

Association 51 Newsletter

February 2006

Issue #6

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Special

Tips and Suggestions

- Start thinking about your end of the year plans, including ceremonies, trips, events, and, especially, EARLY BIRD!
- SHARE! Don't forget about your SHARE envelopes! Association 51 is about 51% to their final goal for the year. Keep them coming and don't hold them, turn them in! Every dollar matters in the life of the Council!
- Summer is just around the corner, so make sure your girls and their parents have every opportunity to participate in a variety of camps and activities this summer with Girl Scouts! Get those brochures out!
- Don't forget! Recognitions materials for those awards to be given at the Annual meeting in April are due February 14.

Sampler Camp Needs A Director!

The Girl Scout Sampler Camp is a community-based camp intended as an outreach to non-Girl Scouts in the Reston and Herndon area. From its creation in 1998, it has grown in leaps and bounds! The original camp was a partnership with Darryl Smith, Vice mayor of Herndon, who was then the community outreach officer of the Herndon Police. It was in a vacant apartment at Elden Terrace and had probably 30 or so girls and boys. The director was a college student and the staff was all teen girls except for the director and Darryl's wife, Maria Smith. The camp moved to the Resource Center the next summer and Barbara Ann Roszko became the director. The result of the camp was that 17 girls showed up for the first troop meeting at Elden Terrace.

Last year, Sampler Camp, directed by Shirl Sayadian, ran for 3 weeks at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon. Campers, girls 4 – 14 and staff boys, explored a variety of activities with a different theme each day of the week. They learned about different cultures and countries, space, animals, nature, science, dance, Girl Scout Traditions, and the list could go on. Campers also went on a field trip each week including Frying Pan Park, The Udvar-Hazey Air and Space Museum, and Lake Fairfax. We even had a Boy Scout come and do a week of activities with the campers to earn his Eagle Award! What a blast!

Summer of 2006 is fast approaching and it is time to start planning Sampler Camp once more. This year, camp will relocate to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon and will run for 2 weeks from July 3 – 14. We will also maintain a similar format of a traditional camp with units and stations that worked so well last year, although slightly tweaked to be even better! This, however, is the planning that has taken place thus far. Why haven't we done more, you ask? **WE ARE MISSING SOMEONE! WE NEED A DIRECTOR! COULD THAT BE YOU?**

Leadership, Creativity, Enthusiasm for Girl Scouts, Energy! We need it all in one (or two)! You will work closely with the Field Director to develop a worthwhile program to enhance a young girl's life. The rewards are endless once you see even on bright, smiling faces looking up at you and knowing that you have made a difference in her life.

Interested? Know someone who would be great? **Call Jenna immediately! 202-237-1670 extension 292**

Interested in working at camp? We're also looking for aides, unit leaders, and a primary First Aider. Contact Jenna!

* all positions are paid positions, but can be voluntary.

SU Goals to-date

<u>SU</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Needed</u>
1	373	409	380	(29)
5	390	397	403	6
7	468	460	477	17
9	302	259	309	50
11	305	348	332	(17)

Letter from the Field Director

Farewell Association 51,

I want to announce that I will be leaving my position as Field Director, within the month. I am currently waiting on a security clearance and then I will move on to the help desk at CACI in Chantilly as a Customer Service Specialist. I will be returning to Girl Scouts as a volunteer and probably as a Service Unit Manager in Association 80.

The council is currently starting the process of recruiting for a replacement and hopefully there will be a period of overlap so that I can train whoever comes in.

I want you all to know that I have appreciated your time, energy, talents, and most of all, friendships. It has been a pleasure working for and with all of you and I look forward to working with you again as I transition back to being a volunteer. I am so excited that I will finally be able to have my own troop!

Sincerely,
Jenna Cooper

What's Going On?

Service Unit 51-7 kicked off the year with their first "Leader Bonus Session"! For a half hour before the regular meeting, leaders came together and shared about games. All enjoyed themselves and a list of games discussed is available upon request. This month, the Leader Bonus session will focus on craft... something sweet & lovely, perfect for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, or any other special occasion.

Several of our wonderful Senior troops are putting the final touches on their end of the year trips. Some include a week in London, a trip to Greece and the Islands, and also a trip to California just to explore and have fun. If you have a wonderful and unique trip that you are planning, let us know so we can share with everyone the wonderful things Girl Scouts are doing in Reston and Herndon!

Several girls from Associations 50, 51, and 56 came to help out with a unique program called "Mother/Daughter Personal Safety Day". This program was a partnership between the Herndon Police and the Girl Scouts and was intended for the frequent users of the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. While it did not turn into a large event, it was successful and we are looking into offering a similar program to current Girl Scouts, their friends, and, of course, their wonderful moms! Stay tuned!

Senior Troop 4517 took a cruise on Royal Caribbean's "Enchantment of the Seas" during the last week of January. Departing from Ft. Lauderdale, they visited Key West, Cozumel, and spent a day out at sea. I'm sure they all had a blast and would love to go again!

Meet Somebody Special

Jan A. Verhage, Executive Director Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital

Jan Verhage, who was named Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC) in 1985, revitalized a sluggish organization that today ranks first in programs and membership among more than 330 Girl Scouts councils nationwide. The Council of the Nation's Capital has nearly 69,000 girl and adult members, more than 3,700 troops and over 20,000 volunteers. The GSCNC's impressive year-round program enhances the traditional camping and cookie sales with innovative special activities in science, math, languages, photography and other areas of interest that help girls and teenagers develop to their fullest potential and become competent, resourceful women.



