

***The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* Launch Plan**

We are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting*, which will be available in October 2011. It will include badges, handbook sections, awards log, accessory pages, and more. (Daisies will earn Petals instead of badges.) Each level will have its own *Girl's Guide* and it will be presented in a beautiful standard-size binder. Skill-Building Badge Activity Sets, containing the requirements for five badges, tied to each of the three journeys, available for each grade level, are also available. All physical badges are purchased separately and individually.

Materials in *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* are written to the girl with clarity and easy-to-follow steps. There is no volunteer/adult guide offered.

Our Girlz Gear shops will be selling *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* for a discounted promotional price of \$16.87 until March 12, 2012. After March 12, the price will be \$22.50. Skill-Building Badge Activity Sets (each set contains earning requirement for five badges) will sell for \$4.00.

Our first shipment of *The Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* is expected to arrive in early October. If you would like to be among the first to have this eagerly awaited resource, beginning July 1, you can pre-purchase and be assured that you will get books from our first shipment. The Pre-Purchase form will be available on line and in each of our Girlz Gear shops.

This fall our national program portfolio will be complete: Girls will have three different journeys to choose from for developing their leadership abilities, through the three keys; and badges, which build girls' skills.

The introduction of the new *Girls Guide to Girl Scouting* will take place through special presentations at the October and November Service Unit Meetings and some special events at our Girlz Gear shops.

If you would like to have a **Sneak Preview** before October, please click on the appropriate grade-level link.

- What Daisies Do
- What Brownies Do
- What Juniors Do
- What Cadettes Do
- What Seniors Do
- What Ambassadors Do

Other Helpful Links

- Journeys- at- a- Glance
- How the National Girl Scout Program Portfolio Works

Transition Period Questions & Answers

Q. How long will Girl Scouts be able to earn and purchase the badges and other items from the retiring program resources?

A. Girls will have one year to complete the transition to the new resources. Efforts to streamline inventory of the less popular badges has already begun.

You will be able to earn and purchase badges and other awards until **September 2012**.

Our Girlz Gear shops will be able to order from GSUSA while supplies last. Anticipate it may take 2-3 weeks .

Once, GSUSA is out of stock, we have the opportunity to purchase retired badges from council shops across the U.S.A. If you need a badge that is no longer available through GSUSA nor any of our Girlz Gear shops, we will be happy to try to locate it for you. Please allow as much time as possible.

To assist you with your planning, a list of already retired badges that are no longer available through Girlz Gear or GSUSA will be available in the Resources section in the Girlz Gear tab on our web-site (gssc-mm.org) and in our Girlz Gear shops. We will update our No Longer Available from GSUSA Inventory List as the information becomes available to us. Please understand that inventory changes on a daily basis. We cannot guarantee stock.

Q. Will I be able to return or exchange unused badges that are being retired?

A. Yes. In keeping with the Girlz Gear exchange procedures, we will be happy to exchange your unused purchases within 90 days of purchase for exchange or store credit but ONLY until December 30, 2011. The receipt is required and no exceptions will be made. **After December 30, 2011, we will no longer be able to do any type of exchanges on these badges - even with a receipt and within the 90 day period.**

Q. What can I do with unused retired badges?

A. Please consider donating them to the council's Retired Badge Bin, initially located in each of our Girlz Gear shops, - where you can trade what you have for what you need. We will make the Retired Badge Bin badges, try-its, etc., available to those here in our council and throughout the United States who may be searching for a particular retired badge. Or you can try to find another troop who may need the badges.