



# Girl Scouts® Dakota Horizons

## Northwest District

Volume 1, Issue 1

### Death by Chocolate Invitation

Girl Scouts-Dakota Horizons Council would like to invite you to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual *Death By Chocolate!* Event on Thursday, February 28th from 6-9:30 pm.

What is *Death By Chocolate*? It is when several of the region's finest chefs compete against each other with their finest chocolate creation. This

year's event will be judged by Susan Notter, celebrity chef; Carla Hinseth, the winner of the 2007 *Death By Chocolate*, and any ticket holder for the 2008 *Death By Chocolate*. The 2008 *Death by Chocolate* also includes an auction that will appeal to the tastes of everyone.

Tickets for *Death By Chocolate* are \$40. They

can be purchased at any Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Service Center, the Bismarck-Mandan Dan's SuperMarkets, by calling 701-223-4525, or at the door the evening of the event.

*Death By Chocolate* will be held at the Bismarck Best Western Ramkota Hotel Courtyard. Hope to see you there!

### Cookie Sales...1 MILLION Boxes

This year's cookie sale is set for February 22-March 14, 2008. We are very excited about it! Our goal for Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons is to sell ONE MILLION boxes of cookies! Help us make this goal a reality. There will be prizes for high cookie sellers, so watch future newsletters for more details.

We encourage every Girl Scout to participate in our Cookie Sale. It is an opportunity for you to learn money management, sales, and marketing skills. It is also an opportunity to

earn prizes.

The Northwest District Cookie Rally will be held Saturday, February 9, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Simle Middle School Gym, 1215 N. 19th St., Bismarck, We encourage you to attend.

Rally dates and times are tentative, so please check our temporary website at [www.gsdakotahorizons.org](http://www.gsdakotahorizons.org) under the product sales link for further information. Personal invitations will be sent to all Girl Scouts once the details are finalized.

#### What is a Dakota Certificate?

Girls earn Dakota Certificates through Cookie Sales. They can be used to offset the cost of any Dakota Horizon sponsored event, national membership dues or merchandise purchase in the Council shops. Dakota Horizons certificates expire October 31, 2009. Dakota Horizon certificates cannot be converted to cash.

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## Cookie Fun Facts

- All proceeds from our council's cookie sale stay in our council to support local Girl Scouts like you.
- The number one reason people buy Girl Scout Cookies is to support Girl Scouting.
- Our Dakota Horizons Board of Directors determined the cost of a box of cookies after gathering information from the Product Sales Committee and considering the financial support needed for our girl programming.
- Girl Scout Cookie Sale activities

support the democratic process in Girl Scouting and give girls the opportunity to decide how some of their troop/group proceeds will be spent.



- ABC Bakers has been making Girl Scout Cookies since 1938, making it the oldest and most

experienced of the three cookie suppliers licensed by Girl Scouts of the USA.

- Here's a sample grocery list for ABC: 16.5 million pounds of flour, 11 million pounds of sugar, 2.8 million pounds of peanuts, 1.3 million pounds of coconut!
- Thin Mints make up more than 25% of Girl Scout Cookies sold. The second most popular cookie is the coconut, caramel, and chocolate confection ABC calls Caramel deLites.

## Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Internet Statement

Within the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Council we are aware of at least two internet websites that appear to be similar to our Girl Scouts [www.gogirlsonly.org](http://www.gogirlsonly.org), but are inappropriate for girls. These sites are very misleading and attract girls under the guise of the proud Girl Scout image. However, these sites are not supported by Girls Scouts—Dakota Horizons or endorsed by GSUSA. The two inappropriate websites are gogirls.com and gogirls.org.

Several parents have brought these two sites to our attention. We appreciate their concern and attention to this matter. We are concerned about the experiences girls

have with the Internet.

As with every Girl Scout activity, we are committed to the safety and security of our girl members, and the Internet is no exception. However, we are not responsible for the content that others post up. Because we are a well-recognized and respected organization, we are an easy target for those who want extra publicity by exploiting our name or logo.

