



Girl Scouts®

*2008-2009
Membership Year*

Your Family Guide to Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council

My Girl Scout Info—

Girl Scout's Name _____

Troop/Group # _____

Service Unit _____

Leader/Advisor _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Our Jurisdiction

Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council is one of over 100 councils in the U.S. serving girls 5–17 in grades K–12. As of September 30, 2008, we served 9,773 girls and 2,225 adults in over 50 communities in McHenry County and parts of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake and LaSalle counties.

Contact Us . . .

Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council
12N124 Coombs Road
Elgin, IL 60124
Phone: 847-741-5521
Fax: 947-741-5667
E-mail: info@gs-sybaquay.org
Web site: www.gs-sybaquay.org



Hello! Welcome to Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council!

The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

This booklet is your guide to use throughout the year as a reference to questions about your Girl Scout's program experience. We at Sybaquay Council are excited that you and your Girl Scout have chosen membership in the world's premier leadership development organization for girls.



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About the Girl Scout Program

What your Girl Scout will gain . . .

In Girl Scouts, girls experience a safe place where they are encouraged to try new things—a place where they will learn to become decision-makers and leaders, while gaining confidence and self-esteem. Fun, age-appropriate activities encourage girls to practice leadership skills that are based on the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. These activities are directly tied to specific outcomes such as: valuing cultural diversity and individual uniqueness; educating and inspiring others; and making a difference through community service and action. Throughout her time in Girl Scouting, a girl will develop memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

A Leadership Development Program . . .

The Girl Scout approach to leadership is based on three principles—Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Through this leadership development program, girls will discover their personal best and prepare for a positive future, connect with others in an increasingly diverse world, and take action to solve problems and improve their communities. The girls themselves have told us that these opportunities mean very much to them—both in their daily lives and as they prepare for their future.

Membership Costs . . .

The \$10 annual (October 1–September 30) membership dues are paid directly to Girl Scouts of the USA to provide national and international opportunities for girls and adults and supplemental medical insurance. Troops/groups may also have “troop dues” which might cover the cost of activities, badgework and field trips. Financial assistance is available.

Girl Scout Uniforms . . .

Uniforms are not required to participate in Girl Scouting; however, many girls enjoy wearing them.

Typically, girls use a tunic/vest/sash to display their official awards and pins, as well as their fun patches. Other uniform components and casual-wear are available. Financial assistance is available.

How Girl Scouting Works in Sybaquay Council . . .

Sybaquay’s jurisdiction (see cover) is divided into 26 geographic service areas (see page 8), called *service units*. Each service unit should have a volunteer *service unit manager* who guides the volunteers within that area. She is assisted by a troop leadership team consisting of volunteers—*troop service coordinators* (TSC) who recruit leaders, place girls in troops and give support to leaders all year long (usually responsible for all the troops within a specific school); *troop registrar*, who is responsible for processing and turning in all girl and adult registrations from that service unit to the Girl Scout Center. Additional service unit volunteers in the leadership team include a *fall product sale chair*, *Girl Scout cookie sale chair*, *events chair*, *day/twilight camp chair*, *Juliette coordinator* and a *public relations representative*. Volunteer *leaders* and *advisors* administer the Girl Scout program directly to girls at meetings and events. Without our over 2,000 volunteers, we would be hard-pressed to deliver upon our mission to girls. Sybaquay Council provides training for all of their volunteers and has strict standards regarding criminal background checks and adherence to Girl Scouts of the USA *Safety Wise* standards. All service unit volunteers are supported by *membership directors* on Sybaquay Council’s staff at the Girl Scout Center.



Avenues of Participation

Program Age Levels

New beginning October 2008!

Girl Scout Daisies—are in grades K to 1. Girl Scout Daisies may earn a Promise Center and Learning petals. These awards help make the Girl Scout Promise and Law meaningful to these young girls.

Girl Scout Brownies—are in grades 2 to 3. Brownie Girl Scouts can earn Try-Its by completing specific requirements related to learning to respect others and the world around them. When they “fly up” to the next level of Girl Scouting, they may earn their Wings.