With the GSCNC, Ms. Verhage manages a budget of nearly \$9 million, a full-time staff of 85 in the Washington headquarters and satellite offices in Leesburg, Manassas and Waldorf, more than 400 part-time staff members, and seven camp properties.

GSCNC has extended programs to typically underserved populations such as girls in temporary living centers and juvenile justice centers and communities of new immigrants who do not speak English. The council's outstanding programs have resulted in news coverage by virtually all local print and broadcast media as well as such national media outlets as *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN and major network news shows.

Ms. Verhage is co-founder and chair of the Metropolitan Washington Human Services Coalition, an organization of nonprofit CEOs, a member of the Leadership Policy Task Force of the Church Association for Community Service, a former president of the International Children's Alliance, and a graduate of Leadership Washington. Her areas of expertise include board development, management of conflict and change, fund raising and marketing. Ms. Verhage's future-directed management style and strong advocacy for girls have earned her the reputation as one of the country's foremost nonprofit executives.

Prior to her career with the GSCNC, Ms. Verhage was executive director of the Patriots' Trail Girl Scout Council of Boston and of the DuPage County Girl Scout Council of Naperville, IL. She also had held fund development and field services positions with councils in California and Illinois.

Jan Verhage earned BS from California State University at Northridge and an MBA from Benedictine University, and she did advanced studies at Boston University. Her honors include selection as one of Washington's Emerging Leaders by the Meyer Foundation in 1999, being named a Washingtonian of the Year by *Washingtonian Magazine* in 1997, and recipient of the Amelia Earhart Award for Outstanding Service to Women in Metropolitan Boston in 1984. A resident of Washington, DC, her hobbies include travel and photography.

The **Camping Department** needs your assistance. As I am sure you are aware we are in the middle of our Resident Camp registration process. To date, we have close to 800 applications in the system. However, I am concerned that several parents still have not received their camp brochures.

Please be sure to distribute the **resident camp brochures** to the girls in your troop and remind parents to apply PRIOR to March 3, 2006. Even rising 1st graders can attend a 3-day session. We depend on our troop leaders to distribute the camp brochures. Please help us spread the word on this great summer opportunity

If you are finding that troops still need camp brochures please feel free to share the website address and access code with them. It is as follows **register.gscnc.org/residentcamp/** the access code is summer.

Parents can download a copy of the camp brochure through this site or browse for program offerings using the BROWSE or SEARCH button

Thank you for continuing to help us spread the message

THAT CAMP GIVES KIDS A WORLD OF GOOD

From Public Relations:

Volunteer for Sudden Service!

How would your troop like to visit the White House? Or perhaps visit a radio or television station and be on-air live?? Each year, GSCNC receives various requests from local organizations, national organizations, and governmental agencies for Girl Scouts to perform duties such as participate in flag ceremonies, help at receptions, usher at special events and serve as race marshals. These are just some of the assignments.

Sudden Service was formed in order to fulfill these requests, many which are made at the last minute. Some requests are for a specific number of girls, a particular age group or an ethnically diverse group of girls who are representative of the GSCNC membership. Troops are needed in the program to represent GSCNC at these important public events. Troops are picked on a **“first come first served”** basis when a call is put out for an event. If your troop can do things on short notice (from one day to one month) please visit

www.gscnc.org/info/suddenservice.php,

or contact:

Belinda McBean/PR Department E-mail:
bmcbean@gscnc.org **Call: 202-237-1670 ext. 206**

The **Program Department** is working to offer the following help Community Outreach camps (both spring and summer camps):

- **Traveling Wizards** will provide a full day of science related activities for one day of camp. This includes a person to facilitate the program and supplies needed (other than basic supplies such as scissors.) (Based on the size of your camp, the Traveling Wizard may need assistance from teens or adults at your program.) To request a Traveling Wizard contact Jenny Robertson at jrobertson@gscnc.org or 202-237-1670 ext 310. Jenny will match you with one of our wizards and then wizard and camp director can work out details.
- **Fit & Fun** is a canned health-focused program based on the Try-Its, badges, etc. outlined in the Smart Living program. Fit & Fun will include detailed plans for activities to fill 10 days of camp, and will include ideas for health theme specific arts, crafts, songs, etc. As much as possible, each day will be self-contained, so camps can select any or all of the days. The program outline will be available on line so anyone can adapt it to their camp. Many of the theme-specific supplies will be provided for community outreach camps and program, based on availability. This program does not come with a person, but will be designed to be user friendly.

Planning for a **Girl Scout Expo** for the fall is underway. Date and location are being investigated based on site availabilities and cost, but it is expected event will take place mid-late October. For this event to happen, we will need LOTS of volunteers - both girls and adults. There will be opportunities to help with everything from putting on programs, to site logistics, safety (first aide, lost and found, door monitors, etc.), set up, clean up, etc. Associations or other groups providing a station will need a coordinator. We are looking for volunteers to be on planning committee and then on subcommittees. Interested people should contact Diane Bayless - dbayless@gscnc.org or 202-237-1670 ext 211.