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# 9 Characteristics

## The Nine Characteristics of Girl Scout Volunteers by Philip de Montmollin

**1. Girl Scout volunteers care.**

They care about each other, they care about other people, they care about their families. Not just plain old "care," but sincere, deep-down, bottom-of-the-heart kind of care. They care about people who have less than they do. They care about people who have more. They care about their council, they care about the national organization. They care about the youth of the world and, of course, most especially, they care about girls.

**2. Girl Scout volunteers are**

**committed.** They have a deep sense of connection to the purpose of Girl Scouting. They believe in what they are doing. They have made personal commitments to help our country's young women. They support the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and live them both in their daily lives.

**3. Girl Scout volunteers work hard.**

Whatever you say about Girl Scout volunteer work, you can't say it's easy. It's hard work. That's okay

because Girl Scout volunteers are busy active people, full of energy and enthusiasm. They work hard and they enjoy it. And they get a lot done.

**4. Successful Girl Scout volunteers enjoy life and they share that joy with the people around them.**

They're happy people. They smile a lot. They like to sing.

**5. Girl Scout volunteers are understanding.**

They are open to the ideas of others, and take the time to listen. They are skillful in perceiving the needs of others, and react with sensitivity to those needs. They understand the need for compromise and mutual support.

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## 9 Characteristics...continued from p.1

### The Time You Have Spent

The time you have spent as a volunteer,  
 Be it half a lifetime or just a year.  
 Will have its effect on such far reaching ways,  
 It can never be measured in hours or days.  
 But we want to say thank you for doing your part,  
 For giving your hand and giving your heart.  
 Thanks for the smiles when you wanted to weep,  
 For the camping trips when you couldn't sleep.  
 For car pools and nosebags and sit upons,  
 For lighting the way to the outdoor johns.  
 For running and phoning and meeting and waiting,  
 For hiking and swimming and rollerskating.  
 But thanks more than ever for years yet to come,  
 When someone remembers the job that you've done.  
 And memories brighten a young woman's face,  
 In some other time and some other place.  
 Author Unknown

**6. Girl Scout volunteers are generous.** Generous with their time, generous with their talents, generous with their treasures.

**7. Girl Scout volunteers have a sense of humor.** They have fun and can laugh at themselves.

**8. Girl Scout volunteers are confident.** They are positive thinkers. They are persons who know we can succeed and convince others of that.

**9. Finally, Girl Scout volunteers have faith,**

**they believe.** They have faith in themselves, faith in the Girl Scout Movement, and what we're trying to do. They have faith in others, especially in little girls. They have faith in their council, faith in their community, faith in God.

Girl Scout volunteers are special, very special. Not everyone can be one. Some try and don't succeed. But those who do are special, some of the most special people in the world. People just like you.

## Online Auction <http://bit.ly/dwauction2011>

Plan your next shopping trip...without ever having to leave the comfort of your own home. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's 3rd Annual Distinguished Women's Online Auction is going on now! There's still five days left to place your bids, but hurry! The online auction ends April 20, 2011 at 11:59pm. Don't miss out on great items, like four tickets to a taping of The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Ravens tickets to a game of your choice, or a family trip to beautiful Williamsburg.

Interested? Visit our online auction and discover a world of items at your fingertips.

Tickets are now available, but are going fast to the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's 2011 Distinguished Women's Award Reception. To purchase tickets go to [gscm.org](http://gscm.org) or contact Maria Johnson at [mjohnson@gscm.org](mailto:mjohnson@gscm.org) or 410.358.9711 ext 247.



You could be the most stylish person at Camp Conowingo!

To go to the auction, use the link on the [gscm.org](http://gscm.org) homepage



You could have these earrings!



You could hang this on your wall!



# Volunteer Workshop: EDGE

E.D.G.E. (Energize, Discover, Galvanize and Enrich) is a series of workshops held during the course of one day, designed to enrich any adult's Girl Scout soul. This day of learning will be held on October 1, 2011 at Camp Ilchester. A variety of workshops on Girl Scout programs, outdoor programs and personal enrichment will be offered.

We are ready to start planning for our 3rd annual E.D.G.E. and are looking for committee members to help with the planning. We are also looking for presenters – if you have a topic you feel passionate about, please join in! Registration information for participants will be available early summer.

