

# Association 51 Newsletter

December 2005

Issue #4

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## Tips and Suggestions

- Remember to get ALL of your girls registered! If they aren't registered, they can't sell cookies!
- Don't forget to give out Summer Camp Brochures to your parents AS SOON AS YOU GET THEM! Deadlines for these camps are soon and we want every girl to have a chance to go!
- Girl Applications to be considered for the girl place on the GSCNC Board of Directors are due to the Council by December 15, 2005.
- December 5 is International Volunteer Management Appreciation Day. So, Remember to say thank you to all of those special people who give of themselves to make sure our communities have the necessary volunteer opportunities it takes to make them a place to call home!

## Muslim Youth Find a Bridge In a U.S. Tradition: Scouting

*By Tara Bahrapour*

*Washington Post Staff Writer*

*Monday, November 21, 2005; B01*

Standing before 100 or so girls in green, brown and blue Girl Scouts vests, Sarah Hasan, the leader of Brownie Troop No. 503, explained the Islamic Ramadan fast. "We're not allowed to eat or drink anything from dawn to dusk for a whole month," she said, noticing that some girls looked shocked. "It's a month to be grateful for all the things that you have." Ramadan, which fell this year in October and November, ends with a big feast called Eid al-Fitr. Last week, five Girl Scout troops from the All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Sterling hosted an Eid party for five Herndon area troops, their mothers and troop leaders, to share a meal and help demystify Muslim cultural and religious traditions. The annual event, in its fifth year, was one of the activities many Muslim families -- especially those with one or more immigrant parents -- say are important to help integrate their sons and daughters into the rituals of American childhood. For many Muslim children, living in the United States means constantly balancing between being an observant Muslim and an American kid -- identities that aren't always in sync. "Unlike where we grew up [in Muslim countries], when they walk out the door, they're seeing something different from what we teach them," Hasan said. "So you can't say, 'That's just the way it is.' It's always like, 'But why? But how?'" Many Muslim immigrants have sought to bridge their old and new worlds since they began coming to the United States in large numbers during the 1960s. But since Sept. 11, 2001, as they have faced increasing hostility and scrutiny, parents and community leaders say, cultural integration is more vital than ever. "How do we deal with harassment, post-9/11? That's part of our education program: letting people know who Muslims are," said Rizwan Jaka, president of the Muslim society and a Cub Scout den leader. Like anyone else, he said, Muslims "want to be sure [our children] grow up with good character and good citizenship," and they seek out activities accordingly. In the Washington area, home to about 250,000 Muslims from several countries, those activities include scouting, basketball, football, cricket and table tennis. The Muslim society's center, which attracts Muslims from across Virginia, the District and Maryland, has hosted Muslim comedians and Muslim concerts and held interfaith exchanges with churches and an Eid festival with a moonbounce. "This is part of the normal progression of our community," Jaka said. "They're wholesome community activities that are compatible with who we are, which is wholesome Americans." Many on the Muslim society's board are, like Jaka, younger than 35 and born in the United States to immigrant parents. "We've gone through the system here, so we have a better idea of what our young people are facing," he said. "As other mosques progress and more young people take over, you'll see more transformation toward that." U.S. Muslim scout troops have been increasing in the past two decades, said Donald York, director of the relationship division of the Boy Scouts of America: 112 troops with 1,948 members are chartered through an Islamic school or mosque. "What's happening now in the Islamic community is

## SU Goals to-date

SU	Last Year	Current	Goal	Needed
1	373	384	380	(4)
5	390	359	398	44
7	468	416	477	61
9	302	243	309	66
11	305	326	332	6

