



NUTS & BYTES

News and Updates for Trainers • March 2006

Welcome to NUTS & BYTES

Welcome to our first issue of *Nuts & Bytes*, the e-newsletter for trainers. The newsletter will be published four times a year, and you will receive an email telling you that your newsletter is ready with a link to the council website. We will still mail copies to those who do not have access to the Internet or prefer to receive a hard copy. Let Becky know what you think at bshafter@gsvsc.org.

Basic Troop Leadership Discussion Groups

I have been visiting service units around the council during February and March to talk with service team members, leaders, and staff about Basic Troop Leadership courses I, II, and III. This information will be used as the springboard for updating our training. If you would like to be a part of this discussion, please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=472711920406> and answer the questions. I will add your comments to the others.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



April 28, 2006
Awards and
Recognitions Banquet
(Registration due April 1)

April 29, 2006
Annual Meeting
(Registration due April 17)

July 21-23, 2006
Training for Trainers

September 8-9, 2006
Annual Conference of
Trainers

November 10-12, 2006
Training for Trainers



Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council Policies

We now have a new packet of council policies (#3485) that includes the council policies as we know them as well as the new standards of acceptable behavior (previously known as the volunteer management policies). This packet has been mailed to all registered adults and is in effect immediately. Please review the policies and standards of acceptable behavior. I am sure you will be asked to interpret these, so let your staff advisor know if you have any questions or concerns.

Criminal Background Checks

At the January board of directors meeting, a background screening process for volunteers was approved. The directive was that this process begin as soon as possible. At this time, we are screening the board of directors, camp staff, and, as of April 1, any new volunteer or any volunteer applying for an additional position. Over the next three years, we will begin screening current volunteers. You will be asked to sign a consent form before we actually run the screening on you, so be on the lookout for the consent form that will be given to you at a meeting or be mailed to you.

Volunteer Portfolio

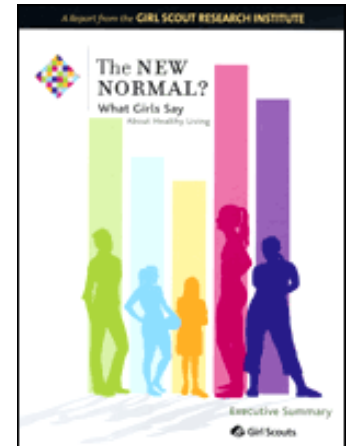
In order to help volunteers track their volunteer experience, we have updated a volunteer portfolio piece originally produced by GSUSA. If you would like to have a copy, you may download one from the GSVSC website, or email chungate@gsvsc.org for a copy.



Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI) Healthy Living Study

America is confronting a childhood obesity crisis, and over the past 25 years, the percentage of overweight girls has more than doubled — to 16 percent of girls ages 6 to 19, up from 6 percent in 1974.

We will be hearing more from GSUSA on this topic. My question to you is: how can we, as trainers, do our part? Post your answers on the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=181951915214>. The answers will be posted on the trainers' page on the GSVSC website.



Studio 2B Online

Our first online session is almost ready for the Girl Scout public. Watch your email for the exciting debut!



Outdoor Education

The updated outdoor education procedures have been sent to the lead trainers of the outdoor education planning and weekend sessions. It is vital that all trainers follow not only the procedures but also the session design. One of our biggest complaints from session participants is that different trainers tell them conflicting information. If you have questions, please let Becky know.



**Don't worry that children never listen to you;
worry that they are always watching you.
— Robert Fulghum**



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Nuts & Bytes is a quarterly publication of the learning services operating unit at Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council. It is written by Becky Shaffer, director of learning services.

The brown owl originated from a Brownie Girl Scout story in 1926. (The current version is in the *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook* on page 29). The brown owl was considered to be very wise and shares its knowledge with those that ask. Since trainers share their "wisdom," it became the symbol for those in that position.

