



General startup information for GEMS Girls' Club:

Cost: \$70/girl includes lesson materials, *Shine/Sparkle* magazine subscription, supplies for crafts and in class activities. It also includes, if needed, badge book, GEMS T-shirt and neck scarf for displaying badges. Not included is the cost of replacing lost items and extra activities such as shopping for Christmas gift boxes (\$5-\$10), swimming (\$2), camping (approx. \$30) and any other extra activities that may come up. If cost is ever a problem, please share that with a leader and we will gladly work something out.

Weekly **meetings** are from **7-8:45pm** on Thursdays. Note the earlier ending!!

Uniform: The girls are asked to wear their GEMS T-shirt each week. The scarf is not required each week, but is required for special events, such as GEMS Sunday in April. The scarf is used to display levels and badges earned.

What to bring: Shine or Sparkle magazine, Bible (if you do not have one, let your leader know), Badge Book or other lesson materials, pen/pencil, note book. Please wear your GEMS T-shirt. Groups will be earning points for bringing all supplies.

What not to bring: Please do not bring any electronic gadgets (eg. Video games, radios, cd/mp3 players, iPods, etc.)

Cell phones must be stored away during meetings (either in a back pack/bag or with the leader.
(Cell phones not stored away will be put in the care of the group leader.)

Newsletter - We attempt to send home a newsletter at the beginning of each month. Any upcoming activities will be noted in the newsletter. If a permission form is required for an off-site activity, it will be with the newsletter as well.

Snacks will be provided this year - we'll try it this way again ☺

Friends - Girls are welcome to bring a friend, especially if they're interested in joining. It is asked however, that you let your leader know ahead of time, so she can be prepared with extra materials. That contact information will be sent home when groups are finalized.

Schedule 2010-11: Significant dates to keep in mind (so far) are:

September 23 - First meeting night

October 7 - 21 - Hand 'n Hand Fundraising Project - in support of African GEMS Clubs. We did this last year and funds raised went to the support of our sister club in Africa. More info to follow!

October - individual groups may choose to shop for and fill gift boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

November - Poinsettia sales

Saturday, December 4 - Pick up poinsettias and Hand 'n Hand orders at Cadets' Pancake Breakfast

December 16 - 30 - NO GEMS meetings - 3 week Christmas Break

January 6 - First GEMS meeting of 2010

February 3 - NO GEMS due to Sleepover on February 4-5. Dads, or other special person, are invited along for the first part of Friday evening for activities.

February 17 & 24 - Possible visit to Extendicare Facility in G'town with younger girls and Beginnings Pregnancy Center in Guelph with older girls *

March 10-17 - 2 Week March Break - NO GEMS

Sunday, April 17 - GEMS Sunday *

April 28- tentative Closing Evening for the season *

June - GEMS Camping

*These events to be confirmed closer to the date *

Regarding Fundraisers:

Please know that in the fall, there are two fundraisers and one gift giving option.

The **Hand 'n Hand** Fundraiser involves the sale of cookie mix or soup mix with an item made by GEMS girls and leaders in Africa. The making of the "Hand" items helps clubs in Africa earn credit towards supplies for their club - that's one portion. Another portion covers expenses of the fundraiser and another portion goes to the local, participating club. The funds raised by our local club are actually used to support our sponsored Sister Club in Africa. It truly is a Hand 'n Hand Fundraiser!

Poinsettias orders are taken in November with an early December pickup. This fundraiser helps offset costs of GEMS Girls' Club and Cadets Boys' Club. The poinsettias are truly beautiful, are grown by a local grower, and have been made available for a number of years now.

The gift giving option is through **Samaritan's Purse**. The girls are invited to bring approx. \$5, preferably from their own earnings, to purchase gift items to fill a Christmas shoe box which is distributed to children through an organization called Samaritan's Purse.

These are all wonderful opportunities! Please do not be overwhelmed. Do what works for you and your family. But know how important it is to encourage our children to see beyond their own needs and to help others in any way they can. Children and young women have the beautiful ability to truly care.