**Interested In Helping Plan EDGE?** Contact Lauren Elliott at partiesbylauren@gmail.com or 410.519.7967 by May 1.

## Journeys and The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

For the latest information on these GSUSA resources, please visit our website at <http://www.gscm.org/programresources.html>. The site even includes a video offering a sneak peak at the new Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. We also encourage you to visit <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/> for even more information and resources.

# Nordstrom Scholarship

Nordstrom is committed to the communities where we do business. Helping students achieve their dreams of higher education is a meaningful way for us to show that commitment. Since 1994, we've selected hard-working high school students to receive \$10,000 college scholarships. Today, with educational funding becoming an even greater challenge than ever, we have expanded our scholarship program and are pleased to help 80 outstanding students across the country take the next step toward achieving their goals. Apply for the Nordstrom Scholarship now!

### The Scholarship

In 2011, students in the 28 states where Nordstrom currently has an operating full-line store will be eligible to apply for a Nordstrom Scholarship. Eighty scholarships will be awarded. Each scholarship will be paid out in equal installments of \$2,500 over four years to the selected student's college of choice.

### How to Apply

Apply online between March 15 and May 16, 2011.

### Selection Process

Entries are reviewed by regional selection committees, which are made up of local

community leaders. All finalists are interviewed in person and winners are informed by the end of October via e-mail from **nordstromscholarship@ACT.org**. To ensure you receive prompt notification, please make sure your e-mail provider allows you to receive e-mails from this address into your inbox.

### For Counselors and Teachers

The Nordstrom Scholarship application process is now primarily an online experience. Please encourage students to apply directly via the website mentioned above. We

encourage you to download a digital toolkit of promotional materials designed to raise awareness of the program at your school. Download a digital toolkit.

To be considered for a scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a high school junior
- Maintain a cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 2.7 (on a 4.0 scale) throughout your high school career
- Have participated in community/volunteer activities
- Live and attend school in one of the participating states designated by Nordstrom
- Be planning to apply for financial assistance to attend college
- Attend an accredited four-year college or university during all years for which the scholarship is awarded
- Be eligible to attend a four-year college or university in the United States
- Live and attend school in one of the participating geographic areas designated by Nordstrom
- Not have a conviction for any crime



# Health History Cards

As Early Bird registration begins, parents/guardians will need to complete the necessary paperwork for girls to participate in Girl Scouting. Parents/guardians will need to provide health-history information and permission to treat girls in an emergency. It is **not** necessary for a new card to be completed every year; however, parents/guardians **must review** the cards yearly noting any changes, re-sign and date indicating that the information is current. Parents/guardians must also update girls' health histories, noting any changes from the previous year.

For additional information, including the confidentiality of health history cards, please refer to pages 35-36 in Volunteer Essentials.

## Girl Scouts Take Action!

We invite you to watch this inspiring video with stories about how Girl Scout troops made a difference in their communities using ideas from the Girl Scout Journey books. Let's empower all our girls to do the same!

<http://bit.ly/GSTakeActionVideo>

# SHARE Update

Spring is here and Girl Scout families and volunteers have “sprung” into action with SHARE. Through March, SHARE totals \$110,679 with 8,108 gifts in support of the nearly 29,000 girls GSCM serves—a \$2,000 increase over last year. With 28% participation, we have raised 70% of the \$160,000 family SHARE goal. Congratulations to the 21 Service Units that have reached their community SHARE goal.

### What can communities do to help close the SHARE gap?

Let's do the SHARE math: 2,053 Registered troops – 1,324 Troops that have donated to SHARE = 729 potential troop gifts

With two remaining months in the troop year, there is still time to support family SHARE. This is a perfect time of year to ask troops that have not made a contribution to pitch in to help their community, their troop and their council. There is strength in numbers! Imagine if all 729 troops donated \$100, we would raise an additional \$72,000 to meet the needs of our four camp properties, new STEM center and 10,000 volunteers.

As each community plans for their end-of-year festivities, we encourage you to consider the family SHARE campaign. Take time to remind parents of the value of Girl Scouts during closing events, spring festival and bridging ceremonies. A great way for them to recognize the benefit of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is by giving back to help make Girl Scouting possible for generations to come. These are perfect times for leaders and volunteers to ask families and friends to make a gift to family SHARE.

### Does your employer have a Matching Gift Program?

Help Support YOUR troop and GSCM at the same time through Matching Gifts!

