



Centennial Times

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Volume 1

You're invited to help us Paint the Town Green: May 4-6, 2012

Anticipated to be the greatest Girl Scouting bash in Black Diamond Council history, this weekend-long event May 4-6, 2012 in Charleston, WV will celebrate 100 years of Girls Scouting in the USA. Open to the entire council jurisdiction, this event features a parade, girl-targeted events, program exhibit hall, a Girl Scout sing-along and concert, and the Party of the Century! Girl and adult members, families, non-members, alumnae, and donors—there will be something for everyone. Converge upon the council headquarters city and “paint the town green” with plenty of your Girl Scout spirit.

So, how do you prepare? What can you do now? In this newsletter you will find the answers to those questions and more; along with helpful resources, hints and tips for celebrating 100 years in style!

Sign Me Up!

Registration for Paint the Town Green will be available beginning early January, 2012. To register yourself and your troop for the event please visit www.bdgsc.org/100th-anniversary. All registrations will be secured through a program called City Trax. Reserve lodging, event entry, excursion trips, transportation and refreshments all in one place! A follow up registration packet will be mailed upon confirmation. This packet will include your customized schedule for the weekend and your special event t-shirt! Wear your t-shirt on Saturday to gain access to special activities and to help the Girl Scouts Paint the Town Green!

Early bird registration runs from January 1 through February 29th and begins at \$25 per person and includes access to select street fair activities, vendor hall, Girl Zones, Club 100, Girl Scout Parade, Opening & Closing ceremonies, Sing-A-Long, Teresa Concert, Scouts Own Ceremony, Diversity/Faith Walk and an event t-shirt souvenir. On March 1, registration will increase to \$35 per person and will include all of the same amenities.

Additional fees will apply to attend the Alumnae Tea, the adult-only Party of the Century and off-site excursions.

For those adults interested in volunteering time to assist at an event during Paint the Town Green, a stipend is available that will waive the registration fee if you agree to a commitment of a 4-hour volunteer shift. Volunteer opportunities are vast and include everything from security, coordinating flash mobs, chaperoning girl zone and excursion activities and much, much more. It is anticipated that we will need approximately 400-500 volunteers to make the weekend a success and your assistance is much appreciated! For a detailed description of benefits see inside!

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Where Do I Start?

The anticipation of waiting almost 6 months to celebrate the Year of the Girl is impossible to withstand – so start celebrating now! There are several aspects of the celebration that require pre-planning and preparation from both girls and leaders. Please review the list below and discuss with your troops what they may be interested in participating in.

Girl Scout Cupcake Challenge: Everyone loves cupcakes! What sweeter way to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting than through a cupcake competition?

The Girl Scout Cupcake Challenge is open to all registered girl members of Girl Scouts. Girls must be registered to compete. Entries should be made as a Girl Scout troop. Individually registered girls (Juliette's), interested in competing are encouraged to affiliate themselves with a troop or local group of Juliette's. If this is not possible, they may compete individually.

First and second place winners in each division of the Service Unit competitions will progress to the regional competitions to be held in March, 2012. First place winners of each division at regional competitions will compete during Paint the Town Green Celebration weekend of May 4-6, 2012.

Girl Scouts Got Talent: Encourage troop members to let their talents shine! Girls should start thinking about how they can participate. Open to individuals or groups; acts can sing songs, dance, perform acrobatics, amazing stunts. Additional details will be coming soon to a service unit meeting near you and on the web. All entries will be submitted by Video, DVD or online. The top 20 will perform at the 100th celebration.

Street Fair: Interested in highlighting the achievements of your troop? Booth space at the street fair will be available to interested Girl Scout troops at no cost. Highlight your Girl Scout troops activities by displaying troop or Service Unit pictures from throughout the year, create a make it – take it craft to share, display troop pictures from a special occasion or project or encourage street fair attendees to participate in a community service project or engage in Forever Green!

Opportunities are also available for businesses and individuals who would like to showcase their organization during the Vendor Exhibit Hall or Street Fair. Visit www.bdgsc.org/100th-anniversary for applications, guidelines and information regarding this portion of the event.