Girl Scout Juniors—are in grades 4 to 5. As a Girl Scout Junior, a girl may earn proficiency badges, either on her own or with her troop/group. At this level, girls explore their interests, begin learning to make more decisions and can begin training to work with younger Girl Scouts. Other recognitions at this level include the Junior Aide and Bridge to Girl Scout Cadettes badges, and the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

Girl Scout Cadettes—are in grades 6 to 8. A Girl Scout Cadette may earn interest project awards designed to place more emphasis on skills for living, leadership and service to others. At this level Girl Scouts may become Program Aides in various areas of interest—they may also earn the Girl Scout Silver Award, recognizing their commitment and range of experience.

Girl Scout Seniors—are in grades 9 to 10. A Girl Scout Senior may continue to earn interest project awards, train to earn volunteer service bars, and participate in service activities. Girls in this age level may also begin work toward the highest achievement in Girl Scouting—the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Girl Scout Ambassadors—are in grades 11 to 12. A Girl Scout Ambassador may continue to earn interest project awards, train to earn volunteer service bars, and participate in service activities. Girls in this age level may also begin work toward the highest achievement in Girl Scouting—the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Juliette Girl Scout—Any Girl Scout ages 5–17 who is not affiliated with a troop or group. Juliette Girl Scouts may earn awards on their own by completing requirements listed in their age-appropriate handbooks and/or those online at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>. A Juliette may participate in any program activity listed in our *Program Booklet* for individual registration—please note that some activities require an adult chaperone attend the event with the Juliette. Be sure to check out the section on Sybaquay’s Web site just for Juliettes! (Girl Program/Juliettes)

Adult Girl Scouts—are women and men ages 18 and older. Adult Girl Scouts are important role models for girls. They also have the opportunity to work with girls and/or other adults, and to participate in a wide range of activities and trainings. See page 6 for information regarding becoming an adult volunteer in Girl Scouting.



Sybaquay Council's Facilities

Girl Scout Center—The Girl Scout Center is located in Elgin and houses most of Sybaquay Council's employed staff. You can find a complete listing of staff members and contact information on Sybaquay's Web site at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>. Our Council Shop is also located here at the Girl Scout Center.

Our Girl Scout Shops

Girl Scout Council Shop—In our Council Shop at the Girl Scout Center in Elgin you can find everything your Girl Scout will need in Girl Scouting, from handbooks to uniforms ... from Try-Its, badges and interest project awards to troop crests and council insignia. You can also purchase Girl Scout "fun-wear" items and accessories, as well as gift items for your favorite Girl Scout. Check out our online shop at <www.gs-sybaquay.org>.

Girl Scout Center and Council Shop Hours:

Monday Noon–5 P.M.
(Shop only Noon–7 P.M.)
Tuesday 9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Wednesday 9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Thursday 9 A.M.–5 P.M.
Friday 9 A.M.–5 P.M.

The Girl Scout Shop is also open the first Saturday of each month from 10 A.M.–1 P.M.

Should the first Saturday fall on a holiday, the shop will be closed and will then be open the following Saturday.

Contacting the Girl Scout Center and the Council Shop:

Phone: 847-741-5521
Fax: 847-741-5667
E-mail: info@gs-sybaquay.org
Web site: www.gs-sybaquay.org

Girl Scout Express—All the necessities of Girl Scouting housed in a quaint little train car, this Girl Scout shop is located in the Ice House Mall in Barrington.

Girl Scout Express Hours:

Monday 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Tuesday 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Wednesday 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Thursday 9:30 A.M.–7 P.M.
Friday 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Saturday 9:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M.
Sunday Noon–4 P.M.

Contacting the Girl Scout Express:

Phone: 847-620-5043
Fax: 847-620-5044
E-mail: gsexpress@gs-sybaquay.org

Both of our shops often have special summer and holiday hours. Check the Web site during those times or call 847-741-5521.

