

8.9.10

With the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas



What is 8.9.10?

It is a date and a commitment to community. One of our three keys to leadership is **TAKE ACTION**, and with this in mind, the Girl Scouts are launching a new initiative, in partnership with Frito-Lay and Kroger, that we hope will inspire our troops to step up and help their communities in a sustainable way.

By August 9, 2010, which is 8-9-10, we hope to raise awareness regarding two of our area's biggest hardships – **hunger and illiteracy** – by completing one of our biggest drives ever. This is what we hope to do:

- Every Girl Scout will collect **8** cans of food
- Every Girl Scout will collect **9** gently used or new books
- Every Girl Scout will identify and complete her **"Perfect 10"** in community service

8

Hunger is a growing problem in our community. We are experiencing increasing gaps in hunger as unemployment increases and more people are struggling to eat. Local food pantries have seen demands increase more than 50% in the past 12 months. Citizens who previously donated or volunteered at food banks are now recipients.

9

We often take for granted the importance of our education and the simple act of reading, but research shows that the single biggest barrier to literacy development in under served communities is the lack of access to books. One recent study showed that while in middle income neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.

10

The "Perfect 10" portion of the initiative is designed to generate some creativity and thoughtful review of how each Girl Scout can do her best to support her community. Each Girl Scout must define her "Perfect 10" for herself – it could be anything from 10 hours of volunteer time at the local food bank, to a \$10 donation to your local troop treasury for future donation. We hope that the girls will be creative with their "Perfect 10."

8-9-10 is designed to show all Girl Scouts how a small contribution and effort can make a major impact on their local communities.

The project will kick off through troop meetings, emails, and related communication before 8-9-10. By then, we hope to inspire as many Girl Scouts as possible to participate – and help them to inspire others to participate. The troops may choose to have their contributions go to the program beneficiaries we have chosen based on our research:

- **North Texas Food Bank** – The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of 1,146 feeding programs in 13 North Texas counties. The NTFB supports the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships. *Close the Gap* is the NTFB's 3-year initiative to unite the community to narrow the food gap by providing access to 50 million meals annually by 2011.
- **KIPP TRUTH Academy of South Dallas** – KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) is a free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory school with a track record of preparing students in the under served South Dallas community for success in college and in life. There are 82 KIPP schools in the US, but only one – established in 2003 – in North Texas. The school currently serves 267 5th through 8th graders who typically move from performing below grade level at 5th grade entrance to exceeding 8th grade competencies upon KIPP graduation. Reading is a fundamental part of the curriculum and students use all downtime, including the moments between classes, to read. KIPP requires no admission criteria other than the child must live in the under served area and want to learn.

New 8-9-10 patches for this year's initiative will be awarded to participants. Patches will be distributed in early October through your troop leader.



EMAIL QUESTIONS TO: Jenny.Birge@pepsico.com or call 972 334 4198

Information For Patch Credit

Drop off canned goods and book donations between Monday, Aug. 9th and Monday, Aug. 23rd. Frito-Lay will deliver them to the NTFB and KIPP.

SELECT YOUR KROGER STORE LOCATION FOR DROP OFF:

___ **Allen:** 1320 W McDermott Road, Allen, TX 75013 (214) 495-0202

___ **Dallas:** 5665 E Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75206 (214) 826-2901

___ **Lewisville:** 1305 S State Hwy 121 Lewisville, TX 75067 (972) 436-1006

___ **Irving:** 7505 N MacArthur Blvd, Irving, TX 75063 (972) 831 8357

___ **Plano:** 3305 Dallas Pkwy Plano, TX 75093 (972) 608-4698

___ **Alternate location (Scout/Troop arranges delivery):** Please list location(s) _____

Name _____ GS Troop # _____ GS Service Unit # _____ # of Girls Participating _____

Leader Name _____ Leader Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Total Books Collected _____ Total Cans Collected _____

Describe your "Perfect 10" plan initiative: _____

GIRL SCOUTS: PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO YOUR LOCAL GIRL SCOUT SERVICE CENTER OR FAX TO 972.349.2498.
ALL FORMS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BY SEPT. 20TH