



# CONVENTION Connections

LEADING TO INDIANAPOLIS

2008  
Girl Scout  
National  
Council Session  
Newsletter



*This is the final issue of Convention Connections you will receive before convention. Travel safely and see you in Indianapolis!*

## GSUSA National Board of Directors Announcements

### Delegates Meeting with National Board of Directors

On Thursday, October 30, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., the National Board will meet with delegates for a briefing and to respond to questions. The meeting will be held in the Sagamore Ballroom on the second level of the convention center. Delegates are asked to wear their credentials (badge). Due to space limitations and the need to accommodate delegates, we will not be able to seat others who may have an interest in attending.

### Open Dialogue

For the very first time, delegates and non-voting members will have the opportunity to share their opinions and ask questions before proposals are debated by delegates. During meetings I and II on Friday and Saturday, time has been set aside for Open Dialogue. The presiding officer facilitating this dialogue will provide guidance to speakers.

### Recent Board Action

On October 16, 2008, in a teleconference with Board Chairs and CEOs, the National Board of Directors announced that it has made two changes to the National Council agenda in response to voting member (delegate) questions and concerns raised over the past few months. Pending approval by the National Council, the National Board has voted to:

### Surprises Galore!

When you arrive at convention, be on the lookout for Story Buttons. With a total of 2,000 buttons and more than 5,000 attendees, we expect they'll be traded (along with stories) from dawn to dusk—at the convention center, in hotel lobbies, and on the way home. Each council will get an envelope at check-in with their share of buttons. Let the storytelling begin!

In addition, keepsakes will be placed on chairs before the opening session, including cards and journals for jotting down our thoughts and insights during convention and beyond.

See you in Indy!

1. Withdraw Proposal 1, part 5, and Proposal 1, part 6, both of which proposed the elimination of language pertaining to “geographical areas of the country.”

There clearly needs to be more dialogue on this issue, and in the next triennium, opportunities for discussion will be created for councils and delegates with the National Board.

2. Withdraw Proposal 6, which focused on the removal of language restricting membership categories, in its entirety.

With respect to Proposal 6, we believe most of the delegate body supports the need to create additional membership categories. We understand that some delegates did not feel they could take action without a concrete plan, so we have decided to withdraw this proposal. We will develop new membership categories in partnership with councils.

### **National Nominating Committee Slate**

The National Nominating Committee, having heard concerns expressed by delegates regarding geographic representation of the nominating committee slate, has made a decision to update the slate. The slate will be released before the National Council Session begins and will be posted on the convention Web site, the Convention Talk site, and will be e-mailed to Board Chairs and CEOs.

### **Convention Logistics**

#### *Transportation to/from the Airport:*

Your transportation options are Yellow Cab Indianapolis and two shuttle bus services— Carey Indiana and IndyGo. Estimated travel time between Indianapolis International Airport and Downtown Indianapolis is 15 minutes.

#### *Carey Indiana*

Carey Indiana offers a share-a-ride option, which costs \$11 per person. For online reservations and information on Carey Indiana shuttles, **visit [www.careyindiana.com](http://www.careyindiana.com)** or call 1-800-888-INDY (4639).

#### *IndyGo Shuttle—UPDATED*

Ride the IndyGo Green Line Downtown/Airport Express with non-stop service from the Indianapolis International Airport to Downtown Indianapolis, with access to 16 major convention hotels.

*\*Visit the GSUSA Convention Web site for information and updates on getting from the airport to your hotel.*

*Credentials/Registration Hours and Location:*

The registration area is located in Exhibit Hall D of the Indiana Convention Center. Directional signs will be posted.

**Wednesday, October 29**

Noon–5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, October 30**

8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 31**

8:00 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 1**

8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 2**

8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

*Hall of Exhibits:*

Located in Halls D, E, F, and G, the GSUSA Hall of Exhibits will have many fun and exciting exhibits, as well as CenterStage, where you'll find interesting demonstrations and performances. Look for a complete schedule in the printed addendum to be distributed onsite, as well as on signage in the Hall of Exhibits.

*The Hall of Exhibits Grand Opening:*

This grand event will take place Thursday, October 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the lobby of the convention center.

