



Mukluk Telegraph

NEWS FROM THE FARTHEST NORTH GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

Vol. 12 Issue 9



Girl Scouts®

September 2009

Farthest North Girl Scout Council Goes It Alone, No Statewide Merger in Sight

In 2005, Girl Scouts of the USA announced a nationwide merger plan to reduce the 312 Girl Scout councils across the nation to 109 councils. That plan called for merging the three Alaska Girl Scout councils into one massive statewide council. Farthest North Girl Scout Council looked long and hard at that plan and its effect on the girls and communities we serve. Through exhaustive study and much discussion over the past four years, the Board of Directors for the Fairbanks council has determined merger not to be in the best interest of the council. Your Fairbanks council will continue to operate as a separate Girl Scout council. We will retain our financial and physical territory, covering the expanse north of the Alaska Range, including the northern two-thirds of Alaska.

Many factors influenced the decision to remain an independent council. The Farthest North Girl Scout Council has a strong board of directors and management team. We are financially healthy and are poised for success well into the future. The board studied other non-profit mergers within Alaska in the past ten years and determined the challenges of long-distance management, communication and fund development to be a greater detriment than benefit. Continued on page 2.

ED Corner

Dear Friends,



Welcome to the new school year and to your Girl Scout experience in the Farthest North Council.

Whether you are continuing in your age level, bridging to the next level, starting Girl Scouts for the very first time, or new to the area we are so happy you are joining us. Please remember that the council staff are here to make your volunteer or girl program experience the very best it can be! Come tell us what you need.

Merger into a statewide council is now on hold. The board of directors has voted to withdraw from the merger process and pursue remaining an independent council. Girls in northern and interior Alaska will be better served by a regional headquarters in Fairbanks. Stay tuned for updates as we work through this process with the national Girl Scout organization.

You're invited to attend an Open House and Ribbon-Cutting ceremony for the new BP Community Room on Wednesday, September 23 from 4 – 6pm at the Girl Scout Service Center. Come help us celebrate the newly renovated center designed to serve Girl Scouts and the Fairbanks community for decades to come.

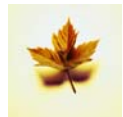
Be sure to visit the council shop this month for your **Basics-In-A-Bag Kit** that has everything you need to start your Girl Scout year tucked neatly in a fun Girl Scout bag. Plus, come check out the new uniform items at each age level. They're AWESOME!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Suellen Nelles

Building Campaign Complete Open House and Ribbon-Cutting September 23, 2009

4 – 6 pm



Join us on Wednesday, September 23 at 4:00 pm to celebrate the completion of the Girl Scout Service Center improvements. Dedication of the BP Community Room will take place with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:00 pm. Projects include a new heating / cooling system, community room kitchen, bathroom, track wall, carpet and ceiling. Renovations were also made to the 2nd story suite and bathroom and lobby flooring.

The **For Her Future** Building Campaign began in 2008 with aggressive fundraising for the \$500,000 project. The Rasmuson Foundation and BP championed the way with substantial gifts. We celebrate their partnership along with the personal contributions from community members at this Open House.

In late 2008 and 2009, the construction projects unfolded over many months, closing the community room and even the council offices for a period of time. Girl Scouts now celebrate the reopening of the community room starting in September 2009.

We hope our members can join us on September 23 to display our pride for the Girl Scout movement and the Service Center that supports our program and our community.





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Published monthly via website

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Weese

Lower 48 Girl Scout councils have been merging since 2005 to fulfill the national mandate. That gave the board the opportunity to evaluate their successes and problems. A very high percentage of those merged councils are struggling with deficit budgets in 2009. Preliminary statewide budget analysis concluded the one statewide council, urged for Alaska by Girl Scouts of the USA, would also operate in a deficit budget or would have to significantly reduce services to our girls, or both. Farthest North Girl Scout Council does not want to travel these paths. The interest of girls in northern and interior Alaska is best served by your current Farthest North Girl Scout Council maintaining its current configuration in Alaska.

The Anchorage and Juneau councils are still preparing to merge on October 1, 2009, forming the new Girl Scouts of Alaska, headquartered in Anchorage. We wish them nothing but success and anticipate no change whatsoever in the statewide cooperation and support Alaska's Girl Scout councils have always provided one another.

Opportunities for our girls across the state will be unaffected as Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The decision by Farthest North Girl Scout Council ensures the fulfillment of this mission for the girls in our council for years to come. Contact Suellen Nelles, Executive Director, or Russ Sharpton, Board President, at 907-456-4782 for further information.

Come Let Us Dress You in Style and for 15% off!
September 16-18 ONLY!
(15% off applies to Girl Scout Uniform Pieces and Books)



Starter Kits—Everything you need to start you off right in your new level of Girl Scouts.



How cute is this Brownie T-Shirt with socks to match! We have more designs as well!



CLEARANCE SALE!
Don't miss this opportunity to save big on our clearance items:
∞ 50% off Bin
∞ Clearance Table with some items as low as \$1.00



We have a nice selection of Daisy wear and accessories that match.



Rural Troops call 800-478-4782 to place an order for your Girl Scout needs. Shipping is always FREE to our Rural Troops!

Fall Training 2009 Schedule

Sign up for one class or all of them! This is the perfect opportunity to discover ideas on how to be a confident Leader. Call the Council Office, 456-4782 to register today!

