



Girl Scouts.
of Connecticut

Advisor Update

January 2010

The Advisor Update is a Program Department newsletter to help keep Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Advisors informed of new programs, resources, and ideas. Please share this with the girls in your troop/group.

Engineering Your Future: April 9-10

Engineering elation will wash over you if you attend Engineering Your Future: East Lyme. Meet with women from the New England Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers and participate in a plethora of hands on activities!

If you would like to get a head start, check out www.eweek.org and you'll have an endless amount of engineering entertainment! Please remember to register by **March 18, 2010**. The program is open to Cadettes, seniors, and ambassadors. See page 14 in the Program Book for more information.



Spaces Available- Bermuda Trip

A few spaces are available for the April 20-27, 2010 trip to Bermuda. Cost will be approximately \$1,100-1,500. The trip is for girls in grades 10-12. Those interested in attending should contact Jacquie-Simpson Gilson at jsimpson-gilson@gsofct.org or at 1-800-922-2770 x3336. A meeting for girls and their parents/guardians will be held at the Torrington Service Center, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday January 11th.

Scholarship Opportunity!

In honor of Dr. Anita Borg, Google has created a scholarship opportunity for female high school seniors looking to study Computer Science when they attend college. The scholars will be chosen from the applicant pool, and scholarships will be awarded based on the strength of each candidate's academic background, passion for computer science, community service and leadership.

Recipients of the scholarship will each receive a \$10,000 award for the 2010-2011 academic year and will be invited to attend the Google FUSE networking retreat in Summer 2011.

Deadline: February 15, 2010

<http://www.google.com/anitaborg/first-years/>

Nonpoint Source Pollution Activities:

EnviroScape is a teaching tool that troops can use to teach about nonpoint source pollution. Older Girl Scouts are especially good at demonstrating this. They will learn about ways that water gets polluted and how to prevent pollution.

Troops that have this training can borrow the EnviroScape to demonstrate and share with others at Camporee workshops and school fairs, and it's a great opportunity to earn leadership and service hours.

The girls will also play a game that demonstrates how a drop of water moves through the water cycle. For more information about the EnviroScape program, please contact Lin Walsh at (203) 762-5557 x. 3812, cwalsh@gsofct.org.



Grocery Bags for Earth Day: April 22!

Working as a troop, with other troops, or leading younger troops, have your Girl Scouts decorate grocery bags to be used on Earth Day. Contact the manager of a local grocery store and ask if your troop can have a "bundle" (that's 500!) of large paper grocery bags to decorate for Earth Day. Explain that you'll return them a day or two before Earth Day.

It might be helpful to bring along an already decorated bag to show. It is also helpful if the bags have one blank or semi-clear side.

Each Girl Scout decorates one or more paper grocery bag with a picture of the earth, the words "Earth Day 2010" or ED40, her troop number, and possibly a catchy Earth Day slogan (i.e., "Re-duce, Re-use, Re-cycle", "Treat the Earth Well", "Do Your Part for our Planet" etc.). After the bags are decorated, they are returned to the store to be distributed to shoppers on Earth Day. That's all there is to it!

Updates on the Silver Award

Until September 30, 2010, girls have the option of beginning the Silver Award the old way or the new way. Girls wishing to start the new way may consult the booklet on GSUSA's website: www.girlscouts.org Silver workshops currently listed in the program book and online are based on the old way. Workshops for the new way will be announced this summer in the Eblast.

General information to Earn the Silver Award the New Way:

1. Every Girl needs to complete one journey- This is the only prerequisite.
2. 1-4 girls can work on a project.
3. 50 hours is recommended.- Quality of the project is most important.
4. The project cannot focus solely on the Girl Scout community; it has to include the extended community such as school, town, local, state.
5. It must be a true Take Action Project.

What Can We Do?

When deciding what type of Take Action Project your troop should do, it's a good idea to approach this question with "What does my community need?" rather than "What do I want to do?"

Thinking this way will help girls implement a truly meaningful Take Action Project. Community mapping is a great way to help girls look at their community.

Whether they view their community as their Service Unit, school, town or state and beyond, try these steps:

- Define what your community is (school, town, etc...)
- Draw the things you know are in the community (classrooms/playgrounds, streets/buildings, offices/clubs, etc...). If you're still having difficulty doing this, it's time for a road trip through your community. Be detectives! Try to remember everything you see so that you can record it later.
- Who is in the community? - Who are the people in the classrooms or buildings? While you're doing this, start thinking of any needs they might have.
- Make a list of the needs that this community has. If you're stuck, speak to the people you've identified. Make sure there truly is a need for your project.
- Once you've identified a few needs that you would like to turn into take action projects, look at you community map and see who else might be interested in helping you. This will help you build your team!
- When you've identified your project, talk to the people on your map. By getting them involved, you're doing the project *with* the community rather than *for* the community. The more people there are involved, the stronger and more sustainable your project will be!

Plan Ahead!!

Look for Girl Scouts of Connecticut's Earth Day celebration at the Westfield Trumbull Mall **April 24th**. Help us save the planet and see what your sister scouts have done for the GSUSA Forever Green Project.



Game: Do You Love Your Neighbor?

Arrange chairs in a circle, making sure you have one fewer chair than participants, and the area in the middle is free of obstacles. Assign each player a number, being sure not to let everyone hear. Let the group know that the numbers range from X to Y.

Begin with one person standing in the center of the circle, and every one else sitting down.

The center person asks one sitting person, "Do you love your neighbor?" The person can reply in two ways:

1. "I love my neighbors!", in which case the two people sitting directly next to them stay put. Everyone else must get up and find a new seat. While the switch is on, the center person tries to find a seat. The last one standing is the new Center Person.
2. "I'd really like new neighbors!", in which case the center person asks, "Which two neighbors would you like?", the sitting person chooses two numbers and says "I'd like (insert two numbers)". When she says this, the two people sitting directly next to her get up, the people with the two numbers get up, and everyone standing- including the standing person- tries to find a seat. The last one standing becomes the center person. (In this situation, everyone else remains in their seats.)

Continue to play in this way until the group wants to end.



Find Us On Facebook!

The Outdoor Program Department wants to be your Facebook friend. Search for Sam Oa and add her as your friend. Receive updates about council outdoor programs and fun facts! See what pictures Sam Oa puts on her page. Who knows? You may be able to tag yourself in one of her photos.