With that in mind, GSUSA created some guidelines for Online Safety that Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons encourages girls and their parents to use. The basic online principles are listed below. You can find more de-

tailed information on the GSUSA website under the Internet Safety Pledge.

### Online Safety Tips:

Girl Scouts actively encourages girls to follow some important safety guidelines whenever they go online:

1. Get permission from a parent or guardian before going online.
2. Do not post or share any personal information, including last name, birthday or contact information.
3. Use the safety features and tools available on these sites, including settings that limit access to friends and family.

## Transitional Board Members

Starting a new Girl Scout Council is not easy. Governance in every area needs to be created. The individuals listed below have been leading the new Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Council as transitional board members.

### President

Cheryl Chapman, SW

### First Vice President

Christina Starks, NW

### Second Vice President

Mike Bassingthwaite, NE

### Secretary

Carole Barrett, NW

### Treasurer

Catherine Heinemann, SE

### CEO

Tami Haug-Davis

### Southwest District

Crystal Jordan

Linda Stahl

Alan Solano

### Southeast District

Robin Aden

Shawn Oligmueller

Linda Salmonson

### Northwest District

Sarah Henderson

Eloise Leggate

Holly Pope

Joan Severin

### Northeast District

Nancy Israelson

Monica Millette

## Thank You for Supporting Girl Scouts

Thank you for sharing your time and talents to help Girls Grow Strong!

Blessed Holidays to you and your loved ones from the Girl Scouts of Dakota Horizons – Northwest District.

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.

### THE TIME YOU HAVE SPENT

The time you have spent as a volunteer,  
Be it half a lifetime or just a year.  
Will have its effect in such far reaching ways,  
It can never be measured in hours or days.  
But we want to say thank you for doing your part,  
For giving your hand and giving your heart.  
Thanks for the smiles when you wanted to weep,  
For the camping trips when you couldn't sleep.  
For car pools and nosebags and sit upons,  
For lighting the way to the outdoor johns.  
For running and phoning and meeting and waiting,  
For hiking and swimming and rollerskating.  
But thanks more than ever for years yet to come,  
When someone remembers the job that you've done.  
And memories brighten a young woman's face,  
In some other time and some other place.

### EVERY 100 GIRLS WHO JOIN GIRL SCOUTS

- Four will earn the Girl Scout Gold Award-the highest award for girls.
- Twelve will have their first contact with a church.
- Five will earn their church religious award.
- Only rarely will one be brought before juvenile court.
- One will enter the clergy.
- Eighteen will develop hobbies used during their adult life.
- Eight will enter a vocation that was learned through the badge or patch program.
- Seventeen will be future Girl Scout volunteers.
- One will use her Girl Scouting skills to save a life.
- One will use her Girl Scouting skills to save her own life.

That is a pretty good return on an investment in Girl Scouting!

Thanks for all you do,

Loretta Graham,  
Northwest District Director

## Program Corner

### Upcoming Programs

#### S'More Traditions—Minot

D

**Date:** Sat., Jan. 19, 2008  
**Time:** 12 pm—2 pm  
**Location:** Minot Field Office  
525 31st Ave. SW  
Minot, ND

**Registration deadline:** Jan. 7, 2008

#### A World of Understanding

B J

**Date:** Mon., Feb. 18, 2008 (President's Day)  
**Time:** 1 pm—4 pm  
**Location:** Hazen City Hall  
146 E. Main St.  
Hazen, ND

**Registration deadline:** Feb. 8, 2008

#### Music & People from Around the World

B

##### Bismarck

**Date:** Fri., Jan. 26-Sat., Jan. 27, 2008  
**Time:** 7 pm Fri.—7 am Sat.  
**Location:** TBD-Bismarck, ND  
**Registration deadline:** Jan. 10, 2008

#### Mission Possible

11-17

**Date:** Mon., Feb. 18, 2008 (President's Day)  
**Time:** 9 am—12 pm  
**Location:** Hazen City Hall  
146 E. Main St.  
Hazen, ND

**Registration deadline:** Jan. 31, 2008

# Headquarters Corner

## In the Beginning

By Tami Haug-Davis

### Overview

The merger of six Girl Scout councils into the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Council is part of Girl Scouts of the USA's national realignment to strengthen the Girl Scout Movement by creating high capacity councils capable of providing more opportunities for girls, enhanced services for adult volunteers, enhanced outreach to underserved populations and stronger community partnerships.