In addition, we encourage everyone to attend the Meet and Greet with the National Board and Nominees from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This will take place in the back of the exhibit hall—just look for the overhead sign, "Delegate Dining," adjacent to the GSM Superstore.

### *Forecast Calls For...*

In October, the average temperature in Indianapolis ranges from high-30s to low-60s. It's suggested that you bring a warm jacket or sweater, as temperatures in hotels and the convention center tend to fluctuate. Before you leave for Indianapolis, check <http://www.weather.com>

### **Turn on Your Cell Phones: Lrnin 2 txt—Lssns 4 thse ovr 60!**

*(Learning to Text—Lessons for Those Over 60!)*

With girls at the center of everything we do, we must learn to communicate in their language! Enter: the language of text. Just picture it: thousands of members, cell phones in hand, responding to a question. Every answer matters; you don't have to be a voting member and you don't have to stand at a microphone for your voice to be heard. How cool is that?

Knowing that texting is not the primary language of many convention goers, here are some simple steps and need-to-know translations to help the "over-60 crowd" prepare for this new experience!

#### **The Basics**

Most mobile phones can send txt (text) messages; a rare few cannot. To determine if you're able to txt, check your user's manual or contact your wireless service provider. U (you) may also want to inquire how much it costs 2 (to) send and receive messages. If u don't have txt capability, u may want 2 purchase a minimal size "package" 4 (for) use while u are in Indy.

All devices are different, but these general instructions should help: From the main menu of your device, select "message," then "txt messages," then "create/new message." Using the letters located on the keypad of your device, type a message. In the number field, type the 10-digit wireless number to which you would like to send the txt. When done, select "ok" or "send" to relay the message. And remember: When in doubt, ask a girl for help!

#### **The Language**

Most phones can only handle 160 characters per message, and because of this restriction, the language of txt came 2 life. The objective: 2 make use of the fewest number of characters while still conveying a clear message. (It's fine 2 spell out whole words if u have room.) Punctuation, grammar, and capitalization are commonly, and acceptably, ignored. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- Single letters can replace words: *Be* becomes *b*, *see* becomes *c*, *are* becomes *r*, *you* becomes *u*, etc.

- Single digits can replace words: *Ate* becomes *8*, *for* becomes *4*, *to* or *too* becomes *2*.
- A single letter or digit can replace a syllable: *Great* becomes *gr8*, *later* becomes *l8r*, *tomorrow* becomes *2mro*, *before* becomes *b4*, *are you there?* becomes *r u der?*
- Combinations of the above can shorten a single word or multiple words: *Your* and *you're* both become *ur*.
- Characters and punctuation can be removed to shorten messages: In most cases, *in* can replace *-ing*. So, *coming* becomes *comin* and *txting* becomes *txtin*.
- Vowels can be removed such that the sequence of consonants remains and the word is still recognizable: *Between* becomes *btwn* and *yearbook* becomes *yrbk*.
- Whole words may be omitted, especially articles: "/" can signify abbreviation, such as *w/* for *with* and *s/t* for *something*.

#### Wrd Lst 4 Nw Txtrs

At the moment: atm	No thank you: nty or no ty
Because: bcuz, bcz, bcos, or bcoz	No problem: np
By the way: btw	Of course: ov cors
Definitely: def	Probably: prbly or proly
Don't worry: dw	Right: rite
Forever: 4eva or 4evr	See you: cya or cu
For your information: fyi	See you later: cva/cu
Friend: frnd	l8er/l8a
Got to go: g2g or gtg	Something: s/t, or sumthin
How are you: hru	Sorry: sry, or sori
In my opinion: imo	Talk to you later: ttyl
Just kidding: jk	Thanks: thanx or thx
Laugh out loud: lol	What: wat or wut

# Convention Personals: One-on-Ones with Convention Attendees

## Three generations of Girl Scouts



### **Featured Girl Scout: Carol Lee Spages**

Carol Lee has been involved in Girl Scouts for 53 years. She joined as an intermediate Girl Scout and stayed because she really enjoyed everything about the program. She volunteered to be a Girl Scout leader right after she finished nursing school, and took over a Senior Girl Scout troop in which she was only five years older than the oldest girl in the troop! It was a great group that followed her through some major moments in her life, Carol said. The girls gave her a bridal shower, attended her wedding, and were there for the birth of her daughter, a future Girl Scout.

