 **March 2020**

**1 Membership**

Attached is the current membership report. We have four service units who have achieved their yearend goal and sixteen service units who are at 90% or above. With the Pre-K Daisy recruitment season starting on April 1st, aligned with the New Member Deal and our partnership with service units we are certain that this will help everyone achieve their yearend goal.   Some of the work that the council is working on over the next couple of months is listed below, please partner with your CEM to help us in your region.

* Meeting with Service Units on best action steps for their area
* Contacting pre-Ks, Headstarts, day cares – scheduling time to come read/do an event/recruit
* Looking at their communities for events and locations (ex. libraries) where they can read/do an event/recruit
* Build relationships with schools, K teachers
* Planning for summer events to have programs to keep girls engaged
* Continuing to add on to troops that are already formed\

**2 Renewal**

You heard it here first; the $5/girl renewal incentive is coming back! Please help your Troop Leaders get prepared by mentioning the timeframe for the incentive now. We know there are many logistics involved to determine who is coming back to a Troop, so the sooner people begin thinking about it, the better set everyone will be come renewal time. All the up-to-date information can be found at [www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew). Service Unit goals will be based on your membership as of April 1, 2020, calculated at 45% and emailed to you on April 3.

* The 2020-2021 Girl Scout membership fee for girls and adults is $25.
* Girl Scouts who renew before May 15, 2020, will earn $5 back for their Troop. With this incentive, Troops will receive $5 for every girl who renews in their Troop bank account by June 15, 2020. Girl Scouts participating individually as Juliette’s will receive $5 in program credit.
* The first 400 Direct Primary leaders to renew their membership by May 15, 2020, will receive a $5.00 Girl Scout Shop coupon. Primary Adults receiving the $5.00 rebate will be notified via email by June 15, 2020.
* These incentives are only available for girl and Direct Primary leaders that renew.
* Financial assistance is available to girls or adults. However, those who use this option are not eligible for the $5 incentive because their membership fee is already subsidized.
* A renewal patch will be offered for $1/patch. Orders need to be placed by June 30, 2020.

**3 Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for members to participate in the governance of our council. The meeting will be March 19 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. It will be all online but very important for dedicated volunteers like Service Unit Directors to attend.

Please request your ballot by March 2:

<https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/support-girls/board-of-directors/annualmeeting.html>

**4 High Awards**

Attached is a listing of the girls who have achieved High Awards this past year. Please note that there is an “action step” in your Plan of Work to “Support, Promote and recognize all High Awards for girls.”

**5**  **Outdoor Program**

Spring Equestrian Weekend Riding

Looking for outdoor horse riding opportunities? Camp Liberty has weekend riding programs for all ages (K-12) coming up this spring. From Daisy Pony Rides, Brownie Arena Rides, to Junior thru Ambassador Trail Rides girls will also be able to meet the horses, tour the equestrian facility and learn safety and grooming.  For more information or to register for a weekend riding opportunity, visit <https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/outdoor/horseback_riding.html> or email info@girlscoutstoday.org.

Summer Camp at Camp Liberty

With the warmer weather, comes thoughts of summer camp! Camp Liberty invites girls entering 2nd grade thru 12th grade to spend a week at camp trying new things - whether it be cooking over a fire, climbing on the rock wall or learning a new outdoor skill, making lifelong friendships, or finding a connection with the outdoors, to name a few! Camp offers a variety of sessions to fit any type of camp experience, so be sure to view available sessions [here](http://girlscoutstoday.doubleknot.com/openrosters/ViewActivitySpaceAvailable.aspx?OrgKey=3088&CategoryID=13487). For more information on a summer camp experience visit <https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/outdoor/summercamp.html> or email info@girlscoutstoday.org. We hope to see you this summer at Camp Liberty!

**6 Leading the Way**

Mark your calendar for our annual Leading the Way event to be held on April 18, 2020 at the Coralville Marriott in Coralville, Iowa. We will recognize all champions of girls in our council who go above and beyond to build girls of courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place. We are honored and privileged to have Jean Lloyd-Jones as a distinguished guest at this unforgettable evening. Jean is from Iowa City and has a long history of being a trailblazer for women’s rights throughout her public service career. Watch for your electronic invite coming to your inbox or click this [link](https://www.tinyurl.com/2020leadingtheway) to get registered.

**7 *Girl Scout Voices Count* - survey coming in April. Your voice counts!**

In April, Girl Scouts of the USA will send a national survey to girls, parents/caregivers, and troop leaders called *Girl Scout Voices Count.*  At Girl Scouts, we care about your experience and we want to hear from you!  Share what is going well or what needs some work.  We will use your feedback to find out if girls are reaching Girl Scout outcomes, to improve services and understand the impact of Girl Scout programs.   Girl, Parent, Troop Leader surveys open April 6 –May 1, with reminders.  Once completed, the reminders stop though you may get more than one survey for members of your family and you. Service Unit volunteer surveys go out around May 11.  Thank you for letting your voice count!

**8 Girl Scout Shop**

Check out our selection of council-own merchandise on our website. Order on the website or stop by our Bettendorf or Cedar Rapids shops for the full selection.

Don’t forget your 2019 Virtual Program Credit will be expiring soon. You have until May 1, 2020.

Program Credit may be used for:

* Council sponsored events and trips
* Service unit sponsored events
* Girl Scout shop (except for online orders)
* Resident Camp
* Day Camp
* Trading Post
* Troop camping or troop horseback riding

Program Credit may **NOT** be used for:

* National membership dues
* Events with Program Partners or 3rd party vendors where the registration fee is not handled by GSEIWI
* Reimbursing your troop for activities or supplies
* Online ship orders

**9 Cookies**

**Inventory Control**

Now that the cookies are here, Inventory Control becomes key! Here are some strategies that have been proven to be successful:

* Order enough cookies on the Initial Inventory Order
* Use leftover troop cookies for booths before you order more
* Check in with families on a regular basis
* Sign up for a credit card reader
* Swap between girls and troops
* Use the Cookie Exchange in eBudde
* Use Service Unit cookie swap sites
* Don’t wait until the end to ask for help

**Reward Orders Due on March 29**

* Before you can enter final rewards, you must finish allocating all of your troop cookies
* Don’t forget to enter Care to Share and booth sales

**Final ACH: April 1, 2020**

* Go to the Sales Report Tab in eBudde and look for the “Amount you owe Council.”
* Fill out any [Problem Collection Forms](https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/k1fhwqi03agf0e/) with receipts no later than March 25, 2020.

**10 Save the Date!**

* Thursday, March 12, 2020 - Girl Scout Birthday
* Thursday, March 19, 2020 - Annual Mtg.
* Saturday, April 18, 2020 –
	+ Honoring Excellence
	+ President’s Award Reception
	+ Leading the Way, Honoring Champions of Girls
* Wednesday, April 22, 2020 – Leader Appreciation Day
* Saturday, May 16, 2020 – 75th Anniversary of Camping – Camp Liberty
* May 4 – 11, 2020 - National Bridging Week
* Saturday, June 6, 2020 – One Tough Cookie
* June 7 – July 31, 2020 – Summer Resident Camp