## Muslim Girl Scouts, continued...

Very similar to what was happening in the 1920s and '30s in Boy Scouts . . . with the Jewish community," York said. "They used scouting to assimilate their young people into America." York said scouting values -- which include an adherence to faith -- mesh well with Muslim ones. "Islamic families and clergies want the same thing for young people," he said. "They want them to grow up in their faith and learn their histories and cultures," he said. "Things like trustworthy, obedient, clean and helpful" -- elements of Scout Law -- "these are predominant Muslim ideas. They're very attractive to an Islamic family." A spokeswoman for Girl Scouts of the United States of America said the organization does not ask scouts' religious affiliation but does encourage spirituality. Troops often meet in churches, synagogues, and, increasingly, mosques. "It's a pretty common thing," said Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations. "In fact, we did an ad campaign trying to show Muslims as regular people, and that was one of the things we showed: a Muslim Girl Scout troop in California." Most Muslim children attend public schools and absorb American culture there, Hooper said. But people whose children attend Islamic school or are home-schooled also say connections with non-Muslims are important. "In this society, everybody has to learn to live together," said Zohra Sharief, a Pakistani living in Woodbridge who home-schools her five children and co-leads Troop No. 503. "If I isolate myself from the society, it's my loss." It helps to have non-Muslim peers who understand the traditions, Hasan said. Still, she said, as immigrants arrive from Muslim countries and start families here, they must differentiate between what is religious and what is cultural and decide which American cultural practices to embrace and incorporate. Many note, for example, that dress is a cultural choice. Some immigrants arrive accustomed to wearing Western attire; some hew to the sartorial traditions of their home countries; some make compromises, such as forgoing headscarves but forbidding miniskirts. Hasan, 34, who is of Indian descent and was raised in Kuwait, said she and her three daughters do not wear head coverings except during prayers. "I tell them, 'We're in America; you can wear pants.' " But she has a blanket rule against another American ritual: sleepovers. "It's not religious," she said of her reasoning, "but I remember my mom said it's not decent for young ladies to be sleeping in a house other than their own." At the center last week, in a large room that serves as a prayer hall, party room and indoor gym, girls in headbands and jeans sat beside girls in headscarves and *shalwar kameez* -- tunics and trousers -- to make crepe-paper Eid necklaces. Hasan told the girls about Eid rituals, such as putting henna on their hands; taught them to say " *Salaam -u- aleikum* ," Arabic for "Peace be upon you"; and read a story about a family celebrating Eid. Afterward, Mona Magid, 6, a Brownie in a magenta headscarf who is the daughter of the society's imam, explained more about fasting. "Like if you weren't eating for the entire day, the way your throat would get dry is how the poor feel," she said. "So Muslims want to try to help the poor." Ashley d'Hedouville, 7, a second-grader at Clearview Elementary School in Herndon, said she learned that "Ramadan is when you eat at night." Her sister Ann Marie, 8, said she knew about fasting from a classmate. "My friend does that. She goes to the library" during lunch. Once she and her classmates learned the reason, "we wouldn't talk about food in front of her, or drinks." While the Girl Scouts munched on *halal*, or religiously sanctioned, hot dogs, the center's Muslim Boy Scout troops met downstairs for pizza, and the adults had their own cultural exchange. The Muslim mothers brought dishes from their home countries (chicken curry, rice, lamb and samosas) and from the United States (pasta casserole) and a large cake wishing a happy Eid. Gina Gallagher, a Herndon resident attending the dinner for the second consecutive year, said getting to know the Muslim mothers had been a revelation. "A lot of people look at the women with the head scarves, and they can't relate," she said. "You look at a woman like that and you're like, 'I don't have anything in common with her.' And then you sit down, you eat, you realize you all have the same problems."

## *What's Going On?*

Junior Troop 4106 of 51-7 raised money by having bake sales, etc. to collect enough toys to send to a poor island in the Bahamas for children who do not receive any presents during the holiday season.

They made over 20 bears from Build-A-Bear and bought over 130 toys. Then they packed all the toys, wrapping paper, and scotch tape in boxes. The items are currently on their way to making these children smile during the holidays!!

**From the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and your Field Director, have a safe and happy Holiday and we'll see you in the New Year!**

Come see The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe at Reston Multiplex Cinemas. This is a recruiting event so please bring a friend who might be interested in joining Girl Scouts. The Association will subsidize \$1 of the ticket price for all registered Girl Scouts in Association 51, making the ticket price \$5. All others can pay the discounted cost of \$6 per person. Families are welcome to come and enjoy a day at the movies with us!

# Meet Somebody Special

## Association 51 Organizers

Each Association is divided into Service Units and each Service Unit is run by a team that works closely, together, with the association, and the Field Director to make life easier for the leaders and volunteers in their area. Important members of this team are the Organizers. They are the wonderful women that sit at tables at back-to-school nights, new student orientation, Girl Scout nights, etc. They pass out flyers, recruit leaders, and set up our wonderful troops. They also work throughout the year to find troop new girls. An Organizer's job is never done and we wouldn't be where we are now without them!