Companies match gifts to thank their employees for the time they spend volunteering in their communities. Programs vary from company to company. Many companies will have a straight match for an employee's donation to a non-profit organization. Others may offer a cash gift based on the number of hours volunteered.

To receive Matching Gift monies please contact your Human Resources Department and ask for the paperwork for Matching Gifts. Forms may be available on your company website. The GSCM website also lists many local companies with Matching Gift programs. If your company is not listed, be sure to ask your Human Resource Department if your company participates. Copies of the Matching Gift brochure can be requested through the Volunteer Resource Center or from [ncheese@gscm.org](mailto:ncheese@gscm.org).

Remember 25% of Matching Gift dollars are returned to YOUR troop. Any gift that is matched also counts as a SHARE donation from your troop, making it easier to achieve your SHARE goal.

### Is your community eligible for SHARE Awards?

The SHARE Awards were created to reward Service Units for all of their SHARE efforts. With 76 communities and more than 2,000 troops, we would like to assure that everyone is recognized for their SHARE accomplishments. If your community is eligible for a SHARE Award, please fill out form 05-016 available online, at the Volunteer Resource Center or by calling Niakia Cheese, Annual Fund Manager at 410.358.9711 ext 225. Winners will be announced at GSCM's Annual Meeting, held May 3rd at Martin's West.



# Volunteer Trainings <http://www.gscm.org/volunteers/training/trainingschedule.html>

Here is a listing of courses for spring. The schedule of courses can be found on our website – go to Volunteer, then Training. As courses are added, they will be listed on the website. Summer courses will be posted in May. This site also lists a description of each of the courses. Please register by using our online registration link or use our Training Registration Form (08-1466). Please be sure your information is legible. If you have to cancel out of a course, please be sure to notify us as soon as possible so that anyone on a waiting list can be offered the spot. To receive the quickest confirmation, please provide your e-mail address. You will receive confirmation a week before the class. If a course is full, we will notify you immediately. Summer courses will be posted in May.

## Leadership Essentials

**April 30** 9 am – Noon  
St. John’s United Church of Christ

**May 7** 9 am – Noon  
Westminster United Methodist Church

**May 10** 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Slavie Bank, Bel Air

**May 11** 7 pm – 10 pm  
Clementine Peterson Activity Center

## Daisy Grade Level

**May 25** 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Slavie Bank, Bel Air

## Brownie Grade Level

**April 30** 1 pm – 4 pm  
St. John’s United Church of Christ

**May 7** 1 pm – 4 pm  
Westminster United Methodist Church

**May 18** 7 pm – 10 pm  
Clementine Peterson Activity Center

**May 31** 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Slavie Bank, Bel Air

## Junior Grade Level

**April 30** 1 pm – 4 pm  
St. John’s United Church of Christ

**May 7** 1 pm – 4 pm  
Westminster United Methodist Church

**May 18** 7 pm – 10 pm  
Clementine Peterson Activity Center

## Teen Level

**April 27** 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Slavie Bank, Bel Air

**April 30** 1 pm – 4 pm  
St. John’s United Church of Christ,  
Catonsville

**May 11** 7 pm – 10 pm  
Clementine Peterson Activity Center

## First Aid/CPR/AED

**May 18** 6:30 pm – 10 pm  
GSCM Urban Programming and Stem  
Center

**June 7** 6:30 pm – 10 pm  
Clementine Peterson Activity Center

## Let’s Go Camping

**April 26** 6:30 pm – 10 pm  
GSCM Urban Programming and Stem  
Center  
(Mandatory Overnight – May 14/15 at  
Camp Conowingo)

## BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT. . . WITH GSCM’S READY TROOP!

### WANT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PART OF SOME BIG EVENTS WITH GSCM?

If YES, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is calling all Girl Scouts who want to be a part of a READY TROOP. This group of Girl Scouts will be on call to attend special events throughout the year,

like Legislative Bond Bill day, special ceremonies at the White House, and media events. This is a terrific opportunity for girls who don’t mind being in the spotlight or serving

as the council’s Girl Scout ambassador. If you would like your Girl Scout to participate in this READY TROOP, please contact: Meghan Laschinger, Manager of Recruitment and Placement Services, at 410.358.9711 ext. 219 or mlaschinger@gscm.org



## Volunteer Opportunities

We have several exciting events happening in April! Please view the events below. If you can volunteer we would greatly appreciate your time. Please contact Meghan Laschinger, Manager of Recruitment and Placement Services, at 410.358.9711 ext. 219 or [mlaschinger@gscm.org](mailto:mlaschinger@gscm.org) and let me know which events you can volunteer for! Thank you!

