

A YEAR OF VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION IDEAS

OCTOBER: Give each volunteer a small bag of peanuts with a label, “We’d be NUTS without you!” This also goes perfectly with fall product sales.

NOVEMBER: Tip of our hat volunteer award. This is similar to the Employee of the Month award. Enter each volunteer’s name into a bowl and pull one out. This volunteer (or her friends or co-leader) can list all the reasons why she is a great volunteer. Be prepared so that if the person is a new leader and no one can talk about her attributes, you can talk about her giving of time, her dedication, her love of children in general terms.

DECEMBER: Have a cookie exchange. Or have an ornament exchange (nothing over \$3.00) and play the game of Crossy and Leftie at your neighborhood meeting.

JANUARY: Distribute a list of famous Girl Scouts (see attached).

FEBRUARY: Have the service team or volunteer committee make valentines for all the other volunteers in the neighborhood. These can be mailed or handed out at the neighborhood meeting. An alternative is to send a free email valentine.

MARCH: In the spirit of Kermit the Frog, send a post card: “It’s not easy being green, and, sometimes, it’s not easy being a volunteer. Thanks for all you do.” OR Have green jelly beans in a jar at the neighborhood meeting. Have the volunteers guess how many jelly beans are in the container. The winner can have a \$5.00 gift card to a juice shop or coffee shop.

APRIL: Provide each volunteer who attends the neighborhood meeting a packet of flower seeds.

MAY: Enter every volunteer’s name that has completed training to win a \$5 gift certificate to the council shop.

JUNE: Hold a volunteer or volunteer and family pot luck picnic. OR utilize the online Peer recognition provided on the GSACPC website.

JULY: Print lots of volunteer accomplishments in the neighborhood newsletter.

AUGUST: Make blue ribbon awards for returning leaders to give at the first neighborhood meeting.

SEPTEMBER: Help volunteers get organized for the new membership year by sending them a calendar or yearly planner with important Girl Scout meetings, dates, and deadlines.



FAMOUS GIRL SCOUTS

Many important women look back to their experiences in Girl Scouts as a stepping stone in their paths to success. An amazing 64% of famous women in America were Girl Scouts. This is a sampling.

BUSINESS - Elizabeth Dole

EDUCATORS - Christa McAuliffe

FIRST FAMILIES - Laura Bush, Rosalyn Carter, Chelsea Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ethel Kennedy, Pat Nixon, Nancy Reagan

GOVERNMENT - Madeleine Albright, Geraldine Ferraro, Janet Reno

HEALTH/SCIENCE - Dr. Joyce Brothers, Dr. Sally Ride

JUSTICE - Sandra Day O'Connor

MEDIA - Katie Couric, Phyllis George, Star Jone, Deborah Norville, Jane Pauley, Barbara Walter, Lisa Ling, Robin Roberts

PERFORMERS - Melissa Sue Anderson, Marion Anderson, Shirley Temple Black, Mariah Carey, Bette Davis, Celine Dion, Susan Lucci, Debbie Reynolds, Chita Rivera, Marlo Thomas, Mary Tyler Moore, Dionne Warwick, Lucille Ball, Grace Kelly, Lynda Carter, Carrie Fisher, Queen Latifah, Gwyneth Paltrow, Taylor Swift, Vanessa Hudgens, Dakota Fanning, Abigail Breslin

SPORTS - Bonnie Blair, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Nancy Lopez, Venus Williams

WRITERS/AUTHORS - Erma Bombeck, Ann Landers, Judith Viorst, Gloria Steinem, Martha Stewart, Cheryl Tiegs

THE STORY OF CROSSY AND LEFTY

Form two lines facing each other with multiple participants. When you hear the word left, you pass the item to the left. When you hear the word right, you pass the item to the right. When you hear the word crossy, you pass the item to the person standing across from you.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, Santa got very sick at Christmas and couldn't deliver all the gifts to children around the world. So he called up his top elf, Crossy.

Let me tell you the story of how Crossy saved one Christmas a long time ago. First of all, Crossy was not a cross elf at all. Actually he was a rather happy elf. That's why he was in charge of all the elves. Santa told Crossy that he needed to deliver the gifts this year and he should take Lefty the elf with him. Being the good elf that Crossy is, he took Lefty and got busy packing the sleigh right away. Right before it was time to leave on Christmas Eve, Crossy and Lefty went to Santa to get last minute directions. Santa told them you start right off by delivering in the first time zone that's at midnight. Crossy was taking notes and Lefty just nodded his head and said, "Right Santa, got it". Lefty suggested that each elf take one sleigh and Crossy could do the left side of town, while Lefty would cross town and do the right side of town. Santa thought that Lefty's idea was good, but might get confusing and said the reindeer know just what to do and using one sleigh would be best.

At that moment Mrs. Claus ran into the room and yelled to Santa that she thought the reindeer were getting sick. Well at least one was, Dasher seemed to be acting crazy and didn't want to be in his harness. So Santa, Mrs. Claus, Crossy, and Lefty ran to the barn to check things out. Santa had a talk with Dasher and found out that Dasher believed that if Santa didn't have to work neither did he. After Crossy whispered to Dasher how this trip wouldn't work without him because Dasher knew right where to go. Christmas might be a failure this year without him and children all over the world were depending on him. Dasher agreed he was needed, calmed down, and let one of the other elves put him into his harness.

Crossy and Lefty finished packing up the sleigh and off they went. The reindeer knew just where to go and flew off right to the first house. One present here, one present there, and right off to the next house. One by one they delivered present after present. Right when one bag emptied it seemed to magically fill right up again. The elves were getting tired and night was passing quickly. Turning right at Canada and left a Mexico, they delivered one gift after the other.

Lefty was beginning to get sleepy when Crossy excitedly told him we only have one mote time zone and we will be able to fly right back to the North Pole. Finishing up in Australia with the very last gift Crossy and Lefty headed back home to the North Pole. This is where they depended on the reindeer the most; they both sat back and fell asleep. Crossy noticed that Lefty slept with one eye open and poked him on the right side to tell