

## AMERICAN VOKSSPORT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

### **Introduction of Business:** AVA Youth Program

**I move that:** The Girl Scout Youth Program be revised to indicate that Girl Scouts not walking for IVV/AVA Credit be allowed to walk for free and earn the special designed Girl Scout patch by paying only for the patch. The special Girl Scout patch is not an event award, but a patch earned by the girls as part of the Girl Scout merit system.

I further move that the AVA links to the Youth Program be modified with suggested changes in bold black print in the attachment.

### **Summary of Proposed Action:**

1. The patch is designed specifically for the Girl Scout Walk-Together program and is available only for the Girl Scouts walking an event to earn the patch. They earn patches and medals for many other activities. The Walk-Together patch is a Girl Scout merit patch and not an event award. This is the way the program was originally intended upon its approval.
2. The Youth Program was developed to attract families and/or younger AVA participants. Requiring Girl Scouts who do not walk for credit to pay the credit fee is unreasonable and could deter participation.
3. Many families have more than one girl in the Scout program and charging a credit fee could be a hardship for some and deter participation.
4. AVA is specifically inviting Girl Scouts to participate in the Walk-Together Program and charging a credit fee for non-credit walkers is unreasonable.
5. Our focus should be to attract new participants and not to make a few extra dollars for the AVA.
6. Some clubs hosting Girl Scout walks are already allowing girls to walk for free

and pay only for the cost of the patch, while others are charging credit fees for non credit walkers. This proposed change will make the system less confusing and more fair for the Girl Scouts.

**Motion Submitted By:** Bill Hamilton, Director, Southwest Region AVA

**On Behalf Of:** Jesse Miller, AVA 718, Hood County Hummers

**Seconded By:**

**Action:** Motion Carried                      Motion Failed

## **Jesse Miller – Hood County Hummers, AVA-718 History of Proposal**

**From:** Jesse Miller [<mailto:miller.jesse@att.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 4:52 PM

**To:** [sw\\_rd@ava.org](mailto:sw_rd@ava.org)

**Subject:** Agenda Item

Bill,

I am attaching an agenda item in regards to the Youth (Girl Scouts) Program. I had previously submitted this in person at the EC meeting in Georgia in 2011. This was approved at that time and I was instructed to work with the Youth Coordinator to have the info on the web site changed. I worked with her and she told me she had the authority to make the change, but I see that this has not been done. Please submit this to the next EC meeting for approval once again and make sure it is changed on the web Site, if it is approved again.

We are always attempting to to get new and younger members. Charging the Girl Scouts, for those who do not walk for credit, is not a productive way to deal with our youth. We have a limited number of scout participants anyway, and this will not have any impact on AVA income. Scouts will pay only for the patch, unless they walk for credit.

Thanks,

Jesse Miller

## Youth Programs with AVA

### [Girl Scout Walk-Together Program](#)

AVA clubs work with their local Girl Scout Council to promote walking as a Health and Wellness activity. Participants who **do not walk for AVA credit may walk for free. Girl Scout participants may purchase the specially designed “Girl Scout Walk Together” merit patch by paying only the cost of the patch.** Special guidelines allow Girl Scouts overseas to participate. Contact Nancy Wittenberg [avayouth@ava.org](mailto:avayouth@ava.org)

## American Volkssport Association

### WALK-TOGETHER INFORMATION FOR GIRL SCOUT COUNCILS AND ADULTS

[Click here](#) for a brochure describing the Walk-Together program in .pdf format.

Volkssports are non-competitive, organized walks, bikes, in-line skates, cross-country skis and swims. Volkssports are recognized as one of the GirlSports activities in the Girl Scout program. The American Volkssport Association is the governing body for the sport in the United States. It is part of the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV) which began in Germany and has affiliates in over 32 countries.

Volkssports are activities that ALL girls, leaders and family members can do together. You can participate in most volkssports events for free. However, each club is a volunteer organization that must pay a fee for hosting an AVA sanctioned event and incurs costs for supplies and facilities. Most clubs recover the cost of events through a nominal fee for event awards and fees for internationally-recognized (IVV) "credit" in the form of an official stamp for participating and completing an event.

Many volkssporters collect these stamps in record books and redeem them for IVV pins, patches and certificates recognizing individual achievements in our sport. These recognitions are milestones of the number of events and distance covered over a lifetime of participation. They are awarded for 10, 30, 50, 75 events and beyond, and for 500, 1000, 1500 and more kilometers covered. [Click here](#) to see information on the New Walker Program.

#### AVA Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks-

Many AVA clubs have worked with Girl Scout councils to have one of their sanctioned volksmarches (walks) be a Walk-Together. This may be a regular, staffed weekend event or it may be one or several year-round or seasonal events that the club has sanctioned that may be done whenever the start location is open.

Some Girl Scout councils choose to use their own patch as an award for girls who participate in the Walk-Together. However, each year the AVA Youth Program

produces a national "AVA Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks", based on a Girl Scout's design, that all AVA clubs can use **as the "Girl Scout Walk Together" merit patch**. Councils may choose to use this patch which is the same for all USA Girl Scouts around the world. **Girls who do not walk for IVV "credit" may walk for free. They may pay only for the cost of the patch.** [Click here](#) to see the current and prior years' patches.