Lisa Stosch  
Dogwood

I was a Girl Scout from Brownies through Cadettes. My favorite memory of that time is when I attended a Girl Scout hiking camp for juniors. The counselors were great and I remember making many new friends. The hiking was tough, but fun and I learned to carry only what I really needed!

As an adult, I got re-acquainted with Scouts through my daughters, as I'm sure most moms and dads do. I started as an Assistant Leader for my older daughter's Daisy troop and now I head up a team of four leaders in that same troop as Cadettes. I have a deep fondness for these girls and I'm very proud of all their achievements. In addition I play the role of "helpful mom" to my younger daughter's troop and I enjoy that tremendously. All the fun with no planning required!

Liz Goswick  
Sunrise Valley

Liz has been a leader for five years and currently leads a Junior and a Brownie troop. Liz has been happily married to Dan for 16 years. She has three wonderful kids: a son, William, and two daughters, Allison and Sarah. Liz currently works as an instructional assistant at SVES helping upper elementary kids learn math. Liz is currently taking classes in special education and hopes to be hired as a full time special education teacher next fall. She spends most of her "free" time transporting her kids to events, attending soccer games, planning scout meetings, and helping with homework.

Barbara Ann Roszko  
Terraset

Barbara Ann began leading scouts when my daughter was a daisy and she is now a senior in high school. She was the first field assistant in our council under the direction of Judy Baldwin. She directed sampler camp for 5 years and a camp at Crowell in 99 and has been an orientation

specialist. Barbara Ann loves large groups of children in a troop and believes in diversity and multilevel troops. Her mom was her troop leader and went on to work for her council as an organizer. In the past couple of years, she has run two troops, one at Shadowwood Community Center and one at the Cedar Ridge Community Center. She also helped with a teen troop at the YMCA last year. This year, she is keeping herself busy with the Shadowwood troop, organizing at Terraset Elementary School, and assisting private and pre-schools start their own troops. She is the mother of 2, a boy and a girl, and is a long time teacher at Reston Day School.

Debbie Szymczyk  
Hunters Woods

Debbie Szymczyk is Organizer at Hunters Woods Elementary. Debbie became involved in Girl Scouts when she started a Brownie troop at the school in 2003. She accepted the position of Organizer in 2004. Although Debbie lives in Herndon, both of her children attend school in Reston, so her Junior troop is in SU 51-1. She has an official camp name after working for two weeks at Camp Crossroads this summer. Debbie has lived in the Northern Virginia area since 1976, when her Navy father settled down in Fairfax.

Danielle Hicks  
Lake Anne

As a girl I joined Girl Scouts in the middle of fourth grade soon after I moved to NJ when my new neighbor invited me to a troop meeting. I had a blast and I have a lot of great memories in Tick Country! After I bridged to Cadettes, I moved away and didn't join Girl Scouts after the move. I moved back to the same town in NJ my senior year of high school. Though I didn't realize it at the time, a big part of the reason that I was able to make the difficult move my Senior year was because of the friendships that I made in Girl Scouts. I have found them to be some of the most enduring connections that I've made – in fact – my friend that introduced me to Girl

Scouts was my Maid of Honor when I got married. I'm a busy gal – I work in DC for a national initiative to grow philanthropic giving (gotta love that hour commute). I volunteer a lot in philanthropy - I serve on a national board for emerging leaders in philanthropy and for a fledgling board for Blacks in philanthropy in the Washington, DC area. Interested in volunteering where I live, and remembering all the fun I had as a girl, I responded to an ad for a Girl Scout leader of an Outreach troop in Herndon (51-9). My daughter Sydney, (3 ½ at the time) and I couldn't wait to get started...so much so that I volunteered for the Outreach troop AND a Brownie troop at Lake Anne last year. Sydney is so excited to be a Daisy (my husband, on the other hand, is a little less excited at what we've taken on).

Tamara Newman  
Aldrin

I am a Troop Leader and Organizer for Buzz Aldrin Elementary School in Reston, Virginia. I have been a Girl Scout for approximately 9 years, with 7 of those being a Brownie, Junior and Cadette Scout. In addition to Girl Scouts, I also hold a shodan in Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Karate. I am the mother of the most precious little girl in the world! I am an animal lover and avid horse lover. I am looking forward to exposing my scouts to the wonderful world of brownies through songs, camping and other activities. We are planning an action packed year for our girls that will instill a respect for the environment, country, and most of all self. I am also a full-time working single mother. I am a Senior Program Manager for Sprint Nextel.