Tue, Sept, 8th, 12-1p
 Tue, Sept, 8th, 6-7:30p
 Thurs, Sept, 10th, 6-6:45p
 Thurs, Sept, 10th, 7-8p
 Tue, Sept, 15, 6-7:30p
 Wed, Sept, 16th, 6-7p
 Thurs, Sept, 17th, 6-7:30p
 Tue, Sept, 22nd, 12-1p
 Sat, Sept, 26th, 9-12p

Thurs, Oct 1, 12-1p
 Tue, Oct 6th, 6-7:30p
 Sat, Oct 10th, 9-12p

Mon, Oct 12th, 6-7p
 Tue, Oct 14th, 6-7:30p
 Thurs, Oct 15th, 6-7:30p
 Mon, Oct 28th, 12-1p
 Tue, Dec 1st, 6-7p
 Thurs, Dec 3rd, 7-8p
 Tue, Dec 8th 7p-8:30p

Program Model Party
Daisy Level Training
Travel Information
Gold Award Training
Brownie Level Training
Program Model Party
Junior/OG Level Training
Program Model Party
**Super Saturday-BLT/
 Daisy/Brownie/Junior
 and Older Girl**
Program Model Party
Daisy Level Training
**Super Saturday-BLT/
 Daisy/Brownie/Junior
 and Older Girl**
Program Model Party
Brownie Level Training
Junior/OG Level Training
Program Model Party
FGMN Cookie Training
Aurora Cookie Training
GNS Cookie Training

Program Model Parties are an introduction to the Journey Program. We will show you how to incorporate both the Traditional Girl Scout Grade Level programs with the new Journey Program. We have the new Journeys for 2009/2010 based on the Earth and Ecology. Register for a Program Model Party and learn new and exciting ideas for Girl Scouts in 2009/2010. For a complete description of our training courses see our website www.fairbanksgirlscouts.org

First Aid and Adult/Child CPR Class Schedule



First Aid:

October 5th, Red Cross Office, 6pm
 Oct 20th, Council Office, 6pm
 November 2nd, Red Cross Office, 6pm

CPR:

September 29, Council Office, 6pm
 October 27, Council Office, 6pm
 November 14, Council Office, 9am-4pm
 (both CPR and 1st Aid)
 November 28th, Red Cross Office, 6pm

CPR/First Aid certification is a mandatory requirement for all Leaders.

Class fee is \$15.00 per one or \$25.00 for both. Payment is expected prior to class and can be paid through the Council Office. Payment is non-refundable. Please call the Council Office, 456-4782, to reserve your space today.



Farthest North Girl Scout Council will be closed on Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe and relaxing weekend!

Calendar Sales Start Sept.10th



Ask Cassie at the council office
 456-4782 or 800-478-4782
 for more

**Earn money for your troop! Sell Girl Scout calendars and start off this year with a bang!
 Pre-orders are being taken now.**

- Only troops that are registered as members of GSUSA will be eligible to participate in this sale.
- All Girl Scouts participating must have parent-signed permission slips turned into their leaders prior to selling. Permission slips are available at the Girl Scout office.
- All interested troops must purchase calendars at the Council Office.
- Calendars are not returnable.
- Wall calendars will cost troops \$2 and they will sell for \$4.
- Pocket calendars will cost troops \$1.50 and they will sell for \$3.
- Calendar participation patches are available for purchase price of at \$1.00 each.

New Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Guidelines Have been Released!



Visit www.girlscouts.org to find the link on the homepage under "What's New" to view these new, Journey-based guidelines. Please contact Claire Lehto at 456-4782 with any questions.

2009 Tanana Valley State Fair Congratulations to Allison of Troop 42 on Winning the Grand Champion Ribbon!



Every year Farthest North Girl Scouts are invited to submit their badge work, fire starters, derby cars, SWAPS, sit-upons and more into the Tanana Valley State Fair Division 2. Girls earn ribbons and money for their creative entries. One Girl Scout is chosen each year to be the Grand Champion.

The 2009 Grand Champion is Girl Scout Senior Allison from Troop 42! Allison submitted her impressive Silver Award project in Badge Work Class F. Allison's project helps spread the understanding of geography and culture to younger Girl Scouts by creating a step-by-step troop leader badge guide.

Allison decided on this project based on her experience developing and leading Aurora Service Unit Girl Scouts during the 2009 Thinking Day. Her troop chose badge work for the other girls to earn. It was in developing these programs that she thought, "Why don't I make kits for the Leaders to complete some of the harder badges?"

The Junior Badges included "Girl Scouts Around the World" and "Tales from Far and Near: Folk Stories From Around the World." The Try-Its include "Brownie Girl Scouts Around the World," "Around the World," and "People of the World." She created a Daisy petal kit called, "Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout."

Leaders and Girl Scouts are encouraged to enter the state fair. Allison recommends that Girl Scouts look through the Fair Exhibitor's Guide and find something they have accomplished. Allison said, "Chances are you have already done projects that can be entered with only having to fill out a form about what you did." Entering the fair is fun and easy and every Girl Scout should try it.

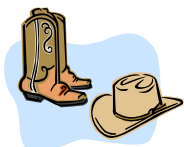
On behalf of the entire Farthest North Girl Scout Council, congratulations Allison! Your hard work will benefit many leaders and Girl Scouts. Thank you for your hard work and enthusiasm.



Did Y'all Hear about the Hoe Down?

On Thursday, August 27, 100 Girl Scouts and their families square danced, braved a rattler, made "leather" vests, enjoyed sarsaparilla floats, and had a Hoe Down of a good time! The "find a Penny in the Haystack" station, Western Bookmark Station, and the Chuck Wagon never saw a break. The annual Pioneer Park kick-off party brought Girl Scouts and girls who would like to be Girl Scouts together in a fun and festive atmosphere.

A special thank you to Ruth and Stacey Garbett, Kelli and Aubrey Vey, Lea Ann and Martha Hood, Troop 220, and Troop 218 for making this event possible. Once again, the Farthest North Council volunteers showed their support of Girl Scouting. Thank you for making this event a yee-hawing success!



Troop 218 having a whooping good time at the Western Hoe Down Recruitment party!



