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### **Volunteer Screening Process Spring 2005**

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the adults involved with our organization are committed to providing a safe Girl Scout experience for all girls.

Upon the recommendation of GSUSA, over the past several months, The Field Support Committee, which consists of service unit volunteers and board members, met to discuss the volunteer application and screening process for volunteers. Along with input from Council Delegates, the committee provided recommendations to the Board of Directors.

As a result a new volunteer screening process, including a criminal background check, was approved by our Board of Directors in January, 2005.

This process will become effective in April 2005, in preparation for the 2005-2006 membership year.

The policy states:

**"GSSP is committed to a safe environment for all of our girl members. Adult volunteers have an impact on the development of girls and the completion of criminal and child abuse background checks is one additional step to ensure their safety.**

**A mandatory application and consent for a criminal background check and child abuse clearance is required for all adult volunteers who work directly with girls on a regular basis. This includes leaders, co-leaders, assistant leaders, troop committee members, troop cookie managers, and parents who attend trips and overnight events, and other adult helpers who volunteer at troop meetings and trips.**

**Prior to assuming a volunteer position, candidates will complete a volunteer application and consent form and submit the processing fee.**

**Volunteer candidates whose record indicates a history of child abuse, violent crime or sexual crimes will be denied a position. At the discretion of the Council, volunteer candidates may be denied a position for drug and alcohol related offenses. The response to any other reports will be at the discretion and judgment of Council management.**

**Volunteer candidates who have completed a criminal background check and child abuse clearance within the last 12 months may submit a copy of these certifications with their application. Volunteers will be required to update their volunteer records every 3 years by submitting a new consent form and processing fee at that time."**