In 2006, the board of directors of each existing council appointed a representative to serve on the Council Realignment Committee (known as the CRC). The CRC developed a merger plan and a governance structure for the new council. It also established the council's initial budget, product sales guidelines, staffing structure, technology needs, and every other area of the council.

Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons was born on July 1, 2007—the beginning of the realignment process. Since its inception we've been working diligently to combine all of the forms, programs, policies, procedures, and staff of six autonomous councils into one comprehensive council.

The most commonly asked questions we have gotten are: Why did it take so long to complete certain tasks such as developing the website, completing forms, or getting the program guide out? From the beginning and throughout this process it is essential to seek input and get information from all six of the previous areas to build all of these things. Even though it takes a great deal of time, it is the right thing to do. We are committed to continue creating and making changes as we go along. Here's a timeline to give an idea of what's been happening:

### June 15-July 15

- Hiring of essential staff. All current employees of each of the six

merging councils were given the opportunity to apply for a position with Dakota Horizons and to interview.

### July 1

- Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons was officially created!
- Official employee start date for Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons employees. A council wide total of 46 staff members were interviewed; 32 accepted offers; 5 declined; 2 offers were rescinded; 7 were not offered positions.
- All databases from the six previous councils (membership and donor) were sent to GSUSA for merging.
- First meeting of the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Transitional Board of Directors was held July

*July 1, 2007 was the beginning of the realignment process.*  
—Tami Haug-Davis

10 to begin review and approval of governance policies.

- Review of ALL forms from six councils was started with a goal of creating one comprehensive set of forms.
- Comprehensive review of programs in all six councils was conducted to determine council and district level programs.
- Planning for fall membership recruitment was started.
- Product sales planning was started utilizing the product sales committee recommendations.
- All six former council websites were reviewed so a website request for proposal (RFP) could be developed and sent to website developers throughout the entire council.

### August

- Program review and program guide creation continued.
- Finalized forms set out to all districts for volunteer use.
- Interviews with website development contractors were conducted to identify the company that could help develop the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons website.
- Product sales planning, ordering and training schedules were developed.
- Analysis of troop finance issues and gift acceptance policies was started.

### September

- Nut sales trainings were held in each district.
- Negotiations for a temporary website contract were completed.
- Merged data came back from GSUSA on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, providing our first opportunity to connect with membership, volunteers or donors via e-mail or regular mail. Prior to this time the contact information was not available to us.
- Transitional Board met in person for the first time September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> creating a draft strategic plan for the new council and establishing a goal of December 31<sup>st</sup> to approve the board governance policies. The CRC recommended council-wide budget was adopted.
- Program booklet was sent to the printer.
- Additional staff members were hired at the headquarters and district levels.

### October

- The temporary website was launched.
- Program booklet was distributed.
- Staff communiqué was developed to enhance internal communications.
- Additional staff members were hired at district levels.

"Progress" Continued on page 5

## Shop News

### Promotional Cookie Sale Items

If you are interested in purchasing promotional items for your cookie sales like car magnets, flags, or yard signs, you need to purchase them by Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your local Girl Scout shop for the Cookie Promotional Items Order Form. Orders and payments must be received by January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

### Cookie Credit Deadline.

Girl Scout Cookie Dough, Cookie Certificates, Cookie Coupons, Cookie Money or any other type of cookie credit certificates are **valid** and can be redeemed until **October 30, 2008**. After **October 30, 2008**, all cookie credit from former Girl Scout councils will be null and void **regardless of its original expiration date**. Some exceptions apply. If you have questions, please contact your Dakota Horizons District Director.