Sybaquay Camps

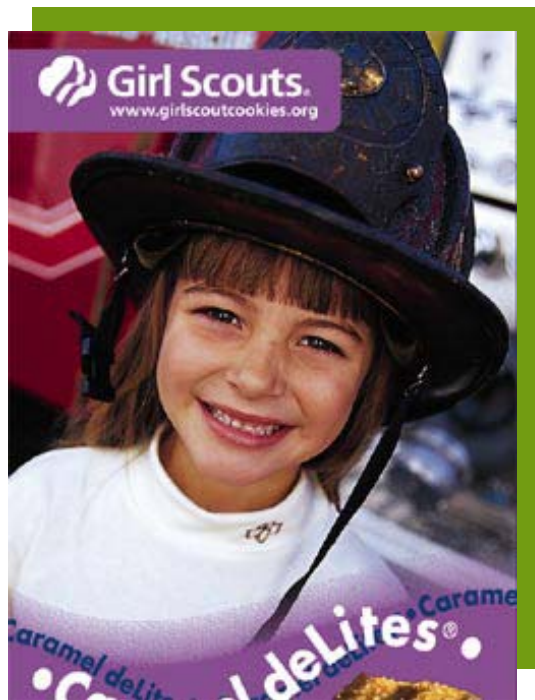
Mary Ann Beebe Center—Located in Harvard, the 295-acre Mary Ann Beebe Center serves as a troop overnight facility, a day or twilight camp site.

Chapman Hills—Located in southeast Wisconsin outside the town of East Troy, this 105-acre facility offers indoor and outdoor overnight capabilities.

Camp Pokonokah Hills—This facility is used for Sybaquay's resident camp and is located about 45 minutes north of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The camp is situated on 475 acres of gently-rolling hills and secluded lakes.



Pongay Unit House at Camp Pokonokah Hills



Sybaquay Council Product Sales

Your Girl Scout's troop/group receives a portion of sales proceeds from both the fall product sale and Girl Scout cookie sale. Girl Scouts also earn recognition items they may choose according to sales level, as well as "Cookie Dough" or "J-Bucks" for the GS cookie sale. For the first time this year, Girl Scout Daisies in Sybaquay Council will be eligible to participate in the two sales.

Girl Scout Fall Product Sale—Sybaquay's fall product sale typically runs October/November with delivery of products to troops/groups in early December. This sale is a "friends & family" sale—it is not meant to be a door-to-door sale.

Girl Scout Cookie Sale—Sybaquay's Girl Scout cookie sale usually has girls taking orders during a three-week period in January. Please be sure to follow safety guidelines in the information distributed to your Girl Scout. Troops/groups may also hold a Girl Scout Cookie Shop during the month of March.

Both of these sales are intended to be a learning experience for the girls. Through their participation, girls develop skills they will use for their entire lives. Among the many benefits are ethical decision-making, presentation skills, learning to work on a team, and money management. Please refrain from selling the products for your Girl Scout—make sure she is involved in both the order-taking and the delivery process.

Each service unit should have a fall product sales chair and a Girl Scout cookie sale chair. Information and order forms for each sale come to your Girl Scout's troop/group from these individuals. Additionally, your service unit should have an individual who is in charge of individually-registered Juliette Girl Scouts—that person would take care of getting info and forms to Juliettes. Please note, however, that some service units do not have chairs for these sales—in these cases, the service unit manager works with Girl Scout Center staff to ensure that information and order forms are distributed in the service unit. If your Girl Scout does not receive information regarding these sales, contact us at the Girl Scout Center, 847-741-5521.

IMPORTANT 2008-2009 DATES—

Start of New Membership Year	October 1
Council Shop & GS Express Sale	October 1-31
Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday	October 31
Fall Product Sale	Oct. 18-Nov. 1
GS Center Closed for Holiday	November 27-28
GS Center Closed for Winter Break	Dec. 22-Jan. 4
Girl Scout Cookie Sale	January 3-25
Thinking Day	February 22
Girl Scout Week	March 8-14
Girl Scout Sunday	March 8
Girl Scout Birthday	March 12
Girl Scout Sabbath	March 14
Girl Scout Leader Day	April 22
Adult Recognition Dinner	April 22
GS Center closed for Holiday	May 25
Girl Scout Silver Award Ceremony	May 9
Girl Scout Gold Award Banquet	June 10
GS Center Closed for Holiday	July 4
GS Center Closed for Holiday	September 7
End of Membership Year	September 30

For more information on these events, check out our Web site at www.gs-sybaquay.org or call 847-741-5521.

Help Her Try!

Volunteer Your Time and Talents

Leader/Advisor—There are a variety of ways to volunteer in Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council. One of the most obvious is to become a troop leader/advisor for girls!

