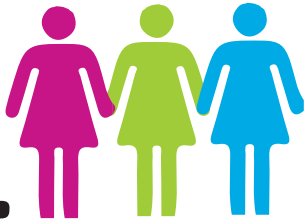


17 Things to Embrace *for 2017*

gsmists.org

1 43 Service Units – to create a stronger organization we have merged Service Unit teams to better serve our volunteers and girls.



5 Improved Trainings – The Troop Management session will be accessible online and specifically designed to help new leaders start their troop.

9 Service Unit Team Position Meetings – We will be holding sessions for the core Service Unit positions throughout the year.

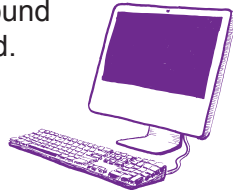


13 Fall Product – New donation option to support our Home Town Hero's.

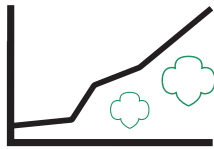


16 #gsmists – Our Marketing Department will be working to improve communication to our volunteers and Girl Scout families. You will see more e-newsletters and social media communication and a more user friendly website.

2 Online Volunteer Applications – To quickly turn our new GSMISTS volunteers, we will have the entire volunteer application process online. Volunteers will have to pay a small fee to have the criminal background check completed.



6 More Girls – It is our goal to provide more opportunities for girls to join GSMISTS. We will be providing each Service Unit with a Recruitment Kit to aid in promoting Girl Scouting.



10 Forms. Forms. Forms – All of our forms will be fillable PDFs.

14 Cookies – This is the 100th year anniversary of the Girl Scout Cookie. We will be offering the new S'more and Toffee-tastic Cookies during the cookie season.



3 New Shop & Office Hours – To better utilize our staff resources, GSMISTS has updated shop and office hours. Our staff will now be able to improve their response time to phone calls and emails.



7 Community Events – We are partnering with organizations across our 30 counties to provide programming for your girls.



11 Troop Bank Accounts – We improved the process for opening a new bank account. Only two signers!



4 Financial Assistance – To clarify the Financial Assistance procedure, there will only be two forms instead of three!



8 Troop Trips are Easy – We have developed easy and clear guidelines for troops planning trips.



12 Starting a Troop – You will only need two unrelated approved adults and three girls to start a troop!



15 Cookie Calendar – We are moving up the cookie calendar dates, which means there will be no bank sweeps during Spring Break!



17 Service Unit Scorecard – Giving Service Units the opportunity to earn more Cookie Incentives based upon activities.

1. In the past we had over 60 Service Units stretching across 30 counties. Combining our Service Units to 43 will help with the allocation of volunteer and staff resources.

2. Processing Volunteer Applications have become a long and expensive task. We have moved our Volunteer Application online which will allow volunteers to be processed quickly so those volunteers can start meeting with their girls. There will be a fee to do the background check which will range from \$8 - \$28.

3. Effective September 12, 2016 our new Shop & Office hours will be:

- Monday: 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Shop will also be open the 2nd Saturday of October, November and December from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. The two Financial Assistance Forms will be Financial Aid For Membership/Uniform and Financial Assistance for Events/Activities.

5. Troop Management will be scheduled multiple times throughout the month online. This session will ensure new leaders are ready to start their new troops.

6. Recruitment Kits will be provided to each Service Unit so they can set a recruitment night with new parents. This event will help parents understand the Girl Scout program.

7. Volunteers will have the opportunity to visit gsmists.org and find a growing list of community partners. These partners have agreed to provide amazing programming for our girls.

8. Troop Trips have never been easier. Volunteers will not have to complete a Troop Trip Application if they have a day trip that is within the GSMISTS jurisdiction and/or less than 60 miles away. This means less paperwork for volunteers! We have also created a Trip Planning guide to help guide you through the process for those other occasions.

9. Each Service Unit Team position will be supported throughout the year by meeting with staff. This meeting will be done through GoTo Meeting and we hope to build some consistent messaging to all Service Units.

10. Forms that are on gsmists.org will be fillable PDFs for convenience.

11. Volunteers no longer have to track down three people to be on Troop Bank accounts. Two approved volunteers from the troop are the only necessary signers.

12. Starting a new troop has never been easier. If we have two approved volunteers and three girls ready to be in Girl Scouts, we will start a troop!

13. We are making an effort to support our soldiers and we will be sending them donations from our Fall Product Sales.

14. It is exciting to be celebrating the 100th year of the Girl Scout Cookies! We are also excited to add two new cookies to our order card!

15. For years our volunteers have wanted to move up our cookie calendar dates and this year we are! We hope that volunteers can enjoy their spring break, knowing that the 2017 Cookie Season is complete and in the books.

16. #gsmists. This year we are making a commitment to communicate to our volunteers on a more regular basis. Be on the lookout for our bi-monthly newsletters and more information posted on our website.

17. Scorecard – There are so many Service Units that are going above and beyond to bring Girl Scouting to their communities. The new Service Unit Scorecard will be an opportunity to provide a monetary incentive to all Service Units.