## Fall Product Survey

We have set up a Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Fall Product Sale Survey. I encourage you to complete this survey and share this link others because WE WANT THEIR INPUT!!! We will close the survey link on January 11, 2008.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kSgUblzT\\_2fY9K0WqS\\_2fUINXA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kSgUblzT_2fY9K0WqS_2fUINXA_3d_3d)

With these survey results we will be able to improve the fall sale program for next year. Thank you!

## Safety Information

**Safety-Wise** — Safety-Wise will be coming out only in an online format in Spring 2008. There will be NO printed version produced by GSUSA though anything on the OCN can be printed by council. On-line orientation (45 minutes) should be available 24/7 in Spring 2008 to volunteers. Age level training will be available at the end of 2008-09.

**CPR Training** — **Kelly Russell and Nicole Key** will attend the certified Red Cross CPR/First Aid Instructors training. GSDH is committed to providing leaders with the tools they need to be successful leaders. We encourage you to take advantage of the CPR/first-aid trainings that will be offered in the future. Please contact your district office for training dates and times.

## Progress (continued from page 4)

### November

- Work continued on the permanent website.
- Cookie Sales trainings were held in each district.
- First resource development mailing was created and sent to more than 6,000 current and former Girl Scout supporters within our council.
- Internal policies and procedures continue to be developed in all areas utilizing best practices from all previous council input.
- Additional staff members (open positions) were hired at the headquarters and district level.
- Transitional Board achieved the goal of review and approval of council governance policies.

### December 13

- Program and Learning Specialists Retreat held to plan summer camps.
- Transitional Board meets. As part of its agenda it will review

and approve the Delegate Election Process.

### Transition continues

July 1, 2007 was only the **beginning** of the realignment process, not the end. When Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons was created on July 1, the real work began. Since then we've been working hard, and we will continue the hard work of becoming one comprehensive, unified council. As you know, the first time you create something new, it takes time, usually more time than can be anticipated. We've been told by GSUSA that merger transitions and an undertaking such as ours can take 1-2+ years.

As we go through the first year of membership, program and product cycles we know there will be challenges. We are confident as we go forward, we will get better, stronger, and things will go more smoothly. This is our reality as we create the new Girl Scout—Dakota Horizons Council.

We are one of the first councils in the nation to go through the realignment process which means there are very few other examples to follow; so we are leading and paving the way for others.

### The future looks bright

We continue to search for best practices and programming from each of the past councils to create our new high-quality, high capacity council. The work before us is not easy. It will continue to require communication, compromise and most of all patience! In the end, we are producing new policies, new procedures, new forms, new programs and most importantly better services for girls.

We are changing the way girls will experience Girl Scouts today and for years to come. We are the future of Girl Scouts. As we across the horizons of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, we can see Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons as a shining light.

## Northwest District

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Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone: 701.223.4525  
Fax: 701.223.7840  
Www.gsdakotahorizons.org

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls – all girls – where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. The Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Council serves more than 15,500 girls and 5,000 adults in North and South Dakota, 13 counties in Minnesota and one Iowa county.



## World Thinking Day 2008

Each year on February 22, girls participate in activities, games and projects with global themes to honor their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries.

“Think globally, act locally” is the mantra for encouraging girls to design activities that increase cultural awareness and emphasize the positive connections between Girl Scouts in the United States and their sisters throughout the world.

Water is the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Thinking Day theme for 2008. This year girls voted and selected Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Italy and Madagascar to represent the five regions of WAGGGS— which

are Asia/Pacific, Western Hemisphere, Arab region, Europe and Africa. World Thinking Day not only gives girls a chance to celebrate international friendships, but it is also a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of 144 countries with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts organizations.

WAGGGS is an educational organization based on spiritual values and is open to all girls, without distinction of creed, race, nationality or any other circumstance. Members of WAGGGS adhere to the fundamental principles of the original Promise and Law, although the wording may be adapted.

See the Resources Section of the

2008 World Thinking Day Guide for information about each country. You can also visit [www.girlscouts.org/world\\_thinking\\_day/](http://www.girlscouts.org/world_thinking_day/) for additional information.

World Thinking Day patches are available in all Dakota Horizons Council shops. The cost is

\$1.00. Please plan ahead.



2008

Thinking Day Patch