February 12, 2011

Register NOW  
to get your choice of  
workshops!

[www.girlscoutsla.org](http://www.girlscoutsla.org)

Mark Your Calendars:  
GSGLA Annual Meeting  
and Volunteer  
Appreciation  
April 16, 2010

## Cadettes:

### Take the *Breathe* Journey

This program opportunity helps Cadette Girl Scouts complete the Journey prerequisite for their Silver Award project.

Sessions: January-June  
once-a-month

### Want to know more?

Attend the Information Night  
January 11, 2011

7:00-8:30 pm  
Woodland Hills  
Service Center

Program begins  
January 22, 2011

## Leaders:

Parents may become more actively involved if they are kept aware of what is going on in the Girl Scout world, not just within your troop. Make sure they are receiving the GSGLA e-News, 100th Anniversary e-blast and know where to find this newsletter and the Program Guide on the website. This guide will show them the wide variety of opportunities available to their daughters within greater Los Angeles.

[www.girlscoutsla.org](http://www.girlscoutsla.org)

## GSGLA Cookie Kick-Off

January 15, 2011  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Industry Hills Expo Center  
City of Industry

Open to all Girl Scouts  
\$12.00 per girl  
\$6.00 per adult

### Register now!

...the fee goes up \$2 on December 21st

## Hey Older Girl Troops!!

Want free admission?  
then host a booth!

Your talents & enthusiasm are needed  
to make this our best event ever!!

For booth ideas or to sign up,  
contact Mayra Cordero NOW!

[mcordero@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:mcordero@girlscoutsla.org).

## Last Chance to Buy Tickets! Deadline December 6th

**Girl Scout Night with the LA Kings**  
December 11, 2010

Only \$20! (a savings of over \$11)  
Pregame He & Me Ice Skating & Winter Fair  
Contact: Lisa Axelrod  
[laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org)

## Princess Manners & Tea Workshop for Daisies

December 11, 2010  
Antelope Valley Service Center  
Tea party, games, face painting and more!

## Street Smarts Series for Juniors

December 11, 2010  
Thousand Oaks  
Have Fun Learning How to Keep Yourself Safe!

## Daisy Flower Garden Journey Workshop

January 29 & February 5, 2011  
Santa Clarita  
Journey through a flower garden  
and earn 3 awards!

## Brownie Quest Journey Workshop

January 29 & February 5, 2011  
Santa Clarita  
A fun & mysterious search for the 3 keys!

## Leaders + Parents = An Awesome Team!

### Sound familiar?...

*"I've thought about being a Girl Scout leader for my daughter and her friends; however it seems like too much work. I'm working outside the home and have other children."*

*"I want my daughter to be a Girl Scout; however, I don't have the time."*

*"How do I get parents to become involved?"*

These are very common thoughts heard from potential leaders, adult volunteers and parents.

There are more girls who want to become Girl

Scouts than there are adults willing and able to become troop leaders.

The solution is simple:  
**TEAMWORK!**

Our lives today are busier and more hectic than ever. Most families have two working parents. However, the need for helping our girls become tomorrow's leaders is more important than ever.

Just like it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a team to lead a Girl Scout Troop. Every role is critical.

There are many aspects to organizing a troop and

some can be overwhelming for just one person.

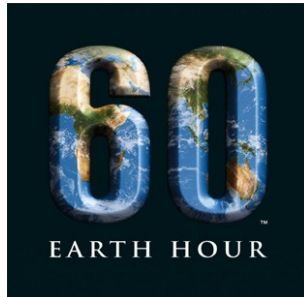
Therefore.... think **TEAM!**

Beyond being a leader, co-leader, or assistant leader, there are many other jobs; some of them are one-time activities, others last a week-end or perhaps even a month or two. The bottom line is to give support to one another and to keep the girls and our mission in the front of our minds.

*See page 2 for how parents can help.*

*See page 3 for troop job ideas.*

## Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Planet!



GSGLA is proud to be one of the pilot councils in GSUSA's Forever Green initiative!

On March 26, 2011 Girl Scouts throughout our council will pledge to turn off their lights (and all other non-essential electronic devices) from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm in order to conserve en-

ergy as part of the Earth Hour movement. Girls will also be challenged to get other members of their community to pledge their time as well. Start thinking about what you're going to do when the lights go out! And don't forget to stop by the Forever Green booth at Cookie Kickoff on January 15<sup>th</sup>!