### Data Entry: Need 5 volunteers (ongoing)

- Assist with entering girl registrations
- Where: 4806 Seton Drive Baltimore, Maryland 21215
- When: Immediately
- Time: as many hours as you can offer

### Mailroom: Need 5 volunteers (ongoing)

- Assist with mailroom duties at the council
- Where: 4806 Seton Drive Baltimore, MD 21215
- When: Immediately
- Time: as many hours as you can offer

### Store: Need 5 volunteers (ongoing)

- Assist with inventory at the store
- Where: 4806 Seton Drive Baltimore, Maryland 21215

- When: Immediately
- Time: as many hours as you can offer

### Volunteer Resource Center

- Assist with typing up Volunteer Packets, etc.
- Where: 4806 Seton Drive Baltimore, Maryland 21215
- When: Immediately
- Time: as many hours as you can offer

### Recruiters and Communicators

- Duties: to assist with recruiting high school female basketball, volleyball, lacrosse players and cheerleaders to use their talents by volunteering two hours per month to help Elementary School Girl Scouts
- Where: TBD
- When: Immediately

- Time: as many hours as you can offer (please provide dates and times)

### Baltimore City Girl Scout Troop Volunteers

- Use and sharpen your managerial skills by helping manage Girl Scout troops during the Girl Scout Cookie Program.
- Work closely with a Girl Scout Membership staff person and Girl Scout troop leaders
  - Volunteers will be trained on the duties of the position
  - Time: July 2011 - January 2012 (Duration of Cookie Program)
  - Flexible hours
  - It's not as hard as you think
  - Come on give it a try. You will be making a difference in the lives of many girls

### Requirements:

- Become a member of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (\$12)
- Complete a simple background check, credit check and fingerprinted courtesy of Girl Scouts of Central MD at the cost of \$5
- MUST BE ORGANIZED
- Computer experience is a must!
- Pleasant & motivating personally, public speaking and training skills a plus.
- A person who has integrity, who is honest, caring and considerate towards others is a must

For more information about being a Baltimore City Girl Scout troop volunteer contact: Gail Cuffie at [gcuffie@gscm.org](mailto:gcuffie@gscm.org), [gailcuffie@yahoo.com](mailto:gailcuffie@yahoo.com) or call 410.358.9711 ext 258.



## American Girl Scout Camp

### Who:

Girls entering K through 5th grade (Open to all girls interested in joining Girl Scouts; current Girl Scouts can bring a friend).

### What:

Come and celebrate with your favorite dolls at this five day camp. Earn patches and badges that relate to the interests of a different, historic American Girl doll each day.

### Cost:

\$30 per day (includes at least one patch / badge per day), \$130 for the entire week, plus \$30 for Thursday overnight.

### To Register:

Send registration form and check (made payable to Girl Scouts) to: Kimberly Lohrfink  
1226 Black Friars Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228

### Deadline:

July 1, 2011, first come, first served, limit 150 girls.

This is a money earning activity for the GSCM Travel Pathway Group.

### Where:

Catonsville United  
Methodist Church  
6 Melvin Avenue  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

### When:

August 1-5, 2011, 8:30 am to 4:15 pm (Overnight for Juniors only – Thursday August 4 – 5)



### Questions?

Contact Kimberly at [AmericanGirlScoutCamp@yahoo.com](mailto:AmericanGirlScoutCamp@yahoo.com) or 410.719.9732

## Juliette's Closet

### GOING-GOING-GOOOOONE!



Save a bundle on specially marked down apparel for girls and adults! Celebrate the end to a great troop year by getting your troop or your helpful volunteers a nice gift. (Or why not treat YOURSELF?) Now is the time to purchase that adult uniform piece you've been eyeing for months! Be sure to drop by either one of our store locations before they're gone!

### Pre-Summer Savings!

During the entire month of May get a coupon when you order from us online. Simply place your order with us anytime in May and we will mail you a coupon to use in our store during the month of July! The coupon is for 10% off orders under \$50. The coupons can only be used once. Coupons must be used in-store only. Please be sure to check our summer hours online. Remember: the stores close for the first two weeks in July for inventory.

