

Council Newsletter

2011 National Council Session—Houston, TX

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Houston, we have a party. The 2011 National Council Session 52nd Convention will kick off on November 10 at 7:30 p.m. with celebrity speaker Katie Couric. She is one of many celebrities taking part at this year's convention. Everyone from Soledad O'Brien to Robyn Roberts will speak about a variety of subjects and issues facing our girls and the organization. Entertainment will also be provided by country artist, Katie Armiger, as well as all-boy American

band, Mindless Behavior, just to name a few.

There will be a variety of thought-provoking sessions for adults that is sure to inspire and provide useful information on issues facing girls and Girl Scouting. Girls attending the conference will also have their own smartly-designed interactive sessions that will stimulate girls to think big about leadership and innovation for the next 100 years.



Katie Couric, American Journalist and Author, will kick off opening ceremony.

With the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts, this is sure to be an exciting and special convention for all to enjoy.

Mission Statement:

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.



Book Fair to be Held in November

A book fair to benefit the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas will be held Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Barnes & Noble located at 5129 Blanche

D Moore Road from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"This is the first time GSGST has held a fundraising book fair at Barnes & Noble, and we are so excited about the

upcoming event," said Belinda Rocha, Director of Fund Development. "My job is not only to research and renew grants that help fund our Council, but I also

Book Fair continued



Girl Scouts: A Celebration of 100 Trailblazing Years by Betty Christiansen will be available at the book

"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."

- Juliette Low

look for new and innovative ways of raising funds and awareness about the Girl Scouts in our community."

A variety of activities will be held during the fair such as a Swap table, holiday gift wrapping, Wish List table, a story-telling time in the children's area where the history of Juliette Low and the Girl Scouts will be told.

In addition to the activities, Barnes & Noble will also have the latest book on display and available for purchase: "Girl Scouts: A Celebration of 100 Trailblazing Years" by

Betty Christiansen. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the organization has culled iconic photographs, documents, and letters from its vast archives that honor the unique sisterhood of Girl Scouts, some never before seen. Images include historical uniforms, memorabilia, and photographs with first ladies of the United States. Organized by decade, this book is the essential keepsake and gift for Girl Scouts members, alumnae, volunteers, and supporters.

Information regarding the local organization as

well as community activities local troops have participated in Corpus Christi and surrounding areas will be provided for everyone at the fair.

Come by and visit, have a cup of coffee and do some holiday shopping at the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas Book Fair. Can't attend? You can shop online at bn.com/bookfairs from 11/12/11 to 11/17/11 and enter Bookfair ID 10562692 at time of check out. This code is also to be used at time of purchase at Barnes & Noble during the event for GSGST to receive percentage of sale.

2011 Holiday Card Design Contest Underway



Girls will submit their artwork for 2011 Holiday Card for GSGST

The annual Holiday Card Design Contest is underway! Girls who are currently registered as members of GSGST are eligible to participate in the design contest and share their artistic talents by submitting their artwork for a chance to be selected as the official 2011 Holiday Card for Girl Scouts of

Greater South Texas. The contest is open to all levels.

Girls who enter must use their imagination and creativity and can use any art tools for their choice (i.e. paint, pencils, markers, etc.). Copying, pasting some else's work, and tracing are prohibited.

Every year, girls have

participated in the annual contest and look forward to it every year. There have been many really creative art and designs submitted and the decision has always been hard to choose "the one."

Girl Scouts Pledge to Promote the Need for Sustainable Palm Oil Practices

New York, N.Y. Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) will soon be using its famous [Girl Scout cookie](#) boxes to raise awareness about the global need to develop stronger sustainability practices within the palm oil industry. Beginning with the 2012-13 cookie season, each cookie box will include a GreenPalm logo as a symbol of Girl Scouts' commitment to address concerns about the deforestation of sensitive lands currently caused by the production of palm oil. This is just one of several steps Girl Scouts is taking to address this issue:

- Effective immediately, GSUSA will purchase GreenPalm certificates to support the sustainable production of palm oil. The certificates offer a premium price to palm oil producers who are operating within the guidelines for social and environmental responsibility set by the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil.
- GSUSA has committed to working with our licensed bakers in plans to join other industry leaders in making a pledge to move to a segre-

gated, certified sustainable palm oil source by 2015, based on market availability.

- GSUSA will work to build a coalition of respected environmental organizations that support sustainable palm oil and to carry that message to industry leaders across the globe.
- GSUSA will become an affiliate member of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), an organization of growers, buyers, manufacturers, conservationists and interested parties who are striving to develop and follow best practices to ensure sustainability.
- And GSUSA has directed its bakers to use as little palm oil as possible, and only in recipes where there is no alternative. GSUSA estimates that of all the palm oil used globally, Girl Scout cookies account for less than one-one-hundredth of one percent (.001%).

"Girl Scouts' palm oil use is very small, but our voice is big," says Amanda Hamaker,

GSUSA's Manager of Product Sales. "The world's food supply is intricately tied to the use of palm oil, so we believe promoting sustainable manufacturing principles is the most responsible approach for Girl Scouts."

This action follows a five-year campaign by two teenage Girl Scouts from Michigan to make Girl Scout cookies rain-forest-safe. The girls, Madison, 16, and Rhiannon, 15, learned as part of their [Girl Scout Bronze award](#) project that the habitat of the orangutan is threatened by deforestation caused by palm oil production.

"Madison and Rhiannon have done exactly what Girl Scouts teaches girls: find a cause you care about, connect with others, and take action to change the world," says Hamaker. "They are shining examples of leadership in persuading a 99-year-old American icon to take on a serious global issue."

About GreenPalm
Exclusively endorsed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), the GreenPalm program is based on the principle that the best way to encourage people to work in a sustain-

able and responsible way is to reward them for doing so. Also designed to overcome the problem that palm oil from different producers is intermingled at every stage of the production process, it works as follows: Palm oil and palm kernel oil producers that have been independently audited and found to be operating within the RSPO's strict criteria for environmental and social sustainability are invited to register a quantity of their output with the GreenPalm program. They are awarded one GreenPalm certificate for each metric ton of palm oil or palm kernel oil that has been sustainably produced. Organizations such as GSUSA, and its bakers or retailers of products containing palm oil or palm kernel oil, can then bid for and buy those certificates online. The payment is made directly to the sustainable producer, who earns a premium for acting responsibly. Better still, for each certificate sold, a \$1 donation goes to support the work of the RSPO. The palm oil or palm kernel oil itself is sold, processed and purchased in the usual way. For more information, visit www.greenpalm.org.

Tompkins, Michelle, 28 Sept. 2011, http://www.girlscouts.org/news/news_releases/2011/sustainable.asp, Accessed 11 Oct. 2011



Donor Spotlight—A Big Thank You!

We would like to recognize two organizations that recently awarded grant funding to the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas:

Coastal Bend Community Foundation

A \$4,000 grant was received from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation

on September 13, 2011.

Optimist Club of Downtown Corpus Christi

A \$4,000 grant was received from the Optimist Club of Downtown Corpus Christi on September 14, 2011.

Funding was granted to provide the exciting world of Girl Scouting to

at-risk girls in the community.

Thank you to both the Coastal Bend Community Foundation and the Optimist Club of Downtown Corpus Christ. For info on either of this organizations check out their websites:

www.cbcfoundation.org
www.optimistcc.org

