

# *Connect!*

## Volunteer E-Newsletter For Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

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### Volunteer Services

#### Award Nominations

Don't forget that it is never too early to nominate someone for a council award. Have a new leader in your service unit that is doing an exceptional job? Or maybe a seasoned volunteer that is a detrimental part of your local Girl Scout operation. It is never too early. Nomination forms can be found at.....

<http://www.kansasgirlscouts.org/images/stories/forms/volunteerawardnomination2009.pdf>

Be sure to keep track of businesses or other organizations that help your troop or service unit so they can be recognized as well!

#### Learning Opportunities

Do not miss out on a Leadership Essentials offering. If you still need to take the course, be sure to register online or call our office. Course offerings are only held if there are at least 5 participants signed up for the class. If you cannot make the class after you have registered, be sure to let our office know right away! One volunteer in a leadership role with the troop needs to participate in the course within three months of assuming their volunteer position. If you have taken Leadership Essentials but are still looking for some additional guidance remember that we have self directed learning opportunities from everything ranging from The Daisy Petals to Ceremonies! Check your road map for more information!

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### Membership Services

## 'Tis the Season to Simplify

*By Helen Orloff*

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us already. Smiling faces, decorated stores, and the general holiday hustle and bustle fill the air. How can you and the girls celebrate the season, keep traditions, share cultural differences, and end the year with good vibes?

### **Keep It Simple, Sister**

Here's a holiday K.I.S.S. to help you and the girls plan for the holiday season:

#### **Keep it Reasonable**

Planning ahead is what's needed to keep things manageable. The girls may want to go holiday caroling, but do they really have the time to spend the next six weeks practicing? Hanging holiday decorations in a children's hospital ward or a nursing home takes one afternoon and is appreciated and welcomed by many! Take a close look at time constraints as you and the girls plan for the holiday season.

#### **Involve the Girls**

Everyone loves a holiday party, but keep in mind that the definition of "party" can vary. Ask the girls how they want to celebrate the holidays as a group. Do they want to cook and prepare their favorite holiday dishes for all to enjoy? Or is swapping holiday cards over a pizza more in line with how they would like to spend their time?

#### **Spend Time Together—or Not**

Ask the girls whether they want to stay connected over the holiday break or not. If not, the first meeting back can be a great opportunity for everyone to share holiday experiences. If the girls decide they want to stay connected, are they thinking of IM-ing and emailing or taking trips with parents to the mall to use their gift cards?

#### **Set the Tone for the New Year**

Take this time to have girls plan for the post-holiday season. Ask the girls if they want to come back together when school resumes—or do they want a longer break? After what may have been a hectic holiday season, an informal post-holiday season party can be a great way to come back together in the New Year.

**Remember:** the goal is to reduce holiday stress, have time to relax, AND have fun! So K.I.S.S. your way through the season—both with your Girl Scout group and at home!

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## **Celebrating the New Girl Scout Year!**

Planning on attending a program event? Please make sure that you have made your reservation online before the registration deadline. Extra fees will be assessed with all late registrations. If you are having trouble with the reservation system, Contact the Council office! Check the At a Glance in your program guide to verify deadline dates.

Important Program Dates.....Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> is Troop Program Aide Training from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Girl Scout office. Fee is \$7. Be sure to get your reservation in today to be part of this great program.

For more great Program in the Salina Region check your Fall 2009 Road Map!

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## **Product Sales Information**

### **Fall Opportunity Sale**

The Fall Opportunity Sale is winding down. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the new Salsa Mix – definitely a favorite. Gear up for Cookies!

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## **See N Sell**

### **43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SEE 'N' SELL ARTS & CRAFT SHOW**

The annual fundraiser for Girl Scouts will be here in less than three weeks. It takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers to make this event a success. If you haven't yet signed up to volunteer for this event, please call Janet Whitaker at the Salina Girl Scout Office, 785-827-3679, and see what you can do to help.

Also, if you know of a vocal group, musical group, dancers, or any other type of entertainment that would like to perform at See 'N' Sell, there are 30 minute time slots available. Please call Janet for more information.

Remember, the proceeds from See 'N' Sell benefit more than 15,000 Girl Scouts and their troops across the state, as well as council programs such as the financial aid program for families, community-service projects, summer camp offerings, troop trips, educational opportunities for Girl Scouts and their leaders, program development, and much more.

Join the fun and become a part of this year's See 'N' Sell event.

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## **News to Use & Ideas to Motivate**

## Make your way to Hays to Get involved in our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Thin Mint Sprint!

Encourage your girls, families, and Girl Scout supporters to get involved in our Thin Mint Sprint. The event will be held on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Hays State University Campus in Hays! Sign in begins at 9am and the run starts at 10:30 am. This is a great thing for troops to participate in either running or walking. There is a 5K or 1 mile fun run option. For more information or to register

[http://www.active.com/page/Event\\_Details.htm?event\\_id=1798639&assetId=33e6b547-94d9-430e-8547-65f828e202a3](http://www.active.com/page/Event_Details.htm?event_id=1798639&assetId=33e6b547-94d9-430e-8547-65f828e202a3)

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## Contact Us

### Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

Salina Office

1550 S. Broadway

Salina, KS 67401

785-827-3679

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

**So that you'll always be sure to receive *Connect*, add [jamrein@kansasgirlscouts.org](mailto:jamrein@kansasgirlscouts.org) to your email address book.**

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