

Daisy Troop #52326

(Pg 10/4)

April – 2014

(<http://Troop52326.weebly.com>)

4/1/2014

Today's meeting the Girls will be completing the earning of their Girl Scout "Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout" petal ("Vi" the Violet petal) which represents the last statement in the Girl Scout Law. The Girls began earning this petal when they learned about and participated in the various "World Thinking Day"



activities (creating the poster board about Switzerland and attending the Plum Girl Scout Service Unit (SU) "World Thinking Day – 2014" event held on Saturday, February 22nd).

This month the Girl Scouts of the Murrysville SU are hosting a S.W.A.P. Convention event on Friday, April 11th at Franklin Regional Middle School. Two of our Troop's Girls (and their Moms & Leader) will be attending this wonderful event. So, during today's meeting, the Girls will be learning about the Girl Scout tradition of S.W.A.P.s and will be helping to make several (approx. 150) S.W.A.P.s to "Be a Sister" to Laurel and Ande in support of these two Girls attending the special event to represent our Troop. After today's meeting, all Girls will have two different S.W.A.P.s to keep for themselves to commemorate their learning about this tradition for the first time. Also, our three Girls (Annalyn, Evelyn, & Kaia) who will be "Bridging to Brownies" in a couple of months, will get to have two additional S.W.A.P.s to take home and share with another Girl of the same age. When they do this, they will be able to tell about all they have been doing in Girl Scouts and maybe they will invite them to join the troop for next year. This little Girl Scout "assignment" will allow them to fulfill the first requirement of their "Bridging to Brownies" Award.

What is a S.W.A.P.? The acronym stands for **S**pecial **W**hatamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere **or** **S**hare **W**ith **A** **P**al. The origin of S.W.A.P.s is Native American. Potlatch is the ceremonial exchange of gifts practiced by Native Americans of Northwest Coastal tribes.

The custom stems from the legend explaining why birds have colored feathers. As the story goes, two Indian girls plucked feathers of a magic bird and distributed the multi-colored plumage to the colorless birds living in the forest. From that time on, birds have had brightly colored feathers and those gifts were remembered at Potlatch ceremonies. Families were summoned to the Potlatch by a messenger carrying a bundle of sticks representing the number of people to be invited. The ceremony included speeches, songs, dances, games, races and refreshments. The host and members of his family were costumed and enacted legends about their heritage. The gift giving came last of all, just before the guests departed. Since Potlatch gifts were symbols of the family's status in the village, they were often quite elaborate, often being carved boxes, canoes, dishes, jewelry, mats and baskets. The Potlatch ceremony was given to commemorate the births, deaths, marriages, or coming of age of members of the group.

The idea of S.W.A.P.s was started at the original National Roundup Conferences. At that time a S.W.A.P. was a little remembrance that one Scout gave another. S.W.A.P.s are handmade, thus the girl is giving a part of herself to show friendship. Swaps are exchanged at National Conventions, Council events, Wider Ops, SU or neighborhood events, troop meetings and most frequently at day camp. They can have a tag attached with the event name and date or the Troop number, Council name or State. In some countries SWAPS are called "hat crafts".

Swapping promotes friendship and encourages girls to talk to other girls. S.W.A.P.s are great mementos of a good time as well as a great way to share something about where we live and what we do.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Troop MTG – S.W.A.P.s & “Vi” Petal Yoga fee of \$5/Girl due			Plum SU Talent Show!	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					S.W.A.P.s Event	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Yoga Monsters (1-2pm) ("Mom & Me" - Registered Girl Scouts)		Troop MTG – “Let’s Go Camping!” Camp fee of \$7/Girl & Mom due				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					Troop Camping @ Skymeadow	Troop Camping @ Skymeadow
27	28	29	30			
Troop Camping @ Skymeadow		Troop MTG – Preparing for year end COA & “Bridging” Registration fees for Fall-2014 of \$15/Girl & Mom due				

CONTINUE THE FUN AT HOME (for our Next Meeting/Fieldtrip):

- Think about ways you can “Be a Sister” to another Girl.
- Invite a Girl to come to our “Let’s Go Camping” meeting.
- Research online, with your Mom’s help, what Girl Scout Brownies are all about.
- Think about what snacks you would like to have at camp.
- Learn a Girl Scout song online (YouTube), with your Mom’s help, that you could share at camp around the fire.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES/DUE DATES/MEETINGS:

- **Next Troop Meeting:** Tuesday, 4/15 (*Let’s Go Camping!...Sleepingbag race; “Edible” fires snack; What to do if your lost; Camping guidelines/rules; “Sit-Cans!”; Camping paperwork; etc.)* / **Troop Camp \$ due (\$7/Girl and \$7/Mom – See Troop Camp Budget sheet handed out)**