Jackie Gadoua-Jan  
Forest Edge

Jackie Gadoua-Jan's Girl Scouting started as a Brownie when she lived in Miami and continued when she moved to VA.

Her mother didn't know about Girl Guides when she moved to Switzerland and then Pakistan or she could have had an even broader GS experience! Her oldest daughter got involved in GS's in the 3rd grade and when the troop needed a cookie mom, Jackie volunteered. Most of you know what happens next - LEADER!!! She enjoys leading two troops now, seniors and Daisy's.

Janet Walter  
Fox Mill

Janet Walter, and husband, Dale, have lived in the Fox Mill Community for over 11 years. They have a Scouting Family! Over the previous 10 years, both have been active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for their three sons. Last year, Janet joined Girl Scouts with her daughter.

Janet is co-leader and First Aider for her daughter's Brownie Troop, and is serving as the Fox Mill Organizer this year. She is presently a "stay-at-home" mom who seems to be in the car most of the time driving kids around, and trying to keep up with the various scout/band/orchestra/sports/dance/school schedules of her four kids!

Anu Girish  
Nysmith

Hi, I'm Anu Girish, the Girl Scout Organizer for Nysmith School in Herndon. This is my first year as an organizer and 2nd year as a parent volunteer to my daughter Kiran's Brownie troop. I was a girl scout growing up and fondly remembered every experience. The 12 girls in our troop enjoy role-playing, dancing, arts & crafts (especially SWAPs), selling GS cookies, and participating in community service projects. During the day, I work as a technical writer in the software department of a government agency. On weeknights and weeknights, I am a full-time mom of two wonderful girls (Kiran and Prabha) and wife to my husband of 11 years, Girish. As a family, we enjoy reading, watching TV and movies, cooking, traveling, hiking, and telling stories.

Veronica Lopez  
Herndon and McNair

I joined scouts with my oldest daughter in first grade in 1988. I became her Girl Scout leader in 1990 and I have led troops with all three of my daughters since. I am currently leading a cadet troop at St Joseph's school. I became a school organizer in 1993 for Herndon Elementary until 1998, and managed cookie booths for 51-9&11. I have worked with the Congressional Aid program at council for two years. I have worked and run brownie and Junior core camps with

senior troops from both 51-9 and 51-11. I moved onto being a SU manager in 1999-2005. I am currently organizing two elementary schools, Herndon and McNair. I do not know how to say no.... Veronica Lopez (All Girl scout leaders go to heaven right?)

Beth Covert  
St. Joseph's

My name is Beth Covert and I am the St. Joseph Elementary School Troop Organizer in Herndon, Virginia for Service Unit 51-9. This is my third year as organizer. St. Joseph's school has all levels of scouts from Kindergarten Daisies to 8th Grade Cadettes. We have a very active scout program at St. Joseph's and all credit goes to the wonderful adult volunteers and parents who make Girl Scouting so great for all of the girls involved. I have two daughters, one 13 year old who was in Girl Scouts up until the end of Junior Scouts. I have an 11 year old who is currently in my 6th grade troop. I have been involved in Girl Scouts for 9 years as an adult and have really learned so much from the girls I have had the pleasure to work with. I truly believe that Girl Scouts has such a positive influence on our girls in this time of their lives. It is important to keep them involved in activities that have a positive influence with every thing else that they are bombarded with.

I thank everyone who has helped make my "job" as organizer a rewarding one and have enjoyed helping out all of those who want to make our children's lives so much more rewarding through Girl Scouts!

Kim Mister  
Clearview

Living in Herndon for 3 years now with husband Jerry, 2 daughters, Laura (9) and Sarah (6) and a menagerie of animals including 2 dogs named Brownie and Daisy. Originally from Alabama, moved here from Colorado Springs after husband got out of Army. Works at Hutchison Elementary as Clinic Aide. Volunteers regularly at Clearview Elementary, for the town of Herndon and is a member of Herndon Women's Club. Hobbies are cooking and crafts. Third year as troop leader. Currently has second year brownies. Troop co leader is Debbie d'Hedouville, both received outstanding leader award last year.