Girl Scouts Ignite! Flash mobs are taking over our Council! Learn all the right moves to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting by requesting a copy of the training video from your MDC or visiting youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC1FAG00d7A>. The instructional video features

the Ignite! 100th Anniversary celebration song and will be a hit with your troop! Practice the dance at troop meetings and debut it at a Cookie Rally in your area or a Cookie booth sale (make sure to get permission from your venue). Look for pop-up Flash Mobs to take place during the Paint the Town Green Celebration!

Girl Scout Grand Parade: On Saturday May 5th, Girl Scout troops will gather in Charleston in a grand parade to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting—start your preparation now! This parade will be a walking parade only (no vehicles permitted) and we look forward to seeing your creativity displayed in flags and wagon floats. Each troop is asked to create a 4x 6 foot flag that is able to be carried by at least one member of the troop throughout the duration of the parade. The flag should be attached to a pole of sorts (wooden broomstick, dowel rod, etc) and be able to be displayed in an upright position. Your flag should feature a design of your troops choosing. Flags will be judged with winners awarded in each age category; following the parade the banners will be displayed in the Civic Center.

In addition, each troop may have an optional “little red wagon float”. It must be a standard-size red (or green!) wagon (23 inches X 48 inches) that is pulled—non-motorized. The décor for the wagons must be “100th Anniversary”. These will be judged separately. You must pre-register for the parade at the main registration website (available in January). Any girls wishing to participate in the parade, but whose troop is not participating, may register as an individual.

Black Diamond Centennial Art Contest: Put your creativity on canvas! Black Diamond Council is looking for aspiring artists to celebrate the 100th by painting a portrait to commemorate our anniversary! We ask that girls use a 12x16 canvas panel—available at craft stores for around \$7 for a 3 pack of canvases. We also ask that acrylic paint is used and that 1/2 inch is allowed for matting the art work. Artwork will be submitted to the council and will not be returned. We are excited to be partnering with the Art's Council of Charleston to display winning art work during the monthly Downtown Charleston First Friday Art Walk, taking place during the Centennial Celebration May 4-6. Two talented girls from each grade level will be selected to be part of this display.

For more information on all of these activities, including registration info and additional guidelines, visit www.bdgsc.org/100th-anniversary.



www.bdgsc.org

Drumroll Please!

Your first look at the event timeline

Friday, May 4, 2012

6:30 pm **Girl Scouts Got Talent – Top 20 Perform**

8:00 pm **Opening Ceremony & Sing Along**

Kick off this memorable event with a special event opening ceremony. A sing-a-long will follow for those who can arrive in town this night.

10:00 pm **Wrap-up**

Saturday, May 5, 2012

9:00 am **Parade**

Let's paint the town green with a Girl Scout parade through the city!

9:30 am **Fun Activities during parade**

10:00 am **Welcoming Ceremony**

A special welcoming is available for all those joining in the fun on Saturday!

10:45 am– 4:00 pm

Street Fair

Anticipate bounce houses, dunking booths, face painting, arts & crafts, troop displays, carnival food, games, and more!

Live Entertainment - Haddad Park

Join us on the riverfront to experience live music from an interactive DJ, professional story tellers, GS performers and the opportunity to test your skills at a live Girl Scout Trivia Face Off Game Show!

10:45 am-5:00 pm

Girl Activity Zones

Get in the Zone to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting! There is something for everyone including: Movers & Shakers, Traditions, S.W.A.P.S., STEM, Decades and Journey's 101, just to name a few!

Program Vendor Hall-Civic Center

Exhibitors will set up volunteer-friendly booths in the lobby as resources for the important role they play in the council. Girl-friendly, hands-on exhibits will be dispersed throughout the girl zones.

Saturday, May 5, 2012-Continued

12:30 pm **Girl Scouts Got Talent Top 10 Perform**

2:00 pm **Alumnae Tea**

This opportunity creates a time for Girl Scout alumnae to come together to share stories and relive the passion for the organization.

2:00 pm **Cupcake Contest**

Finalists in the GSBDC Cupcake Challenge will compete for the title!

5:00 pm **Closing Ceremony**

This once-in-a-lifetime ceremony is expected to cap off the event while catapulting us in the next century of fun in Girl Scouting! This event will showcase service and feature Gold Award winners and a special Take Action challenge!