### Seton Center

4806 Seton Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
410.358.9711

Hours: (closed Sundays and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month)  
Monday-Thursday: 9 am-5 pm  
Friday: 9 am-3 pm  
Saturday: 9 am-2 pm

### Camp Ilchester

5042 Ilchester Road  
Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043  
410.455.0542

Hours: (closed Sundays, Mondays and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month)  
Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-2 pm  
Saturday: 9 am-1 pm



# Extreme Girl Scout Day Camp

Come join us for a week of great fun at Camp Woodlands!

**June 27 – July 1, 8 am – 4 pm**

We'll be learning lots of Girl Scout basics: knot tying, fire building, first aid, compass reading, and rockwall climbing, all while having tons of fun in the outdoors. We need lots of volunteers. Parents who work the whole week can get a discount on camp fees for their girls. Cost is \$140 for the week. Make checks payable to Girl Scouts. Mail checks with registration forms to: Loriann Hughes, 605 Winans Way, Baltimore, Maryland 21229.

**Questions?** Ask Loriann at 443.423.0701 or [campwoodlands@yahoo.com](mailto:campwoodlands@yahoo.com)

## A Sojourn in Girl Scouting

Council-supported day camp, organized by Savannah 2012 Travel Pathway Group

When: July 11-15, 9 am – 3 pm (before and after care available for an additional fee)

Where: GSCM 4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore

Cost: \$140

Accepting the first 150 girls who are entering kindergarten through 6th grade as of September 2011. Girl Scout Juniors will have the opportunity to earn the aMUSE Journey. All levels will have the opportunity to earn a variety of Girl Scout recognitions. Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors are welcome to apply as program aides for service hours.

**Questions?**

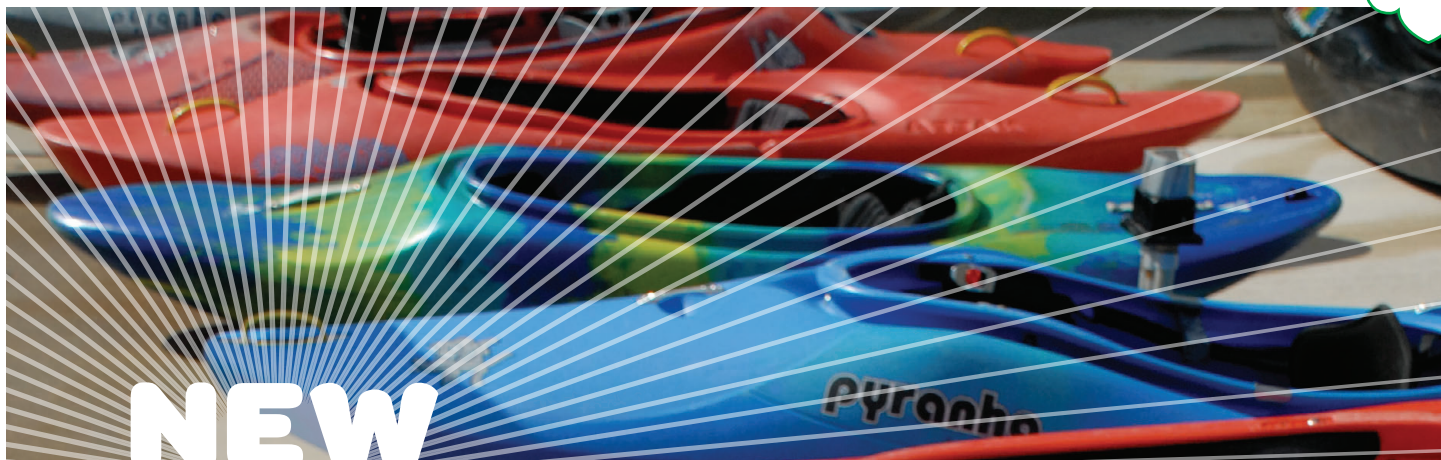
E-mail [SojournerGS@yahoo.com](mailto:SojournerGS@yahoo.com)

## JOIN GIRL SCOUTS NOW... Troop 21215 is waiting

If you want to be a Girl Scout, then jump right into the fun by joining GSCM's council troop 21215. Troop 21215 meets every month, works on badges, goes on field trips, makes new friends, has amazing fun and does everything other troops do and MORE!

