



# Girl Scouts®

## Dakota Horizons

### Southwest District

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Calling All Distinguished Women and Girls

Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons will hold the 13th Annual Women and Girl Scouts of Distinction Awards on Tuesday, May 13, 2007 at 7 am at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn.

The Women & Girl Scouts of Distinction Awards recognizes girls and women who have demonstrated extraordinary achievement or lead-

ership in their community, profession or volunteer efforts.

We need your nominations for these awards. Nominees for the Distinguished Girl Awards need to be active Girl Scouts. Nominees for the Women's Distinguished Award do not need to have current or former Girl Scout experience.

Nominations for these awards must be received in the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Southwest District office at 140 North Street, Rapid City, SD by 5 pm on March 1, 2008.

A nomination form is included in this e-newsletter on page 5. Photocopies of the form as acceptable. For more information contact the Southwest District office at 605.343.6355.

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## 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 Southwest District Cookie Rally will be held Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm at the National American University Gym, 321 Kansas City Street, Rapid City. We encourage you to attend.

Mini-Cookie Rallies will also be held in Mitchell, Yankton, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings and Pierre.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Buffalo Gap Service Unit

(Hot Springs, Custer & Edgemont)

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008**—Service Unit Meeting in Pringle at the Hitchrail, 6:30pm.

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**—Registration in the Home Ec Room at the Edgemont School, 4:00 to 6:00pm.

### Bear Butte Service Unit

(Black Hawk, Piedmont, Sturgis, Whitewood)

**January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – Service Unit Meeting at Our Lady of the Black Hills Catholic Church in Piedmont, 6:30pm.

### Ellsworth Service Unit

(Ellsworth, New Underwood, Box Elder)

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**—Service Unit Meeting at Don's Valley Market, east of Rapid City at 6:30pm.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**—Registration in New Underwood at the City Hall Meeting Room, 4 to 6 pm.

### Cedar Butte Service Unit

(Wall, Philip, and Midland)

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** Service unit meeting for Wall, Philip, Midland.

### Red Butte Service Unit

(Winner and Gregory)

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** Service unit meeting for Winner, Gregory.

### Mission Rose Service Unit

(White River and Murdo)

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**—Service unit meeting for White River Area.

Watch for cookie trainings and rallies in January and early February. Cookie Sales run from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Successful Service Unit Events

Ellsworth Service Unit held their Holiday Golf Event at the Putz n Glo.

Bear Butte Service Unit held a successful Winter Craft Event.

Thank you to all the leaders who, at this busy time of year, still make time for some Girl Scout fun!

## Staff Highlight—Kathi Crawford

I am based out of Belle Fourche. I serve Bear Butte, Ellsworth and Buffalo Gap Service Units which include the communities of Hot Springs, Custer, Edgemont, Black Hawk, Piedmont, Sturgis, Whitewood, Ellsworth, New Underwood and Box Elder.

I started working with Girl Scouts as a parent volunteer about eight years ago. At that time, my daughter was a first



**Kathi Crawford**  
Membership Specialist

year Brownie. Since then, I have been a troop volunteer, co-leader, leader, cookie person, and service unit manager.

Volunteering with Girl Scouts has given me

the ability to speak in front of people and self-confidence I didn't have before.

I am married and have a 17 year old daughter, a 15 year old son, and two step-daughters who are 16 and 19 years old. We have a full house with four cats and a dog. We enjoy going camping and spending time with our families.

I can be contacted by cell phone at 645-0819 or by email at [kcrawford@gsdakotahorizons.org](mailto:kcrawford@gsdakotahorizons.org).

## Staff Highlight—Stacy Pinney

I am based out of Philip. I serve the areas including Gregory, Midland, Philip, Wall, White River, and Winner. We will bring Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons to other communities in this service area within the next year.

My family, which recently



**Stacy Pinney**  
Membership Specialist

moved to Philip, consists of my husband, Scott, and our two children who are 9 and 11. We are dedicated to children. Scott and I have helped run a wrestling club in Chamberlain for a couple of years. I also have been a Girl Scout leader for the past three

years, and a Service Unit Manager last year. I did not have the opportunity as a child to be a Girl Scout, but I have learned much from being my daughter's troop leader. Last year in Chamberlain, the leaders planned many fun events for the girls. I look forward to lending my knowledge to the leaders in my areas.

I can be contacted by phone at home, 859-2341, or cell, 441-9606, or by email at [spinney@gsdakotahorizons.org](mailto:spinney@gsdakotahorizons.org).

# Program Corner

## Upcoming Programs

### Music & People from Around the World B

#### Rapid City

**Date:** Fri., Feb. 1-Sat., Feb. 2, 2008

**Time:** 6 pm Sat.-9 am Sun.

**Location:** Cedar Canyon Camp  
5130 Memorial Road  
Rapid City, SD

**Registration deadline:** Jan. 21, 2008

**Time:** 6:30 pm-8 pm

**Location:** Rapid City District Office  
140 N. St.  
Rapid City, SD

**Registration deadline:** Feb. 18, 2008

### Dance Moves B J

**Date:** Sat., Mar. 8, 2008

**Time:** Session 1: 1 pm-2:30 pm (5415)  
Session 2: 3 pm-4:30 pm (5416)

**Location:** Canyon Lake Senior Center  
Rapid City, SD

**Registration deadline:** Feb. 25, 2008

### Cookie Rally All

**Date:** Sat. Feb. 16, 2008

**Time:** 10 am-2 pm

**Location:** National American University Gym  
321 Kansas City Street  
Rapid City

### CEO University

Keep eye out on CEO University—June 16-19th.

### Girl Scout Week Teddy Bear Tea D

**Date:** Fri., Feb. 29, 2008

## Craft Ideas—Bookmarks

What you need:

leather string (15-18 inches depending on book size)

needle nose pliers

crimp beads

glass beads

**Step 1:** Put on knot on one end of the leather string, followed by a crimp bead.

**Step 2:** Tighten the crimp bead with a pliers.

**Step 3:** Put on 3-7 beads, another crimp bead and knot again.

**Step 4:** Tighten crimp bead with pliers.

**Step 5:** Repeat steps 1 through 4 on opposite end of the string. Putting all beads on string first.

**Step 6:** Trim off excess string from ends; start marking your place in you favorite book!

## Girl Scout Song/Game 1-2-3 O'Leary

This is an old Irish word game where the girls need to follow the pattern. It starts with all the girls singing the "chorus". Then the first girl sings the first verse filling in the blanks with names and words all starting with the letter "A". Girls sing the chorus, then the next girl in the circle sings the same verse filling in the blanks with names and words starting with the letter "B". And so on and so forth through the entire

alphabet.

### **Chorus:**

1-2-3 O'Leary

I spy my sister Sari

Sitting on a tumble'ary

Reading out of the dictionary.

### **Verses:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

My husband's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

We live in \_\_\_\_\_.

And we sell \_\_\_\_\_.

The girls get a kick out of thinking up the combination and hearing what everyone else comes up with. You will never have the same combinations twice. Leaders like to use this game/song to start or end their meetings. You don't always have to make it to the end of the alphabet, but it is fun and sometimes challenging to come up with the fill-ins just the same.



# 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 it's 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 7

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

[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** — Monique Robinson and Kathi 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 6)

### 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 Elec-

tion 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 realign-

ment 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.

## Southwest District

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Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: 605.343.6355  
Fax: 605.343.9508  
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

The cost is \$1.00. Please plan ahead.