 **December 2019**

**1 Membership**

Attached please find the SU Goal spreadsheet that will give you your goals as well as where your service unit is. We are currently at 79% of our membership goal and are certain that we will achieve 100% with the help of you and your team.

Please reach out to lapsed girls, have leaders review their troop rosters to ensure all girls are registered for this year, host “invite a friend” event, have girls and troops be visible in the community and always be looking for potential leaders.

A huge shout out to **Service Unit 836** and **SUD Melissa McNally** for reaching 105% this past week! We have eight service units who are in the 90% and twelve in the 80% so please keep working with us to help achieve these goals!

Community Engagement Managers will be reaching out to partner with Service Units to help support our six week initiative to give all Kindergarten and First grade girls the opportunity to join Girl Scouts. This is a perfect time to give those girls who were not ready in the fall a chance to join and become part of our amazing organization.

**2 Cookies**

**Believe it or not, the 2020 Cookie Program is right around the corner – get your Girl Scouts ready to WOW the World!  Here are some important things you should be aware of as we prepare to hold cookie training in December or January.**

* **More ways to buy, more ways to learn** - **with Digital Cookie!**
The Digital Cookie platform helps girls superpower their cookie sales as they go beyond the booth with mobile and online channels. The platform is a fun, educational tool that helps girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie business online.  Parents will receive a link starting on **December 19** to set up their Digital Cookie Account.  Girls can start sending emails on January 12, 2020.  Check out our [Digital Cookie Page](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/cookies/digitalCookie.html) for information, tip sheets, and training.
* **Clover Credit Card Readers**

GSUSA has partnered with First Data to give us the opportunity to use the Clover Credit card app to process credit card payments.  In an age where customers don’t carry around cash, it is vital that troops have a convenient way to process credit card payments – this app has both!  You will even be able to use your phone camera to read credit cards!  Be on the lookout on our [Cookie Troop Resources](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/cookies/resources.html) page on December 20 for information about training and participating in this program

* **Lemon Ups and Embargo**

We are very excited about the new Lemon Ups cookie!  Each troop will receive a sample package.  In order to generate excitement for the new cookie, GSUSA has put information about Lemon Ups under embargo until January 7, 2020.  Please encourage troops and families to hold off on sharing this information on social media until this date.

**3 Mid-year Calls/Check-in Meetings**
Over the next couple months, we will be reaching out to all troops to check-in and see how the year is going so far. We want to know what has been going well, what you need help with, and what we can do to make your leadership experience even better. Be on the lookout for a call from us, but if you have something you want to share sooner, give us a call at 800-798-0833 or email us at info@girlscoutstoday.org

SUDs – your CEM will be reaching out to you in December and January to set up a time to have coffee with you to review your Plan of Work, discuss what support or needs you have, hear your successes, share your goal and talk about the Service Team Rally’s in January.

**4 Service Team Rally & ST Newsletter**

Please mark your calendars and promote the first Service Team Rally to be held in each region the end of January. This is a result of the SUD retreat and the evaluation feedback. Electronic invites will be send to all registered team members in December. The Service Team Update will go out to all Service Team members electronically the first week in December.

**5**  **Summer Camp 2020**

As we enter the winter months, it’s time to get excited about summer plans and warmer weather! Camp Liberty is gearing up for another amazing summer for 2020 and we can’t wait to see your girls there, to make new friends, memories to last a lifetime, enjoy the outdoors, and so much more!

Be sure to check your emails for information about camp! Important dates to remember:

January 2 – Camp Guide emailed to Very Important Campers

January 16 – Camp Guide emailed to all families

January 21 – Camp Registration open to Very Important Campers

February 3 – Camp Registration open to all families

If you have any questions about summer camp, feel free to give us a call at 800-798-0833 or email at info@girlscoutstoday.org. Hope to see you at Liberty this summer!

Camp Hiring

Do you know anyone that is looking for a summer job working with girls in an outdoor setting? Camp Liberty is looking for staff to help build girls of Courage, Confidence and Character who make the world a better place! To find all open positions visit <https://girlscoutstoday.isolvedhire.com/jobsearch/?classification=Camp>

**6 Veterans Patch**

Introducing the GSEIWI Honoring Veterans Patch!

Do you know a veteran? Maybe someone in your family, neighborhood, or community? This new patch, created in partnership with Girl Scout alumnae and veteran, Senator Tammy Duckworth, aims to celebrate and honor the veterans all throughout our council through acts of service.

To earn the Honoring Veterans Patch, just follow these three easy steps:

* + Complete 2 service activities! Examples can be found in the patch directions here: [tinyurl.com/GSEIWIveteranspatch](file:///%5C%5Cgsqc.ad.girlscouts-mvc.org%5Cgsfolders%5CCommunity%20Volunteer%20Engagement%5CSUD-Service%20Team%20Support%5C2019-20%5CTop%2010%5CDecember%202019%5Ctinyurl.com%5CGSEIWIveteranspatch)
	+ Fill out the form at the bottom of the patch directions.
	+ Turn your form in to your local Girl Scout shop and earn your free patch!

**7 Office Hours**

Don’t forget to check your email for information on the shop clearance extravaganza. Special offers! Limited time only, through December 20!

Hours for the remainder of November:

* Wednesday, November 27: 9-5
* Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29: closed for Thanksgiving

Hours for December:

* Closing at 1:00 on Friday, Dec. 13 for a staff event
* Monday, December 23, shops are closed but offices open

**8 Town Hall Meetings**

 Town Hall Meetings are your opportunity to strengthen the connection between Girl Scouts and your community.  The meetings allow participants to receive information from and give input to the council leadership, influencing policy and operational decisions.  At this year’s meeting we will be discussing the upcoming Girl Scout National Convention being held in Orlando, Florida October 21 - 25, 2020. You will meet the National Delegate nominees and hear about the proposals that will be addressed at this year’s session. We will also have information about our GSEIWI Annual Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Girl Scouts, volunteers, families, and community members can attend one of three Town Hall Meetings in person or remotely via virtual video conference. The remote option allows for people who live far away or cannot attend on the specific date in their community to participate at their home, coffee shop, library, or anywhere they have an internet connection available. Diane Nelson, CEO, and other members of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois council staff and board will attend the specific dates below.

* **Quad Cities Leadership Center**, 940 Golden Valley Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa
* **Tuesday, Jan 21, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 PM
* **Cedar Rapids Leadership Center**, 317 Seventh Avenue SE, Suite 201, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
* **Tuesday, Jan 28, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 PM
* **West Burlington Leadership Center**, 1308 Broadway, West Burlington, IA
* **Thursday, Jan 30, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 pm

Register through the link associated with each date on our activity calendar if you plan to attend in person

**9 Adult Recognitions**

Adult Volunteer Recognition applications, with complete instructions, are now being taken and are all available on our [website](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/for-volunteers/volunteer_recognitions.html). The deadline for submission is February 1, 2020. Please mark your calendar for April 18, 2020, at the Coralville Marriott, for our annual celebration of recognizing our champions for girls – our volunteers!

**10 Lifetime Membership**

It’s that time of year again! When a person is given lifetime membership in Girl Scouts for the holidays, they get a one-of-a-kind gift that drives meaningful change today and tomorrow. And folks who gift lifetime membership between now and December 31 receive a complimentary rose-gold ceramic mug.  Click here for more information on the [**gift of lifetime membership**](http://click.email.girlscouts.org/?qs=add668efee87284d86c45df87f818989f3f579fd0581c4b45efa5fc3d3bdfcfffdfb9c4f847bdd8480485570ed7a549437e844c56f875027).