## Girl Scouts Dance with the Clippers' Spirit Dance Team!

Girl Scouts of Greater LA has been partnering with the Los Angeles Clippers for the last few years to organize some great events for the girls in our council. In the first of two Girl Scout events with the Clippers this year, a dance clinic was held on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The dance clinic was hosted by the Clippers' Spirit Dance team, and attended by 70 very lucky Girl

Scouts. The women on the dance team have been very generous for



the last 4+ years in hosting a dance clinic for the Girl Scouts, even if it means starting at 9:00 am. Girls learned a simple and fun routine, and earned parts of their dance badges. After the clinic, girls were able to get autographs, take pictures, and learn a little bit about what it takes to be a professional dancer. Later in the morning the girls watched the Spirit practice their routines for the game, and then took the court with the dance team for a big group photo. Those girls and their families stayed for the game. The next Girl Scout event with the Clippers will be held in April. (For more information on this and other Girl Scout sports events contact Lisa Axelrod, [laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:laxelrod@girlscoutsla.org))

## Help Our Leaders Help Our Girls!

**Aside from helping leaders, parental support is an important element in making sure girls get the most out of their Girl Scout experience.**

**Parents, you can help tremendously by:**

- ◆ Remembering that a Girl Scout Leader is a volunteer and welcomes your support.
- ◆ Participating in any parent/guardian meetings.
- ◆ Returning signed permission, membership and other forms on time.
- ◆ Talking with the leader about activities your Girl Scout likes to

do and new things she may want to try.

- ◆ Taking time to attend any special functions when parents/guardians are invited.
- ◆ Assisting with program activity planning and following through when asked.
- ◆ Adhering to Girl Scout safety and security guidelines and encouraging your child to do so as well.
- ◆ Making provisions for your Girl Scout to get to and from the meeting place in a safe and timely manner. Picking up your child on time is important!

◆ Saying thank you to the leader and other volunteers who help the troop. They give their time and commitment to the girls in your community. April 22 is Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day. You might want to help the girls plan a special thank-you. But don't wait until then, thank your child's troop leader each time you see her.

◆ As a reminder, letting your Girl Scout leaders know about any medical or behavioral issues helps them better meet your child's needs.

## Thinking Day Ideas

Each year, on February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides renew their Promise, reminding themselves of their commitment to common values, beliefs, and their responsibility to work for a better world.

Thinking Day is a special time to celebrate the fun, friendship and challenge of an international movement of the Girl Scout sisterhood. These special activities emphasize the importance of Thinking Day.

- Hold a special rededication ceremony to renew the Girl Scout Promise, review what the Girl Scout Law means, and share these ideas with others.
- Conduct a special Thinking Day meeting. The troop/group might sing songs with an international flavor that reflect on friendship or peace, play games from other countries using ideas from *Games In Girl Scouting*, learn about other

Girl Guide associations, make a craft from another country, or prepare a potluck meal.

- Write a poem or share thoughts about what it means to belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Discuss what WAGGGS does and share some kinds of activities member countries do.
- Each girl draws the name of one of the 144 WAGGGS member countries. Girls can choose one outstanding woman from their country and learn as much as they can about her life and accomplishments. Then, as part of a Thinking Day ceremony or celebration, each girl can talk about the woman she has studied.
- Make a commitment to make a difference in the world. Decide on an issue such as world hunger, illness, poverty, or violence. Devise a plan and implement it during the remainder of the troop year.

## Community Service & Take Action Project Ideas

Check out [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org) for great project ideas that do not involve collecting items. (??editorial!!). These ideas include discovering, connecting and taking action activities. Go to this website for cause topics, details for these projects, and other suggestions.

- Volunteer at a local animal shelter
- Plant trees or start a school garden
- Petition your school to save energy
- Mark storm drains
- Volunteer for a non profit agency in your community. Find out if they have any projects suitable for your Girl Scout level.
- School your class on e-waste disposal
- Poster your school campus with facts about hunger; recruit speakers; class presentations.
- Show ill children that they are heroes. Boost their spirits by creating a [Soaring-Superhero®](#) message. Your superhero message and artwork will be posted on the [Soaringwords](#) website and shared with millions of hospitalized children.