Service Team Member—Working with other adults in your service unit is another way to volunteer for Girl Scouts. Be a *service unit manager, troop service coordinator, service unit GS cookie chair* and more! Check out our Web site under Adults/Opportunities/Volunteer for descriptions of each of our service team member positions.

Girl Scout Trainer—This is another position where you work with adults in Sybaquay Council. A Girl Scout trainer is herself/himself trained to provide program-level, outdoor, and enrichment training to Girl Scout volunteers.

Council Committee Member—Also working with adults, there are a variety of Sybaquay Council committees that need volunteer input. For example, you can be involved in planning one of our special events such as the Adult Recognition Dinner or the Sybaquay Golf Classic, or you can assist with fund development on our Fund Development Committee.

Troop Helper—Your Girl Scout's troop or group undoubtedly will need assistance from parents from time to time throughout the year! You can help by driving and/or chaperoning a field trip, helping with a craft or snacks, or just being an extra set of hands at a meeting. You could also lend a hand as the troop's/group's troop cookie or fall product sale chair! Ask your Girl Scout's leader for additional information.

Support Girl Scouting Financially

Family Partnership—It takes approximately \$210 to provide one year of program activities for each of the nearly 11,000 Girl Scouts in Sybaquay Council. The proceeds from the Girl Scout cookie sale

and fall product sale programs fall far short of that amount. In addition, we are trying to take the burden of funding Girl Scout program off of the shoulders of the girls. That is why we turn to our Girl Scout families to help to make the Girl Scouting experience complete!

Annual Fund—Girl Scouts make a tremendous difference in the communities in which they live. They truly strive to make our world a better place. Without the help of friends, Sybaquay Council could not provide the Girl Scout program to the nearly 11,000 girl members. Each fall, an appeal is made to the Board of Directors, lifetime members, friends of Sybaquay Council and staff.

Matching Gift—Many companies match employees' gifts to charitable organizations. Additionally, some employers will also donate dollars to the charitable organization for volunteer hours served by their employees.

Gift-in-Kind—Business owners may give a gift-in-kind by offering a service for free or for a discounted price. For example, a printer may choose to print one issue of a publication free of charge.

Event Sponsor—Sponsorship opportunities are available in Sybaquay Council throughout the year. For example, you can support an event by "buying a table" or donating a gift to help with event food or printing costs.

Juliette Low Society (JLS)—There are several ways to qualify for membership in the JLS: include Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council in your will; name Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council as owner or beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy; include Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council in a charitable trust, gift annuity, or pooled income fund; or, make an outright monetary gift in the amount of at least \$5,000 in cash, securities, personal property, land or other real estate to Sybaquay Council's endowment fund.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact us at 847-741-5521.

A Glossary of Girl Scout Terms

Advisor—adult volunteer who meets regularly with a troop/group of Girl Scouts to help them achieve the purpose of Girl Scouting. (also referred to as “Leader.”)

Badge—recognition earned by Girl Scout Juniors upon completion of required activities in a particular subject area. Badges are official GSUSA recognitions and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

Camp Co-op—Through a collaborative effort, Girl Scouts in Fox Valley, Green Hills, Rock River and Sybaquay Councils have the opportunity to attend any one of the four camps for the “in co-op” fee.

Cookie Dough—This term refers to a coupon girls earn as a recognition during the Girl Scout cookie sale. Girls may use “Cookie Dough” to pay for council events and activities or to purchase items in either of our Girl Scout shops.

Council—a not-for-profit corporation chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to provide Girl Scout program in a specific jurisdiction. Your “council” is Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council, headquartered in Elgin.

Council Product Sales—council-wide sales of authorized, tangible products, such as Girl Scout cookies or magazines, in which troops/groups participate.

Council Realignment—In October 2009, Sybaquay Council will be merging with three other councils: Fox Valley Council, Green Hills Council, and Rock River Valley Council. The realignment will provide expanded service to girls and adult volunteers. For more information, visit our Web site and click on the “Council Realignment” Quick Link on the Home page.

Daisy Petals—The Promise Center and ten learning petals are earned by Daisy Girl Scouts upon learning the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

destinations—Girl Scout *destinations* give girls ages 11-17 (some are age-specific) a chance to go somewhere new, do something different, and meet people from everywhere you can imagine. For example, last summer 8 girls from Sybaquay Council visited Japan!