7:00 pm **Teresa Concert**

Teresa's music is the best thing since Thin Mints. Her original new Girl Scout songs, and her spirit and power when she sings them, lift the spirit of every Girl Scout member. She has been featured at the Girl Scout National Convention and at other major events across the country. Her catchy song "Being a Girl Scout" takes over your brain—you can't get the tune out of your head! Familiarize yourself with her songs about girls of courage and women of history at www.teresa.com. Cupcake contest winners will be recognized and the winner of the Girl Scouts Got Talent will perform during intermission.

6:00 pm- Midnight

Party of the Century

This affair allows an opportunity for adults to show their support of Black Diamond Council program efforts while celebrating the birthday. Join us for dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions and wonderful entertainment provided by the House Jacks! This event is for adults only, age 21 and over, and will require an additional ticket cost.

10:00 pm – Midnight **Club 100**

If the rest of the day wasn't enough for your girls, join in the fun for nighttime of energy-releasing activities before calling it a night.

Sunday, May 6, 2012

10:00 am – Noon

Scouts Own Ceremony

If you are still in town, there are still activities to wrap up this celebration weekend. This opportunity allows a time for reflection and introspection and is carried out through various artistic mediums.

Diversity/Faith Walk

Show appreciation for the diversity of faith that our members have during this activity.

The following events occur continuously through the weekend at a variety of times and locations:

Historical Exhibits

Love Girl Scout history? See timelines and time periods of Girl Scout history exhibited in unique ways. Celebrate and honor our past traditions as we look forward to the future.

Presentations

There will be Historic Uniform Fashion Show among other things. The Charleston Town Center Mall will be the off-site location for some of the Girl Scout presentations, too.

Excursion Trips

If you don't have the chance to get to Charleston much, special side excursions will be set up for troop/groups to visit the Clay Center for Arts and Sciences, the WV State Capital, the WV Cultural Center and History Museum, Kanawha County Library, Ice Skating Rink, and many more!

How Do We Get There?

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council is currently working with local transportation companies in a variety of cities within the council to provide free or reduced price transportation to Girl Scout members, volunteers, and alumnae.

If available, GSBDC will also offer transportation to family members attending, even if they are not registered members.

If you know anyone who might be interested in donating transportation services or sponsoring transportation to and from the event, please contact Princess Young, Director of Fund Development at (304) 345-7722 or princess.young@bdgsc.org.

More information regarding transportation will be publicized on www.bdgsc.org (click events & activities, and 100th anniversary) and in upcoming issues of Council Connections.



How does my troop pay to attend?

We encourage troops to set aggressive goals during the annual Cookie Sale in order to raise money to contribute to travel and attendance of Paint the Town Green. Encourage and support each girl to raise money to cover her registration costs and travel to the event. Attendance at this once in a lifetime celebration is a wonderful incentive for increasing sales!

Where Do We Stay?

For those Girl Scouts outside driving distance of Charleston, there are several lodging options to choose from at multiple price points. Traditional hotels are available and GSBDC has contracted with a variety of hotels in the Charleston area allowing guests to have a reduced price. Hotel options range in price from \$74 - \$114 per night, all of which include a continental breakfast for all guests.

Please do not contact hotels individually, all lodging reservations will be available when registering for the event.

Alternative options have also been arranged that offer lodging for entire troops as a highly discounted rate:

Charleston YMCA-Camp In at one of the facility's three gymnasiums. Bring sleeping bags and pillow and sleep inside and away from the elements. The cost will be \$7 per person, this location is available for girls only.

For those troops interested in commuting, space is available at the **Rocky Ledges Girl Scout Camp** in Milton, WV. Space can be reserved online at gsbdc.org and is first come, first serve. You will need your own transportation; the drive will be approximately 40 minutes one way.

Additional details regarding lodging will be made available online at www.bdgsc.org as they are updated. GSBDC is currently working to offer a multitude of Camping In and Camping Out alternatives.

GSBDC is also working on inexpensive and convenient dining options for guests. Currently, boxed lunches are available when registering for the event. These lunches are priced at \$8 per person. A breakfast buffet will be available at the Power Park on Sunday morning, prior to the Scouts Own Ceremony and Diversity Walk. The buffet will be open for everyone and is anticipated to be \$8 per person as well.