### **Q & A with Carol**

*> Tell me a little bit about yourself and how you got involved with Girl Scouts.*

When my daughter was seven, I was given the opportunity to take a full-time position with council staff as a field manager, and to do some of my work from home. (At the time, I was working as a registered nurse.) It was to be a temporary job, and yet, twenty-four years later, I was still working for Girl Scouts. I loved what I was doing and ultimately became the adult development director and special programs manager. I retired three years ago, and since then, I've gone back to working part time as a nurse and as a volunteer council facilitator. I also volunteer for the Red Cross.

Also, I have the Thanks Badge II and was named an Outstanding Adult Girl Scout by my council.

*> Is this your first convention?*

This is my 10th convention.

*> What is your specific role in planning for convention?*

I am attending as an official visitor from my council and as an exhibitor. I am also a member of "Friends of Sangam," so I will be assisting at the Sangam exhibit in the exhibit hall.

*> What do you hope to accomplish at convention?*

I'm looking forward to networking with friends from all over the country at the Online Buddies gathering. As part of several online Yahoo! groups, I've made friends with people I've never met, people I'm anxious to meet in person at convention. I also plan to gather information from vendors to share with the members of my online e-news group, GreenBlood News. This way, people who can't attend the convention can still share in all of the wonderful resources that will be available.

I enjoy the National Council sessions as well. Sitting in a place with thousands of Girl Scouts is an awe-inspiring experience, and watching the democratic process unfold is amazing. When I get home, I will report my experiences to my online friends across the country and around the world.

> *What has been your most memorable experience in Girl Scouting?*

One day at work, I received a phone call from two girls who had been in my Girl Scout troop. They had left Girl Scouts 25 years earlier and I hadn't seen them since. They told me about how, over lunch one day, they had started reminiscing about Girl Scouting. [Afterward], they tracked me down by calling different Girl Scout councils. When they found me, they thanked me for making a difference in their lives—this brought tears to my eyes. Now, when I work with leaders, I tell them they can make a difference; they may not see it right away, they may not hear it from the girls, but someday a girl might stop and think, wow, I learned that as a Girl Scout.

> *What do you hope to learn from your convention experience?*

I always am looking for new ideas to share with others. I love networking with likeminded people, and I know I will go home enriched and energized to continue with my volunteer work.

> *Any last words?*

I'm excited to be sharing this convention with my daughter and granddaughter—it will be our first time together at such an event. It's been something I have been looking forward to for a long time. I've been waiting for Carrie to be old enough to attend, and this is our year!

### **Featured Girl Scout: Tracie Spages**

Tracie Spages has been a Girl Scout for 31 years. Her mom was a Girl Scout leader, and when she was born, she was "adopted" by her troop. She went on her first camping trip when she was six months old, and officially joined Girl Scouts in second grade.

### **Q & A with Tracie**

> *Tell me a little bit about yourself and how you got involved with Girl Scouts.*

I was born with green blood, but it wasn't until I was older that the real fun started. I was 12 and a half when I went on my first Wider op (destination), "Ho, West We Go" at the old National Center West in Wyoming. I also participated in "Texas Safari Style: from Cactus to Pine in Arizona," "Cracks, Crevices, and Crawlways" in Virginia, and, finally, J-Low Camp in Kansas.

I earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and several other recognitions for my service to Girl Scouts, including the Congressional Award. In addition, as part of her council job, my mom helped manage a mime troupe called Silent Expressions, and our first program was called “Ugs ‘n Ughs,” which taught children ways of protecting themselves from child abuse. The program won first place in the National Safety Council’s youth division, and the entire troupe went to Florida to receive the award.

I have had so many wonderful opportunities because of Girl Scouts; it has truly changed my life.

> *Is this your first convention?*

Yes, and I am very excited to experience it with my family. I will be attending as an official visitor.