Fun Patches—earned by Girl Scouts of all ages and adults for specific “fun” activities. Fun patches are unofficial recognitions and should be worn on the back of the vest or sash—adults can wear fun patches on a piece of clothing such as a shirt, vest or jacket.

Girl Scout Emissary—A Girl Scout of any program level who represents Sybaquay Council in the media, in the community and in council publications. For more information, visit our Web site or call 847-741-5521, Ext. 7115.

Girl Scout Gold Award—This is the highest girl recognition in Girl Scouting; Girl Scouts between the ages of 14-18, and in grades 9-12, can work on this award.

Girl Scout Silver Award—This is the second highest girl recognition in Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts between the ages of 11-14, or in grades 6-9, and who are no longer in Junior Girl Scouts can work on this award.

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)—the national corporation chartered by the United State Congress to direct and coordinate the Girl Scout Movement across the country.

Interest Project Award (IP)—recognition earned by Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors upon completion of required activities in a particular subject area. IPs are official GSUSA recognitions and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

J-Bucks—Like “Cookie Dough,” this is a coupon Juliettes earn as a recognition during the Girl Scout cookie sale. Juliettes may use their “J-Bucks” to pay for council events and activities or to purchase items in either of the Girl Scout shops.

Juliettes—Girls who are not part of a troop or group, but who do want to be members of the organization and eligible to receive age-appropriate recognitions and participate in service unit and council-sponsored activities. To see everything available to Girl Scout Juliettes, visit our Web site and click on the Girl Program tab and then Juliettes on their dropdown!

Membership Director—an employed staff member who works with the service unit volunteer personnel to be the link between service teams and support services to girls and adults.

Leader—adult volunteer who meets regularly with a troop/group of Girl Scouts to help them achieve the purpose of Girl Scouting. (Also referred to as “Advisors.”)

OneGirl—Fun, safe social networking site on Sybaquay’s Web site under Girl2Girl and just for registered Girl Scouts in Sybaquay Council.

Operational Volunteer—adult volunteers responsible for delivery of Girl Scout program.

Program Aides—registered Girl Scouts who are 12-18 years old and in grades 7-12 who have taken appropriate training and are willing to assist leaders by teaching specific skills to younger girls.

Program Level—there are six grade-designated program level. Each level participates in age-appropriate activities that allow girls to discover, connect, and take action.

Promise and Law—the spiritual force and ethical code accepted by all Girl Scouts.

Safety Wise—national publication which contains Girl Scout program standards.

Service Units—geographic subdivision of the council for the purpose of troop/group organization and communication. For a list of service units and town, go to www.gs-sybaquay.org and click on About Us/Jurisdiction.

STUDIO 2BSM—the umbrella of Girl Scout activities for girls 11-17, based on a girl-driven approach to program planning. Girls participating in STUDIO 2B activities are eligible to earn charms and can participate in STUDIO 2B destinations.

Troop Service Coordinator (TSC)—an adult volunteer who organizes troops/groups in a service unit or school and provides ongoing advice and support to the troop/group leadership team.

Try-It—recognition earned by Girl Scout Brownies upon completion of required activities in a particular subject area. Try-Its are official GSUSA recognitions and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.



Sybaquay Council Publications

Annual Report—Sybaquay Council’s membership year ends September 30. An annual report is published and will be on line by the following January.

Camp Booklet—This booklet is usually mailed to Girl Scouts in the winter. It details resident camp sessions offered for the following summer. It can also be found online. This year, Sybaquay Girl Scouts can participate in the Camp Co-op.

Leader Links—This monthly online newsletter keeps Girl Scout volunteers informed of council news and upcoming events and activities.

Program Booklet—This booklet comes is mailed to Girl Scouts in the fall. It contains all the fun council-sponsored events. from October through May. In the spring, a summer supplement is mailed to girls detailing summer programs. You can also find all of our program activities listed on our Web site.

Sybaquay Reporter—This online newsletter is produced four times per year and is for Girl Scouts and their families.

Teen Links—This online newsletter is produced four times per year and is intended for Girl Scouts 11 to 17.

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.



The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Help her try!