If you can't get into a troop in your neighborhood and don't want to be on a boring waiting list (so not fun) join your sister Girl Scouts in troop 21215. Want to bring a friend, no problem, all interested girls can join.

To register with troop 21215 go to [gscm.org/troop21215.html](http://gscm.org/troop21215.html) or call Meghan at 410.358.9711 ext. 219.



## New—Kayaking Adventures

Starting in May, the kayaking season begins for girls and their leaders. Two locations are available for you to sign up for four hour kayaking trips! Trips will be run by our own kayaking instructor for resident camp, “Mr. Ripple” from Kayaking Made E-Z. Cost :\$50 per person

### **Whippoorwill Kayak Adventures**

At Camp Whippoorwill, you can choose from a morning session (8 am to noon) or an afternoon session (1 pm to 5 pm) on the following dates: May 7, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10 (morning session only) or September 17 (morning session only).

### **Conowingo Kayak Adventures**

At Camp Conowingo, trips are available May 21, June 25, July 23 and August 27. Times will vary so please call for the schedule.

### **Questions?**

Please contact Chris Garrett at [cgarrett@gscm.org](mailto:cgarrett@gscm.org) or 410.949.6044.

## Multi-Level Encampment

**Registration has been extended to April 22, 2011**

Have a roaring good time at the multi-level encampment! Have you ever wanted to roam with the lions, run with the gazelles, make new friends and camp out like a real Safari Explorer? If you answered, YES!, then the 2011 Multi-Level Encampment is for you! Girl Scout Daisies and Girl Scout Brownies will learn the Basic 8 Skills of camping while roaming through the Conowingo Safari, all the while making new friends, keepsake crafts, and becoming Wild Safari Explorers. Each day includes program activities, snacks, and lunch. Campers will receive event patches, keepsakes and memories that will last a lifetime.

**Girl Scout Daisies** come for the day on Saturday April 30 from 8:30 am – 5 pm. \$40 per girl and \$20 per Adult

**Girl Scout Brownies** will come on Saturday April 30 (8:30 am) and leave Sunday morning May 1 (11 am). \$40 per girl and \$20 per adult

## **Juliette’s Junction**

**May 1st Girl Scouts of Central Maryland launches Juliette’s Junction – Just for YOU!**

Central Maryland Juliette Girl Scouts (non-troop Girl Scouts) will be able use this virtual home as a social hub to connect with new Girl Scout friends as they travel through their Girl Scout Leadership Experience. The calendar will keep you up to date on Girl Scout happenings and special Juliette events. Check out the website at [www.gscmjj.org](http://www.gscmjj.org) where you’ll find videos about the site’s features and how to register. Our first big Juliette activity will be naming and creating our own newsletter!

This new and exciting virtual pathway opportunity for girls officially will launch on May 1, 2011. Whether you are new to Girl Scouts or currently registered - make sure you don’t miss a thing by visiting the site and creating your account right now! Options will be available in the near future for girls who are part of troops who want to be part of this exciting new opportunity. Stay tuned!



## Turn 100 on the High Seas

Celebrate the 100th Girl Scout Birthday in March, 2012 on a Royal Caribbean Cruise.

**Date:**

March 31, 2012 to April 7, 2012 (schools are closed for Spring Break)

**Cruise Line:**

The Royal Caribbean – Enchantment of the Seas comes to Baltimore and goes to the Bahamas



The Adult Travel Pathway has put cabins on hold. If you need a cabin for 3-4 people (most economical way to travel) you must act fast! Prices starting at \$805 per person which includes EVERYTHING! Cruise fare + All Taxes + Port Charges +

Government Fees + Pre-paid Gratuities.

Price Includes: seven nights at sea; Cabins for two, three or four people; all meals (including room-service); drinks (soda excluded); activities; entertainment; children’s programs; and the list goes on!

Various Girl Scout activities will be held on board and on-shore (hope to meet other Girl Guides while in the Bahamas).

Special 100th Anniversary Ceremony on board the ship. Cabins for 3-4 people need to have a deposit (which is refundable) by April 23. Monthly payment schedule or final payment due January 2012.

For every cabin sailed, Royal Caribbean will be making a donation to the GSCM Adult Travel Pathway. More surprises on board!