Get Involved!

The opportunities to serve as a volunteer during this weekend are immense. For more information and detailed job descriptions, please visit www.bdgsc.org/100th-anniversary. Add this website to your list of favorites, visit often and remain up-to-date on necessary information like conference calls, important dates, new initiatives and all the ways you can be involved in making 2012 The Year of the Girl!

Opportunities include, but are not limited to, assistance with Girl Scout Grand Parade, Party of the Century, Girl Zones, Cupcake Challenge, Club 100, Street Fair, Girls Own, Registration, Trainings, Hospitality, Excursions and GS Got Talent. Please contact the individuals below if you find an area that you are most interested in.

- Girl Program Activities (ceremonies, program activity zones, excursions, concert, historical exhibits, diversity and faith walk, Club 100, contests): Kathy Storage, Director of Program Services (kathy.storage@bdgsc.org)
- Parade Activities: Denise Davis, Director of Membership and Marketing (denise.davis@bdgsc.org)
- Street Fair Public Activities: Lisa Circle, Director of Membership and Marketing (lisa.circle@bdgsc.org)
- Adult Program Activities (Alumnae Luncheon, Party of the Century, Event Sponsors): Princess Young, Director of Fund Development (princess.young@bdgsc.org)
- PR/Marketing Activities (communications, marketing, advertising, media relations): Morgan Robinson, Director of Communications (morgan.robinson@bdgsc.org)
- Volunteer Services Activities (exhibit hall, volunteer logistics, on-site support etc): Jessica Richards, Director of Volunteer Services (jessica.richards@bdgsc.org).

Volunteer Benefits!

Volunteer during Paint the Town Green and receive special perks! Volunteers who donate at least four hours of time over the course of weekend are eligible for special incentives! Please review the options below:

Volunteer for at least four hours and your event registration fee is waived! You can choose to volunteer in any area that may interest you and your four hour shift may be divided in to two, two hour shifts served through out the weekend.

Volunteer for at least eight hours and not only is your event registration fee waived, we'll also provide you with a free lunch on Saturday! You may choose to volunteer all day Saturday or break your time in to four, two hour time slots. Once again, you may choose to volunteer in any area that interests you!

Volunteer all weekend and/or during the planning and implementation of the event and your registration fee is waived, assistance will be provided for meals and housing-options available at low to no cost at all to you! Your shifts may run Friday/Saturday, Saturday/Sunday or all 3 days. If you have begun working with one of the planning committees, speak to the staff member facilitating the committee about benefits that are available to you for assisting in the coordination of the event!

We appreciate our volunteers so much and want you to enjoy the event! A volunteer hospitality station will be available throughout the weekend at the Charleston Civic Center. This retreat will be a wonderful place to relax, unwind and refuel during breaks! We plan to have treats and refreshments on hand for you to enjoy as you unwind.

Safety First!

When preparing for any activity with girls, always begin with the Safety Activity Checkpoints guidelines written specifically for that particular activity. Note: In addition to reading these checkpoints yourself, you can also e-mail to or print them for co-volunteers, parents/guardians, and girls. The Safety Activity Checkpoint guidebook is available to download at www.bdgsc.org under For Adults/Resources/Safety.

Please see the below information, applicable portions of the “Parade and other large events” section of the Safety Activity Checkpoint guidebook have been included. Please read the section in its entirety prior to making arrangements for the celebration.

It’s important to represent Girl Scouts in the best possible way and encourage girls to plan the activities they would like to attend during the event.

Include girls with disabilities. Communicate with girls with disabilities and/or their caregivers to assess any needs and accommodations.

