girl scouts
of eastern washington
and northern idaho

Greetings Troop Leaders,
Thank you for another great year of Girl Scouting. Your dedication is truly making a difference in young girls' lives. We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some changes and exciting news for the 2014 membership year.

- **GSUSA Membership dues is increasing to $15**. Please remember these fees go directly to GSUSA for supplemental insurance and program development. Cookie Dough, Troop funds, and Service Unit Funds can and should be used for GSUSA Membership registration.
- **At the April 27, 2013 GSEWNI Annual Meeting** a very exciting change was made to our Council's By-Laws. The Board of Directors will now include 2 Girl members, 15 years or older! The Board and Council staff are working on the application procedure and will communicate to everyone as soon as it is ready. Below is the complete By-Law change
    - "Article 3.2.5 Two (2) girl members 15 years or older, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Board Development Committee to serve on the Board of Directors ("Girl Board Participants"). Girl Board Participants shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors. Girl Board Participants shall be registered Girl Scouts at least fifteen (15) years of age. Girl Board Participants shall serve one-year terms and may be reappointed. There shall be one (1) Girl Board Participant from Idaho and one (1) Girl Board Participant from Washington unless there is not a qualified candidate from each state in which case both Girl Board Participants may be from either Idaho or Washington."
- **Transportation Cards are no longer required!** Safety guidelines outlined in Volunteer Essentials still MUST be followed.
    - All adults providing transportation to girls for Girl Scout program will still need to be registered and approved volunteers with the Council.
    - All registered and approved volunteers providing transportation to girls for Girl Scout program must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.
    - Volunteers will peer and/or self verify valid driver's license and proof of insurance before each instance of providing transportation for girls to Girl Scout program.
- **Change in Policy: Section II (Volunteers) Policy 3:** There must be at least one GSUSA-registered adult with current Level I First Aid and CPR certifications at all GSEWNI functions and activities that occur outside of the regular meeting place and where girls are present. Level 2 certification is required for camping events exceeding 200 participants, for resident camp, for high ropes courses, and for events using non-motorized travel 10 or more miles from a trailhead.
    - Rationale to Policy 3: GSUSA has updated First Aid requirements. There are two levels of First Aid. Level 1 is basic First Aid plus CPR and must include both child and adult CPR. Level two is advanced training such as First Responder, EMT, Wilderness First Aid, or Sport Safety. The Wilderness First Aid course developed by Boy Scouts and Red Cross is the advanced training that fulfills all requirements for Safety Checkpoints for Girl Scouts. GSUSA requires Level 1 training for all Girl Scout events that occur outside of the regular meeting place. There are no first aid requirements for the meeting place. Level 2 is required for camp events exceeding 200 participants, for resident camp, for High ropes courses, and for hikes more than 10 miles from trailhead, and for any activity which requires an emergency services response time of more than 60 minutes.
- **Change in Policy: Section IV (Finance), Policy 7:** Should a troop/group/service unit/day camp disband or fail to re-register, the balance of any funds will revert to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho and placed in the GSEWNI Opportunity Scholarship Fund.
    - **Standards (Policy7):** Should a troop/group/service unit/day camp disband or fail to re-register by **October 31st** of the current membership year, the balance of funds will revert to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho.

Complete and up-to-date By-Law, Policies, and Standards can be found on the GSEWNI website, www.gsewni.org.

Finally, we want to encourage all of you to self-identify racial and ethnic data when re-registering. This data remains confidential and is extremely valuable to the Council for tracking membership trends, forming grant applications, and soliciting donors.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to Girl Scouts. Looking forward to another great year of Girl Scouting!

Yours in Scouting,

Doug Duer
Director of Membership Services