Razia SoHail  
ADAMS Center

My name is Razia Sohail and I am the Organizer of ADAMS Girl Scouts. This is my second year as an organizer for ADAMS. I have had a wonderful

experience being the Organizer. From having 4 troops last year for ADAMS, we have gone to 8 troops (with over a hundred girls) this year. My total Girl Scout experience started when my older daughter became a daisy (seven years ago, wow time sure flies by). I assisted as a parent volunteer during the earlier Girl Scout years, in Maryland, and had some great times. One of the wonderful experiences we had was when my daughter was in grade one and we planned for the troop to do a Pakistani dance during thinking day. All the girls were dressed up in my daughter's Pakistani clothes and looked really adorable. The dance was a success and the girl's picture was published in the local community paper. That is a memory I will cherish forever.

Personally I am a Project Manager for a software development firm and travel to Maryland daily. Needless to say that's not a fun commute. Recently, I started a teen troop for my older daughter and am planning to have a blast with the teen girls. Love Girl Scouting.

# Super Cute Ceremonies!

## The Making of a Girl Scout Troop (Trail Mix Ceremony)

- Girl Scouts coming all colors, from all races around the world. Every Girl Scout is a sister no matter where she is from, no matter the language she speaks, no matter the color of her skin. Girl Scouts are the color of the rainbow. (M&M Candies)
- We have a promise and a law. On our honor, we try to do our best to be fair and square. (Chex Cereal)
- Some of us are tall and some of us are small. When we get together, size doesn't matter at all. (Pretzel thins and mini marshmallows)
- Sometimes we are nutty. We love to joke and play. We'd love to put a Girl Scout smile into everyone's day. (Peanuts)
- Sometimes we are quiet and thoughtful. We have special gifts of love and caring to give in service to those who need our help. (Goldfish crackers)
- When we get together we seem to make circles. We may sit in circles, play circle games, or make a friendship circle. You could say that we are well rounded. (Cheerios)
- When we are busy planning a project, or doing a craft, we pop around until we're done. (Popcorn)
- Girl Scouts respect all living things. The earth is our home and we want to keep it safe for everyone. (Animal Crackers)
- Girl Scouts are "chips off the old block". Girl scouting began in 1912. Since then we all have been a part of an old tradition, and proud to be part of the future. (Banana chips or chocolate chips)
- We get a kick out of wearing our uniforms, learning new things, helping others and being together with our friends. (Kix cereal)
- Young Girl Scout may be hard to resist because they are fresh, sweet, and new, but the older scout may be more fun because she has more experience. (Raisins)
- As you can see, it takes many things to make a Girl Scout troop. Enjoy the benefits of your labor by passing around the bowl and sharing your love of Girl Scouting with others.

## Gifts of a Dime and a Tiny Box (Rededication and Investiture)

We have something we want to give each of you girls tonight--A bright, shiny new dime. Now, a dime doesn't do much by itself. You have to put it with something in order for it to be useful. Put 25 cents with it and you have enough for a phone call. Put 40 cents with it and you might have enough to buy a candy bar or a pack of gum.

You can save more dimes, put it all in the bank and let it make more money in interest. You could take this dime home, throw it in a dresser drawer and not use it at all. You could even lose it before you get home!

Now, I want you to tell me, how many pennies does it take to equal this one dime?

Right, it takes 10 pennies - 10 very equal and important parts. Well when you take the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law and add it all together, it equals Girl Scouting!

[Repeat the GS Law]

Now we have one more thing to give you: a tiny little box. The wrapping may be a bit wrinkled and the ribbon may not be quite perfect, but its what's INSIDE that counts!

Just like the dime, you have to put something with it to make it really worthwhile.

Now, you won't be receiving all of your gift at one time. We hope to give it to you over a period of many years, in small doses and as painlessly as possible!

We want to give you Girl Scouting!!!

And with this gift we also give you our hopes that you will learn from it, grow with it, work with it, use it everyday, enjoy all of it and keep it with you for the rest of your life!

Now, New Girl Scouts and Old Girl Scouts alike, let us all join together in saying the Girl Scout Promise.

[Repeat the GS Promise]

As we're sure you have already noticed. The little box that we just gave to you was wrapped in Gold paper and tied with Silver ribbons - This is to remind you of all of the Wonderful, Wonderful Friends you are going to make this year. As the Song goes, "Make New Friends but keep the old. One is Silver and the other is Gold!"

And now as we share our friendship, we will all think about all of our special Girl Scout Sisters right here and around the world and all of the fun and excitement that awaits us this year!