For more information, contact:  
Barb Cline from Cruise Planners at [barbaracline@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:barbaracline@cruiseplanners.com) or 240.575.5966 or 866.397.3201



## Science in the Kitchen for girls in Grades 4-12

Saturday, June 4, 2011 from 1:30 pm - 6 pm  
at GSCM Urban Program and STEM Center  
4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215

Girls will explore and expand their knowledge of Engineering & Science with the **Science in the Kitchen** program developed by Johns Hopkins University Center for Educational Outreach and learn how candy is made. Sugar candy can have a variety of textures: hard, brittle, chewy, gummy—even cottony. In this session, girls will learn about sugar and the process that it goes through to make different types of candy.

This year’s event will also offer:

- Workshops and hands-on activities
- Science Fair Projects & Awards
- Expert panel with STEM professionals

Program cost is just \$15 per girl. Visit <http://www.gscm.org/register.html> for quick registration, or contact Connie Adams at [cadams@gscm.org](mailto:cadams@gscm.org), 410.358.9711.

To participate in the Science Fair or STEM shadow program contact Pattie Dash, [pdash@gscm.org](mailto:pdash@gscm.org).

Want more Girl Scout stories? Check out the GSCM blog at [blog.gscm.org](http://blog.gscm.org)



## State Park Youth Group Pass

Spring is here... And it's time to get active outdoors. In the Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) we have applications for the Youth Group Pass. The State Forest and Park Service offers Youth Group passes to non-commercial youth organizations. The biennial pass entitles the youth group free day use admittance to Maryland State Parks, excluding weekend and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Pass entitles youth groups to free camping in parks that have designated "Youth Group" areas (subject to availability).

The Youth Group passes are \$50 and must be renewed every two years from the date of issuance. You can request an application from the VRC (form 07-0204). All Youth Group applications must be signed by the Volunteer Information and Referral Services Coordinator before being mailed to the State Forest and Park Service. After the application is signed, you will mail the application and \$50 fee directly to:

### State Forest and Park Service

**Attn: Hope Medley, Youth Group Coordinator**

**Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-3, Annapolis, MD 21401**

Please note that the Department of Natural Resources will no longer issue passes to Service Units. This is done for individual troops and is good for a two year period. Please feel free to contact the Volunteer Resource Center via email at [vrcc@gscm.org](mailto:vrcc@gscm.org) or come in and visit us at 4806 Seton Drive Baltimore, Maryland 21215.

## You Pick the Prize

Online Voting for the 2011-2012 Girl Scout Cookie Program girl recognition items (aka: prizes!) will be posted on [gscm.org](http://gscm.org) from May 1-31, 2011.

- Check it out
- Girls and adults can vote (only one vote per email address)
- Pick your favorite items
- Make sure Your Voice is HEARD!

Voting results will be used by the Volunteer Product Sales Committee to recommend the recognition line-up for the fall 2011 Cookie Program Activity.

## All Aboard the Membership Express

Membership Express is getting ready to leave the station so don't miss your troop's chance to get on board.

### What is the Boarding Pass?

It is a chance for your troop to get registered and ready for the 2011-2012 Girl Scout year and earn extra funds during the 2011-2012 Cookie Program Activity. It will be an exciting year too because it will be the start of Girl Scout's of Central Maryland's 50th birthday and Girl Scouts of the USA's 100th birthday celebrations. It will enable your troop to be ready for all the great activities in 2012!

### What will your Troop get?

Each troop that meets the 2011-2012 Boarding Pass

requirements will be eligible for an additional 5¢ for each box of cookies that they sell in fall 2011. Think how these nickels can add up! Last year 817 troops qualified for the Membership Incentive Plan Boarding Pass and earned a total of \$40,973.85. Just think of all that extra funding to do great things with your girls!

### How do you make sure you get it?

There are five easy steps to make sure that your troop receives this extra money at cookie time!

1. The troop completes Early Bird registration this Spring.
2. Register a Troop Cookie Manager and provide a name and phone number.
3. Have at least 50% of the troop contribute to SHARE.
4. Complete the 2011 Troop Annual Report and turn it in with your completed Boarding Pass by June 30 2011.
5. Sell Cookies in September 2011 –

Remember the more you sell the more you earn!

Sign the form and get the needed signatures and have your troop start planning how they can use their money!

### What is after the Boarding Pass?

A chance to become a Super Troop or even a Super Troop Plus and a chance for patches for your girls and a Store Gift Card for the Troop! Information concerning these incentives can be found here: <http://www.gscm.org/register.html>.