

WELCOME

to April's County Newsletter.

A newsletter is issued at the start of each term, and we still would love to hear about what your Unit has been doing. Your photos are always needed, and there is still time to have them included in the Powerpoint Show at our Annual Event on 27th May. Please email them to me by the end of April, thank you!

kaudreybrown@yahoo.co.uk

COUNTY EVENTS

Guide Swimming Gala

This year's competition at Grangemouth Swimming Pool was a great success, thanks go to Carron Division who worked hard to ensure that it ran smoothly and was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Congratulations to 6th Stenhouse Guides who won the Trophy.

County Camp

Plans are well under way for our County Camp, which will be at Gartocharn, near Drymen from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th June. Once again, it seems likely that we will have a record number of campers! Further details about the Camp will be sent to all who have applied by MID MAY. If you have heard nothing by then, or are having problems with your email, PLEASE do let Mary know 01877 382388 or email mary@sheldon.plus.com.

Rainbow 21st Birthday Party

Rainbows from all over Forth Valley will be descending on Bo'ness Town Hall on 3rd May to enjoy a Magical 21st Birthday Party. Rainbow Guiders will already have received details about the event but if there are any queries please contact Jane Fletcher 01324 638094
Email: jane Fletcher1954@yahoo.co.uk

TRAINING DATES

Some dates for your diary for 2008-2009

September 4th- How to help your Guides gain the Baden Powell Challenge

September 14th- Commissioners Day

October 4th- Day Workshop for all, Forth Valley College, Falkirk, 9.45am - 4pm

September 28th - First Response (full day)

January 22nd and 29th - First Response (2 evening sessions - both must be attended)

NEW!!! If you have completed a first aid course within the last 3 years and have the certificate then you can sign up for a *short* course for renewal (half a day or one evening) instead of the full day or two evenings.

Renewal dates: **November 2nd and 13th, February 24 and 28th.**

Contact Sue for more details on any of above

sbeck89@aol.com

YOUR INVITATION

to our Forth Valley Annual Event

Please make sure that you have Tuesday 27th May in your diaries for our **Annual Event**. We start this year at 7pm and hope to welcome as many Guiders, Young Leaders, Unit helpers, Parents and supporters as possible to The Tolbooth in Stirling.

Highlights this year will include a Presentation on Anne Young's Trip to Madagascar, a PowerPoint show of what has been happening during the last year and entertainment by Brownies and Guides from Bonnybridge, Bo'ness and Falkirk. Guides who have completed their BP Challenge over the past 12 months will be presented with a Certificate of achievement and we will enjoy hearing about a units visit to Our Chalet.

Parking may be difficult, but there should be room in Broad Street, Spittal Street or other areas.

The Tolbooth has good disabled access

Outdoor Trainings and Events

Walking Scheme Level 1 and Level 2 Training & Assessment will be held from 12th - 14th September at Helmsdale Hostel, Sutherland.

Guiders Walking Weekend for adults only will be held from 19th - 21st September at Badaguish Lodge, Loch Morlich, Cairngorms

Outdoor First Aid will be held from 7th - 9th November 2008 at Banchory Guide Lodge, Kincardineshire

For more information on all the above please contact Anne Fielding, Outdoor Activities Adviser

Email: ralph-anne.fielding@tiscali.co.uk 01786 463584

SCOTLANDS WALKABOUT CHALLENGE 2008

If you are thinking about taking your Unit outdoors this term, why not participate in the Walkabout Challenge? It is suitable for all sections.

Take your unit on a walk, make a booklet about it to fit in an A5 envelope with as many or few pages as you like. You can include photos, drawings, cuttings, writings, etc. In the booklet you need to include the name of your Unit, number of girls involved, contact name and address plus the number of badges required @ 50p.

Return booklet and cheque for badges to:

Elizabeth Howie

Scottish Walking Adviser

93 Argyle Road

Saltcoats, KA21 5NE


enclosing an SAE (A5) with large 2nd class stamp for up to 30 badges (60p stamps for over 30 badges)

Cheques should be payable to "The Guide Association Scotland"



Is your Unit ready to go 'live' on the Guiding Organiser in April 2009, one year from now? The Guiding Organiser is the database being produced as a result of the Streamline Project (see write up about it in Guiding)... Each Unit should now be recording all the details as asked for on the 'Starting Brownies/Guides/Rainbows' leaflets. These are available in from the Guide Shops.

The Volunteer Support Networkers (VSN) for the County are Sheila Roger, Carole Young, Lynne McLeod and Linda Hamilton. Your District will also have identified Key Workers to help you to get started with the new system. A series of meetings will be held across our County in the autumn for all Guiders and Young Leaders and these will explain the workings of the system to everyone. This is an exciting development and the advantages for Guiders will be amazing!

- **Here are a few advantages that  will have:**
- Provide a secure platform for storing unit records with access only to those adults who are registered with guiding and have the correct permissions.
- Enable you to keep your own personal details up-to-date. Changes will no longer have to progress through a chain of people, meaning you will have control over the correct delivery of *guiding* magazine!
- Provide Leaders with standard templates for letters to parents, holiday notices, forms etc, which can easily be populated with names and addresses.
- Enable you to create reports and forms, email all the members in your team or produce mailing labels for newsletters.
- Easily calculate records for claiming Gift Aid.
- Remove the need for a manual head count, with the last census in 2010.
- Automate a number of time-consuming paper-based tasks, meaning more time for volunteers to enjoy guiding!
- And more... we'll update you as the project moves along.
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Bantaskin Brownies & Guides enjoying an Easter weekend at Netherurd

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

Commissioners have details to pass on to everyone about the exciting Centenary Opportunities being offered by Girlguiding Scotland and Girlguiding UK. Forth Valley also has plans for 2010, which are now underway and we will have more to tell you all very soon.

TENTS AVAILABLE

We have two, two man VANGO FORCE TEN tents for use by any groups In Girlguiding Forth Valley. They are COTTON, traditional A frame style expedition tents, probably most suitable for Senior Section members. If you are interested in borrowing them for County, or any other camp, please contact Mary, 01877 382388 or email mary@sheldon.plus.com.



1st Denny Rainbows plant their sunflower seeds!

PLEASE!

If you received this newsletter by post but are online, help us save money - send me your email address and have future newsletters delivered electronically..
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