If you are part of Girl Scouts Overseas, girls and troops/groups can earn the Girl Scout Participation Patch by paying **only for the patch, unless they are walking** for IVV "credit", in any AVA/IVV-sanctioned event during the year. To get the patch send the location of the event and date, number of participating Girl Scout girls and adults, your name and address and \$1 for each to:

American Volkssport Association  
Girl Scout Walk Together Patch  
1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101  
Universal City, TX 78148

You are "on your honor" **if you** participate for credit. If you are overseas and have an APO or other US address, there is no additional postage. If there will be additional postage for an overseas address, contact [avahq@ava.org](mailto:avahq@ava.org) to find out what the postage will be.

To find events in your area, click on "Find Walking Events". To find out more information about volkssports, click on "What Its About".

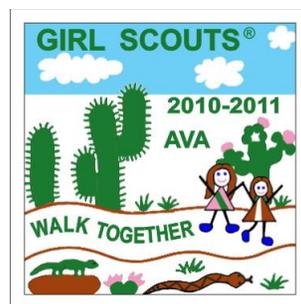
For more information or if you have any questions contact the AVA Youth Coordinator at [avayouth@ava.org](mailto:avayouth@ava.org)

## **American Volkssport Association®** **Involving Girl Scouts in Your Events**

AVA clubs interested in involving Girl Scouts in their events, can contact their local Girl Scout Council to arrange for Girl Scouts to walk with you at one of your events. [Click here](#) to see the Girl Scout Walk-Together brochure in .pdf format for information helpful for you and the council. Print this brochure for your use and to give to the Girl Scout council(s) in your area.

There have been many articles in The American Wanderer (TAW) in the past about AVA clubs and the walks they have done with Girl Scouts. These walks are not difficult to arrange, and walking with the AVA is encouraged in various Girl Scout publications put out by Girl Scouts of the USA and also on their [web site](#). See the brochure for suggestions on how you and Girl Scout councils can work together. For instance, the council could pre-register Girl Scouts for the Walk-Together. A special area for Girl scouts to check in at will help, if you expecting a lot and a Girl Scout volunteer could help with check in.

Girl Scout councils may not wish to have **merit patches** or they may want to design their own patch for the walk. **The specially designed Girl Scout patch is not an event award. It is a part of the Girl Scout merit system.** You can suggest they use the AVA's annual Participation Patch for Girl Scout Walks, as the **merit patch**. The Participation Patch is different each year and is designed by girls in a Girl Scout council that **have** participated in Walk-Togethers. The patch can be used as the **merit patch** for everyone for your walk and can be ordered from AVA on consignment so you're not burdened with paying for patches you can't use. The AVA sends the patches with a Girl Scout Patches Consignment form. You return the form with the unused patches when you return the stamp for the event. The AVA will bill the club for patches used. The cost for patches you use is currently, \$1 each. Only AVA clubs may order Participation Patches for Girl Scout Walks (Walk-Together Patches). Leaders of Girl Scout troops overseas may order directly. [Click here](#) for information



**2010-2011 designed by a Girl Scout in Arizona**

To contact your local Girl Scout council, go to the website, [www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder](http://www.girlscouts.org/councilfinder) to find the name, address and website of the council or councils that serve your area. Call the council office and ask for the Program Director or Manager. Ask them if they might be interested in a program to get their girls walking. Many councils have initiatives related to healthy living and sports. There have been many inquiries from councils wanting to connect with AVA clubs in their area and direct girls to our walks.

If they are interested, ask if you can meet with them to tell them about volkssports. You can provide the brochure mentioned above, brochures on volkssports from the AVA, the AVA Youth Program brochure, and your own clubs information.

Contact the Girl Scout council as early as possible so they have a chance to publicize your walk and get registrations back from troops and girls in their area. Talk with the council on the walk you might use for a Walk-Together. Choose a walk that is easy to do and interesting for first time walkers. It should have a shorter 5K distance and a distance that might be done for the physically challenged. You may also want to talk about how these events can be great events for family and friends as well. They might be combined with other activities the council might have to make a day of it.

**NOTE TO AVA MEMBER CLUBS:** The specially designed Girl Scout patch is not an event award. It is earned as part of the Girl Scout merit system. The club may have a separate event award if they desire. Girls who do not walk for credit may walk for free. Our agreement with Girl Scouts of the USA requires the cost to be reasonable, therefore the girls may pay only for the cost of the patch as dictated by AVA's cost.

You can provide a packet, prepared ahead of time **with start cards** to hand out to those who finish, information about Volkssporting and the award program (**walking for credit**), and club brochures for up-coming events. And, don't forget to have New Walker packets available. Girl Scouts already have insurance and require parent's permission for participation. If the Girl Scout council will register troops and girls, and give you that information, you do not need to have each girl sign waivers.

There are other ways to involve Girl Scouts in Volkssporting. If you have questions, please contact the AVA Youth Coordinator at [avayouth@ava.org](mailto:avayouth@ava.org).