> *What do you hope to accomplish at convention?*

I’m looking forward to meeting new people from around the country. I belong to some Yahoo! groups for Girl Scouts, and I want to meet other members [who will be attending convention]. I also want to see how Girl Scouts really functions [as an organization]. This is the first time I will witness something of this magnitude; seeing it live, I’m sure, will be very exciting.

> *What has been your most memorable experience in Girl Scouting?*

My most memorable experience was attending National Center West’s “Ho, West We Go.” It was my first trip by myself and I was really nervous. I learned how to eat cactus and juniper tea and I rode a horse at full gallop across the desert of Wyoming. It was there that I learned the song “On my Honor.” It touched my heart because it was then that I knew what it was to be a Girl Scout. When it was time to go home, we sang that song one last time and there was not a dry eye in the whole place. Every time I sing that song I remember back to that time in my life and shed a tear for the friends I made.

> *What do you hope to learn from your convention experience?*

I want to network, learn new things, and get as much information as possible. I want to try new experiences, talk with likeminded people, and return home and share what I learned with others.

> *What would you like people to know about you?*

My high school was a private boarding school called the New Your Military Academy. I was the only Girl Scout there and was proud of it. It was really great at cookie time—I sold lots to the students and faculty. At the end of my first year at NYMA, my mom picked me up to bring me home.

She asked if I wanted to go back. I said yes, but I know that had Girl Scouting not taught me that I can take care of myself, I would’ve never made it.

Also, I find that I'm a role model for the older girls because of all I have been through with Girl Scouts. I love sharing my stories with them, and seeing them gets me excited to try new things.

Besides being a Girl Scout, I am also a Boy Scout. I'm an advisor to a Venturing crew of boys and girls ages 14 to 21, and I love the fact that I get to be a part of two great organizations.

> *Any last words?*

I am ecstatic that my daughter is in Girl Scouts and wants to stay. When she was born, my mom was there and when the doctor said, "It's a girl!" my mom said, "You have your Girl Scout!" It was then that I truly knew my Girl Scout family was growing—first my mom, then me, then my daughter... I hope she has a girl someday; that way our family of "green bloods" will live on.

I'm so excited that we'll be traveling together to National Convention this year, as it's the first for Carrie and I, and I know my mom can show us the ropes. We'll be united as Girl Scouts and as a family!

### **Featured Girl Scout: Carrie Ann Spages**

Carrie Ann is a third-generation Girl Scout, and has been with the organization for 12 years.

#### **Q & A with Carrie**

> *Tell me a little bit about yourself and how you got involved with Girl Scouts.*

Even before I was old enough to join Girl Scouts I was camping with them. I was born a Girl Scout and I will always have green blood like my grandmother and mom.

> *Is this your first convention?*

Yes, and I am so excited!

> *What will you participate in at convention?*

I am attending the Girl Scout Leadership Institute and will be at the actual convention as an official visitor.

> *What do you hope to accomplish at convention?*

I want to learn how to be a good leader so that one day I can have my own Girl Scout troop. I'm also excited to meet new people from around the country.

> *What has been your most memorable experience in Girl Scouting?*

My trip to the Hersheypark Girl Scout Camp-o-ree. My mom was my leader and we were the only Daisy Girl Scout troop in attendance. I was proud to be there and to be able to participate with the older girls. Then, when we went to Hershey's ZooAmerica, I discovered my dream: I wanted to be

a zookeeper. From that day on, I have been involved with animals. I take animal science classes in high school, belong to Future Farmers of America, and interned at the Brandywine Zoo this summer. Because of Girl Scouts, I have turned one trip into my destiny.

> *What do you hope to learn from your convention experience?*

I hope to learn how to communicate better with others—not only within Girl Scouts but also on topics of a serious nature worldwide.

> *What would you like people to know about you?*

I love meeting new people and trying out new ideas. I am quiet at first, but then, when I get comfortable around others, I open up. I want to make the world a better place for future generations to live.

> *Any last words?*

I am looking forward to going to the National Convention with my mom and grandmother. This is my first big Girl Scout trip. My dream is to go to all the World Centers like my grandmother did.