## Go Team!

The job of a troop leader becomes a great deal easier, more efficient and fun when the job responsibilities are shared among a team. Below are some ideas for troop jobs:

**Journey coordinator:** Work with the girls in one of the Journey leadership programs.

**Awards coordinator:** Help girls keep records of their accomplishments and also purchases awards.

**Product Sales chair:** Attend training. Help girls set goals for their sales. Track sales, collect and bank money and turn in final reports. It helps to have a garage or storage area.

**Communications manager:** Through Facebook, email or phone, notify parents/girls of meetings, special event reminders, changes in plans, or keeping in touch when the troop is traveling.

**Transportation coordinator:** Arrange carpools, distribute and collect permission slips.

**Program consultant:** Talk with parents to find out what special skills they may have and be able to share with the girls. Also research community program opportunities for the girls.

**Field trip adult:** Chap-erone and help with driving for special events.

**Troop camp-trained adult:** Take special training to help the troop or group qualify for overnight events. This person becomes the expert who helps the girls plan and execute the trip according to Girl Scout safety standards.

**First-Aider:** Take First Aid/CPR training to help with special events, trips and camping overnights.

## ACTIVITY ZONE!

### Water Molecules on the Move

This experiment is great for testing if hot water molecules really move faster than cold ones.

- ◆ A clear glass filled with hot water
- ◆ A clear glass filled with cold water
- ◆ Food coloring

#### Instructions:

1. Fill the glasses with the same amount of water, one cold and one hot.
2. Put one drop of food coloring into both glasses as quickly as possible.

#### What's happening?

If you watch closely you will notice that the food coloring spreads faster throughout the hot water than in the cold. The molecules in the hot water move at a faster rate, spreading the food coloring faster than the cold water molecules which move slower.

## Environmentally Friendly Beeswax Candles

Most candles are made using petroleum (like those fruity smelling ones). Candles made of beeswax are much more environmentally friendly. They're fun to make yourself, easy to use, and have a naturally pleasant scent.

#### Supplies:

- ◆ Beeswax sheets (at craft shops or some hardware stores. Sheets are soft and flexible and look like honeycomb.)
- ◆ Candle wicks

#### Directions:

- ◆ Cut a length of wick, lay it against the edge of a beeswax sheet, and roll it up tightly like a poster or rug. The height of the sheet determines the height of the candle. The width of the sheet determines the thickness of the candle. Don't forget to leave enough of the wick sticking out so that you can light your candle.
- ◆ To make tapered candles, cut a right triangle and roll inward from the highest part of the triangle.

- ◆ To make non round candles do a little sculpting before you roll your candle all the way. Pinch the wax into a triangle or square and then continue wrapping in the shape you're aiming for.
- ◆ Decorate. If you have different colored sheets of beeswax, cut shapes out of one color and just press them into a candle of another color. Try sprinkling non-flammable glitter into the candle as you roll, it will look cool when it melts.
- ◆ Pass them on and protest oil. For every beeswax candle you make and give out, someone else has to buy one less petroleum based candle. Just make sure you pass along helpful information as well as your candle.



Maybe attach facts about petroleum and the environment with some re-used ribbon and paper.

## Speed Meeting Diversity Activity

Modeled after speed-dating, this exercise will encourage girls to meet girls they've never talked to before. A person will ask questions and quickly get to know at least 10 other girls, thus discouraging cliques and promoting understanding.

- ◆ **Gather your group.** Have everyone count off to form two equal groups. One group will be the inside circle and one will be the outside circle. Each person is facing someone across from herself.
- ◆ **Review the questions.** Each pair will have five minutes to ask each other questions. This conversation should include name, grade level, and three additional questions, like:
  1. What is one thing that you like to do outside of class?
  2. What is one way you like to express yourself?
  3. What is your favorite holiday?
  4. What is a tradition unique to your family?
  5. What's one quality that you look for in a friend?
- ◆ **After five minutes, tell everyone to switch.** The outer circle will move to the next person clockwise while the inner circle stays put.
- ◆ **Continue the questioning process.**
- ◆ **Repeat until everyone has met everyone in the opposite circle.**
- ◆ **Challenge your girls.** Conclude by suggesting they say "hello" to the new people they meet at Girl Scout meetings, events and camps.