- **Plum SU Talent Show** (4/4) @ 6pm @ O'block Jr. High (all are encouraged to attend ***to support*** the Plum Girl Scouts and Leaders who will be performing that evening.... i.e. **"Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout"**) (All information regarding this is on our Troop's website).
- **It's still COOKIE Time!** The Troop still has boxes of Girl Scout Cookies available for sale since we were unable to properly "man" the Cookie Booth last month. Please, help sell these boxes so that the Troop can use the proceeds.
- **Girl Scout S.W.A.P. Convention** ******(4/11) @ Franklin Regional Middle School (6:30pm – 8pm) ...Our Troop **will** be participating in the special traditional event as part of earning their final Daisy Petal(Note: **ONLY** the Girls' fees were paid by Troop funds) Please be sure to have your daughter wear her Daisy Girl Scout....
**** (Please, note that this is a "Registered Girl Scouts only" event)**
- **Yoga Monsters!******** Troop fieldtrip as part of the Girls earning their Daisy Journey Award. (Session cost is \$10/Girl.....**\$5/Girl will be paid out of the Troop Cookie Proceeds and the \$5/Girl Balance is "out-of-pocket" due @ the 4/1 meeting/today.....NOTE: Moms are free)**
**** (Please, note that this will be planned as a GS Registered "Mom & Me"/Girl only activity)**
- **Troop Meeting:** Tuesday, 4/15 (**Let's Go Camping!...Sleepingbag race; "Edible" campfires snack; What to do if your lost; Review of the "Buddy System"; Camping guidelines/rules/safety; "Sit-Cans!"; Camp Kaper chart; Food/snack/drink assignment sheet; Camp Nick-Names; Camping paperwork; etc.) / Troop Camp \$ due (\$7/Girl and \$7/Mom – See Troop Camp Budget sheet handed out) / GSWPA Pirate Game order/money due online PNC PARK if your daughter would like to be assured of receiving a patch and the opportunity to go out on the field for the flag ceremony!**)
- **Our Daisy Troop's 1st Camping Trip!** ******(arrival by 7pm on 4/25 to 4/27...we will "break camp" at 10 am) @ the Girl Scout Camp Skymeadow (information packet was handed out at the last meeting....Please see Karen if you need another packet)
**** (Please, note that this is a "background cleared"/"Registered Girl/Moms only" event)**
- **Troop Meeting:** Tuesday, 4/29 (preparing for the year-end COA and "Bridging") / **GSWPA Fall-2014 Registration fees due (\$15/Girl and \$15/Mom – Please make checks out to "Troop #52326)Please, let us know if either you & your daughter will be returning to Girl Scouts next school year OR please, let us know if you and your daughter will be remaining with Troop #52326 or if you would like to be placed into a different established Troop in the Plum SU)**
- **GSWPA Pirate Day at PNC Park** (6/8) (see flyer handout for more information)

Other:

- **Great News!** Miss Jen (Kaia's mom) has decided to join Dana and I in helping to lead our Daisy Troop as the Troop's 2nd Co-Leader! **Thank-you!** so very much Jen for doing this for the Troop!
- Our Troop's website should be **updated by 4/6** with the most current information (including the most recently updated Troop calendar; contact information; and Plum Service Unit information; etc.).
- Please, be sure you get the April through December 2014 Calendar packet before you leave today.

“SAVE THE DATE”:

- Plum Girl Scout Service Unit (SU) #5908 Annual **Troop** Camping Weekend dates have been announced! This Annual event will take place the weekend of **May 30th thru June 1st** at Girl Scout Camp Singing Hills in Oil City. If you would like to see photos from last year's Troop Camping Weekend, the link can be accessed through our Troop website by clicking on the SU event button on the main page. (....more information will be announced soon!)
- ***Please, be sure to take home the “Twilight Camp Save the Date” flyer!.... (Note: If your daughter will be attending, 1/2 of her Twilight Camp fee will be paid by the Troop funds... However, there are ONLY 70 camper-spots available (as of 2 weeks ago)So, please let Miss Karen know A.S.A.P so that we can get your daughter registered for Twilight Camp before it's too late.)***
Plum Girl Scout Service Unit (SU) #5908 is currently/actively making plans for this Summer's Girl Scout “Twilight Camp” (6pm – 8:30pm) which will be held **July 14th thru July 17th** @ a location TBD. The theme for this year's “Twilight Camp” is “Wild, Wild West!” (including one full camp day devoted to American Indian culture with presenters in full regalia!). As the planning process progresses, Miss Karen will keep the Troop posted of any new information. We are hoping your daughter would consider attending this wonderful camp opportunity!
- Our Girl Scout “Bridgeing to Brownies” (for Girls in our Troop who will be going into 2nd Grade next school year) process will begin soon (4/1 & 4/29 meetings)....so there will soon be activities and meetings that will incorporate the ideals of becoming a Girl Scout Brownie! (Note: don't worry, we will be involving the younger girls in our troop as well! ☺)