Gear for Parades and Other Large Group Gatherings

Basic Gear

- Girl Scout uniform, pin, or some other means of group identification
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen (SPF of at least 15) and sunglasses on sunny or hazy days
- Prepare for the Parade and Other Large Group Gathering
- Communicate with council and parents. Inform your Girl Scout council and girls’ parents/guardians about the activity, including details about safety precautions and any appropriate clothing or supplies that may be necessary. Follow council procedures for activity approval, certificates of insurance, and council guidelines about girls’ general health examinations. Make

Arrange for transportation and adult supervision. The recommended adult-to-girl ratios are two non-related adults (at least one of whom is female) to every:

- 6 Girl Scout Daisies
- 12 Girl Scout Brownies
- 16 Girl Scout Juniors
- 20 Girl Scout Cadettes
- 24 Girl Scout Seniors
- 24 Girl Scout Ambassadors

Plus one adult to each additional:

- 4 Girl Scout Daisies
- 6 Girl Scout Brownies
- 8 Girl Scout Juniors
- 10 Girl Scout Cadettes
- 12 Girl Scout Seniors
- 12 Girl Scout Ambassadors

- Compile key contacts. Give an itinerary to a contact person at home; call the contact person upon departure and return. Create a list of girls’ parents/guardian contact information, telephone numbers for emergency services and police, and council contacts—keep on hand or post in an easily accessible location.
- Respect parade and large-group gathering standards. Local regulations and permit procedures are observed for public gatherings, facility use, food handling, certificates of insurance, and sales or excise tax. Guidelines for personal protection are observed. Local authorities are contacted for safety and security suggestions and assistance applicable to the parade or event. For safety reasons, name tags or other personal identification are not worn in public places. GSUSA and council guidelines on publicity, photo releases, and interviews are observed.
- Make appropriate plans for parade floats. Floats drawn by trucks and automobiles are covered by automobile insurance in the name of the vehicle owners. Float construction is safe, using no toxic or highly flammable materials, and secured to the body of the float and the vehicle. Floats are equipped with portable ABC fire extinguishers. Riders on floats have secure seating, or a secure handhold or safety harness if standing. Floats are not overcrowded. Participants do not walk close to moving floats. An adult accompanies girls on any moving float. Any coupling of a trailer to a vehicle is appropriate to the load and has a safety chain. Nothing is distributed to onlookers from a moving vehicle or a float.

- Prepare for emergencies. Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first-aider with a current certificate in First Aid, including Adult and Child CPR or CPR/AED. An emergency vehicle is available at large group gatherings. Location of the nearest telephone is known at all times, and the adult carries emergency-contact phone numbers. An evacuation plan is part of written and oral communication with participants for any large indoor or outdoor gathering. See Volunteer Essentials for information about first-aid standards and training.

On the Day of the Parade or Other Large Group Gathering

- Get a weather report. On the morning of the activity, check weather.com or other reliable weather sources to determine if conditions are appropriate, and make sure that the ground is free of ice. If severe weather conditions prevent the activity, be prepared with a backup plan or alternate activity, or postpone the activity. Write, review, and practice evacuation and emergency plans for severe weather with girls. In the event of a storm, take shelter away from tall objects (including trees, buildings, and electrical poles). Find the lowest point in an open flat area. Squat low to the ground on the balls of the feet, and place hands on knees with head between them.
- Use the buddy system. Girls are divided into teams of two. Each girl chooses a buddy and is responsible for staying with her buddy at all times, warning her buddy of danger, giving her buddy immediate assistance if safe to do so, and seeking help when the situation warrants it. If someone in the group is injured, one person cares for the patient while two others seek help.
- Take safety precautions. Instruction is given on safe pedestrian practices, when applicable. Adults know girls' location at all times. Advance arrangements are made for picking up the girls after the event and parents and girls understand the arrangements. Adults and girls pick a place to meet in case of separation from the supervising adult or the group.

Parades and Other Large Group Gatherings Link
National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

It's the Party of the Century!

Will you make an appearance?

Walk the GREEN carpet and join GSBDC for dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and wonderful entertainment provided by the House jacks!! Adults Only please.

Saturday, May 5 from 6:00 pm-midnight

Charleston Civic Center

Ticket price: \$100 per person





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paint the town green

Celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouting.
May 4-6, 2012
Charleston, WV

Mark your calendars for the greatest Girl Scout bash in Black Diamond history!

Plan to attend our weekend-long 100th Anniversary Celebration, May 4 - 6, 2012 in Charleston, WV. Members, families, non-members, alumnae, donors, girls and adults – there will be something for everyone.




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