

## Myth Busters – Fall 2008 Installment

It's a tough job separating truth from urban legend, what's real and what's fiction. Here are some Girl Scout Urban Legends that have come to our attention. Help us set the record straight – be a Girl Scout Myth Buster!

### **The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience**

**Myth:** The new “Journeys” replace all existing Girl Scout programs.

**Reality:** Girls can be engaged in the leadership experience in many ways in Girl Scouting – through a variety of programs for girls.

**Myth:** Journeys are the only program volunteers can use with girls.

**Reality:** A journey is just one way to make it easier for volunteers to get all the parts of the leadership experience “packaged together.” Journeys provide girls and volunteers with one, nationally packaged “it’s all in there” resource to jump start them in “revving” the leadership experience engine.

**Myth:** Using the new journeys is mandatory; the only program materials that can be used.

**Reality:** Program materials should be utilized based on the needs and interest of the girls. Adults help them to choose which materials to choose representing their varied interests. Journeys can be enhanced by incorporating awards from current resources using the Girl Scout Leadership Experience model. Learn more about how to apply the model to current resources by taking the new course, Leadership Essentials.

**Myth:** Daisy petals, Brownie try-its, Junior badges and signs, Interest Project Awards and other leadership awards are being discontinued.

**Reality:** Earning badges is an important tradition in Girl Scouting and it is here to stay! As adults and girls become more familiar with the elements of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, they will even be able to see how the Discover, Connect, and Take Action leadership keys can be integrated into earning badges.

Over the next several years, Girl Scouts of the USA will be updating some badges to ensure the learning experiences tie to the national leadership outcomes intended for girls. As new or refreshed badges become available and “old” badges are phased out, girls will have time to transition. They will not “lose out” on activities they have begun or planned.

**Myth:** Sashes, vests, and other official uniform components for displaying awards are being discontinued so that the new awards are to be displayed on tote bags.

**Reality:** The National Board of Directors approved a new uniform policy, to begin in fall 2008. Based on this policy, girls at each level will have one official uniform item (e.g., tunic, vest, sash) so they can display the pins and badges they earn.

**Myth:** Traditional Girl Scouting is disappearing.

**Reality:** Each grade level journey book contains Girl Scout history, traditions and values.

**Myth:** Existing handbooks, badge books, and STUDIO 2B books are obsolete.

**Reality:** These books remain available and viable Girl Scout resources. Girls may continue using them based on their interests. As Girl Scouting phases in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, GSUSA will be determining which resources might still be needed to supplement the new approach between 2008 and 2010, or which resources might be needed beyond 2010. Information will be provided with advance notice as decisions are made throughout the transition period. Girls will always have a chance to complete existing plans and transition to new materials.