 **August 2019**

**1 Retreat**

Join us for a fun, relaxing, informative weekend at beautiful Camp Liberty. We welcome you on Friday night with relaxation, networking, painting and a bonfire! This is a wonderful night to bond with other team members, share ideas, ask questions, and gain knowledge from some of the best SUDs in the organization! We look forward to a fun day on Saturday sharing all of our newest resources, plans for the upcoming year, hearing best practices and being fired up for the new year! If you are unable to attend please ask one or two people from your service unit to come in your place and get motivated to provide amazing opportunities for girls and volunteers in your area!

**2 SUD Communication**

The communication plan for the upcoming year for Service Unit Director’s is listed below.

* The fourth Thursday of each month a Top 10 will be emailed to you from your Community Engagement Mgr. This information will speak directly to SUDs and may be pulled into a Leader Mtg. agenda or passed on if relevant to leaders. This will be available on the GSEIWI website.
* Beginning in August the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm there will be a GS LIVE webinar that all leaders and service team members will be invited to attend. This 15-20 minutes webinar will cover only council related information. The recording will be available on the GSEIWI website the next day. All leaders and service team members will receive a link to attend.
* Community Engagement Mgrs. will be connecting to SUDs monthly through email, phone or face-to-face meetings.
* Mid-year check-in meetings will be conducted in December or January.
* Year-end Plan of Work Meetings in May, June or July.

**3 Finance Report**

Reminder for all troops to submit their troop’s finance report by August 31, 2019 through the Finance tab in the Volunteer Toolkit.

**4 Financial Assistance for Membership Dues**

For families in need to be able to participate in Girl Scouts, they can select the financial aid option during registration and will receive an email with the form link requesting additional information. Financial assistance will be processed when the form is completed by the family based on financial eligibility.

Due to limited funds, assistance is no longer available for uniforms and troop dues. Families may need payment options for troop dues or want to use program credit to purchase desired uniform pieces. Established troops can use troop funds to offset costs of uniforms and troop dues.

GSEIWI will continue to give financial assistance for membership dues and camp to eligible families as funds are available.

**5 Looker Webinar**

Beginning August 1st, we will be allowing access to Looker to all SUD’s, Product Mgrs. and Registrars. On August 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM CDT we will be hosting a Looker for Administrative Volunteers webinar, please register here <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7451392900802338307>.

Looker is an online tool that provides current (within one business day) membership information. As a key volunteer supporting local Girl Scout troops, you will be provided access to Looker so that you will be able to obtain your service unit’s membership information. This webinar will explain what Looker is and how you can use it.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**6 Leader Lowdown**

 Leader Low Down is back for another year!    Save the dates of Nov 8 (overnight) and Nov 9 at Camp Liberty.  Registration will begin mid-August.    It will include a variety of subjects that leaders are asking about.  This event is not just for new leaders, but also for all leaders!  Be prepared for another informative day(s) about being the best leader you can be!  Register on the GSEIWI website under Events.

**7 Volunteer Toolkit**

On August 8, 2019, all age levels of the Volunteer Toolkit will be available for Service Unit Director’s, Event Organizer’s and School Organizers.

IRM’s (Individually Registered Members) will also have access to the Volunteer Toolkit. The primary caregiver on an individual registered member’s contact record will be given access to the Volunteer Toolkit through their member community login. It will always be a caregiver’s information for login however; girls who are 14+ may use their caregiver’s login to manage the VTK.

**8 Office and Store Hours**

Girl Scout office and stores hours beginning in August.

* Cedar Rapids and Bettendorf office locations and stores will be open on Monday - Friday between 9 am – 5 pm.
* Dubuque, West Burlington, and Waterloo office locations are open between 9 am – 5 pm when staff are present. The stores will be open from noon-5 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or by appointment.

**9 Fall Sale Program**

The Fall Product Program will take place in October. Do not miss out on this easy money earning opportunity for your troop. Get all information and materials from your service unit product manager at your leader meeting.

**10 Welcome to the 2020 Cookie Program!**

We have so many exciting things to look forward to in 2020: a new cookie, new cookie packaging, and a simpler cookie program structure- just to name a few things!

Girls will WOW the World with all they can do!

* 2020 Cookie Program Dates
* January 12 – Digital Cookie begins, eBudde opens for leaders
* January 24 – Troop orders due in eBudde
* January 27 – Council order due in eBudde
* February 8, 10-13 -Cookie delivery to SU’s
* February 14 – Go day – booths and in-hand sales begin
* March 22 – program ends