

Lone Star Service Unit Meeting Thursday, August 11, 2011

There were 11 people in attendance at tonight's meeting. The following troops were represented: 9700, 9702, 9711, 9715, 9728, 9758, 9759, and 9779. Also present was Terri Boone, our service unit's Product Sales Coordinator.

I. Welcome back!

Judy Kestner welcomed us back, passed around a troop roster for us to update, and asked us to look at the changes in office staff on the last page. In particular, Amanda Gonzalez is our new Membership Executive, and Katherine McMahan is the new Membership Executive for other areas of Corpus Christi. Amanda Avila is Director of Product Sales.

Judy also passed out order forms for the new "Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting" books and pointed out the sale price, which will be in effect through February.

Judy asked us to indicate on a list being passed around whether or not we have any space available in our troops for additional girls that might join Girl Scouts this year.

Judy Kunkel reported that she will lead Brownie and Junior level training for returning leaders next Tuesday. There will be Older Girl level training on Thursday. Mrs. Kunkel also informed us that "The Blue Book of Documents" is now an online document. It contains important rules such as not attending political events in your Girl Scout uniform and not collecting money for other organizations through the Girl Scout program. Another important resource is "Volunteer Essentials," which is an online book that can be found on our council's website. "Safety Wise" is included as a chapter in this online book.

There is a new volunteer application. Judy Kestner had previously e-mailed a copy of it to us, and she had hard copies at the meeting tonight for us to take. Each adult member in your troop needs to complete one. Judy also pointed out some changes to the registration forms. You may have noticed these changes already if you used the pre-printed re-registration forms that came out last spring.

Judy reminded us to check out "Leader's Notes" online each month. Each month they highlight a form in the "Form of the Month" section. This month they focus on and explain the Sponsorship Agreement.

The service unit's bank balance was \$1078.40 in May. We had many items of income and expenses related to Summer Fun. There was one check that bounced, but the writer of that check made good on it later. Our current bank balance is \$782.35.

II. 2011 – 2012 Calendar of Events

We brainstormed month by month both council events and activities that we would like to plan as a service unit this year. None of these is set in stone, however, until a particular group agrees to take them on. Judy asked us to discuss these with our troops and see whether or not they would be willing to plan and facilitate any of these:

October – Project Undercover, Fall Festival, Juliette Lowe's birthday, Investiture
November – Investiture, Fall-themed event

December – holiday event, like caroling perhaps
January – cookie rally
March – Thinking Day, 100th anniversary
April – a Spring Thing?
May - Bridging

III. 2011 – 2012 Budget

We discussed the problem of budgeting for events when people do not register until the last minute. We discussed the possibility of decreased event fees for those who register by a certain date. As we began budgeting, we decided to change the dates of our fiscal year. We had been working with a budget that coincided with the dates of our semi-annual reports, so they went from June 1 to May 31. This creates a problem with regard to setting a budget for Summer Fun. We decided to change our fiscal year so that it will begin on August 1 each year and end on July 31. We agreed to get rid of the income line item “S.U. Incentive Bonus,” which seems nearly impossible to earn each year. We also agreed to delete the expense line item “Donations to G.S.” We changed both the income and the expense lines related to Summer Fun so that they match at \$1400 each. We planned for \$200 in Special Event income and \$300 in Special Event expenses. We decreased our Service Project expenses from \$215 to \$150. The numbers, however, are not yet balanced, so we decided to re-visit this budget next month.

IV. Upcoming events

Recruiting – Judy Kestner discussed the TM recruitment event next Tuesday night. She gave the names of those who are helping out that night, as well as those who agreed to pass out flyers and stickers in the schools. A couple of new volunteers also agreed to come and help.

Fall Product Training – Terri Boone told us about the Fall Product Training at Wesley United Methodist Church at 2pm on August 28. The council would like to have a 30% increase in fall product sales this year. For our service unit, that would mean 30 more magazine subscriptions and 400 more nut and candy orders.

On-Time Registration ends September 16. The form for the patch is on-line.

V. National Convention proposal discussion

Judy Kestner shared three proposals with us that will be discussed and voted on at the national convention. The first proposal would allow councils to charge a general program fee to all girls at the time of registration. That fee could be any amount less than or equal to the annual cost of GSUSA membership. Financial Aid would be made available to those who are unable to pay this additional fee. Nobody really had much to discuss about this other than to mention the fact that a very large percentage of our council’s memberships are girls that participate through their schools. These girls are unlikely to be able to afford this additional fee. The Board recommends the adoption of this proposal.

A second proposal involved a “rolling membership.” This proposal states that a girl’s membership year would begin at the time of her registration. So, some girls would have years that run from August to July, others from January to December, and others from June to May. Nobody at tonight’s meeting seemed to like this proposal, and our Board does not recommend its adoption.

A third proposal involved delegates. It is being suggested that delegates continue to serve 3-year terms but that they be elected a year earlier than is currently the case. This will give them more time to prepare for the national convention (which is held every three years.) The way we currently do things, delegates only have about half a year to prepare for the convention. The leaders in attendance generally liked this proposal, and the Board recommends its adoption.

VI. Mark your Calendar

Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

AUGUST

Shop: 10% discount when you bring reusable bags; Happy Birthday Club (girls only) - 10% off your purchase + a patch (limited number available)

- 14 Leader Essentials training -Kingsville
- 16 Reminder stickers at T-M Primary and Intermediate campuses
Recruiting Rally at Hilltop, 6:30 p.m.
Daisy and Brownie level training at Hilltop, 6 - 8 p.m.
- 18 Older girl level training at Hilltop, 6 - 8 p.m.
- 20 New Leader Orientation at Hilltop, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- 22 Calallen, Orange Grove, Odem back to school
- 28 Fall Product Sales training, 2:00 p.m.
- 29 CISD and Arlington Hgts. in-school recruiting

SEPTEMBER

Shop: FREE bag with purchase of starter kit. **SHOP OPEN 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

- 2 T-M school holiday
- 5 No school
G.S. offices closed
- 5-9 T-M intersession
- 6 Reminder stickers at CISD and Arlington Hgts. campuses
Recruiting Rally at Hilltop, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 S.U. Meeting at Hilltop, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Open house at office, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
New Leader Orientation at Hilltop, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- 11 Leadership Essentials in Kingsville
- 15 Service Unit Managers' meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 On-time registrations due
- 17 Leadership Essentials
Shop open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Second conference call for National Delegates
- 24 Fall Product Sales begin

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Swanson