

September Volunteer Meeting Summary

- As of Monday, September 7, our membership numbers are as follows:
 - Girl Members – 5,167 total
 - Adult Members – 2,063 total
 - Lifetime Members – 1,669 total
 - 70.6% retention rate
 - 65.1% girl retention rate
 - 78.6% adult and lifetime retention rate

Council news:

- We're entering year 2 of our strategic plan
- The Board of Directors has voted on a \$6.5 million budget
 - It's a deficit budget so we can put more money toward program delivery and financial support for both volunteers and girls
 - Money will also go toward our property
- We proposed closing our Burlington Kiosk and Farnsworth retail location
 - We would convert the STEM Mobile to a mobile retail store when not being used
 - Our Bedford store would offer free shipping until we get the Dream Lab opened
- Next National Council Session will be July 2029 in Indianapolis, Indiana
 - Anyone interested in being a delegate, please fill out an application
- The proposals that were discussed were:
 - Solicitation of contributions for Highest Awards, it was proposed to be adapted to no longer just be for Gold Awards, but for Bronze and Silver as well
 - This passed
 - Membership dues, it was proposed to change potential increase from 25% over a 3-year period down to 15%
 - This passed
 - The sale of trademark and licensed GSUSA products during sales seasons, it was proposed that there would be no sales of trademarked or licensed food products outside of sale period
 - This was thrown out

Membership & Volunteer Support news:

- For MY27 renewal:
 - 2,736 girls renewed or newly joined
 - 1,046 adults renewed or newly joined
 - 1,698 lifetime members renewed
 - 49.7% overall retention rate
 - 46.7% girl retention rate
 - 58.08% adults and lifetime retention rate
- New Girl Scout Year starts October 1st, don't forget to renew
- Volunteer Appreciation Month gifts will expire September 30th

Girl Experience news:

- We are providing a youth mental health training for just \$25 for volunteers, and you can use your Volunteer Appreciation Month gift for it
 - Can be completely virtual or in-person
- Several upcoming adult trainings
 - If you don't see one close to you let us know
- We are scheduling youth programs for the fall
- GSUSA has started a new initiative, called the Program Modernization
 - Will impact badges and awards that are currently available
 - The information is on the GSUSA website
 - Journeys will be retired
 - Troops who have started them will be able to finish
 - There will be new leadership awards that will be taking their place
 - The 4 pillars will be replaced with 8 new themes
 - Animals and nature, outdoor adventure, sports and recreation, arts and imagination, balanced living, technology and innovation, leadership and your future, and your world near and far.
 - Badges will be grouped into those themes
 - They will also be rolling out a program library that will eventually replace the Volunteer Toolkit

Product Program news:

- We have 2 new cookies launching during cookie season
 - Patch Pals by BarkBox which is a dog treat and will cost \$9
 - Sparkables which is allergy friendly and will be \$7
 - Both will be online only

- We're hoping for a smooth process
- Fall Product starts on October 1st and runs until the 25th
 - Products will arrive in November
 - Troops will earn \$4/item in troop proceeds which is an increase
 - Rhey will also get 20% on nuts and chocolate
 - If a troop opts out, they can earn an additional 15 cents/item
 - This needs to be decided by the troop
- Cookie season starts on January 1st and runs until March 14th
 - Cupboards will open February 5th