

PRESS RELEASE



Girl Scouts®

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Maryland Girl Scout Troops Converge on Legislators to Discuss Issues

Annapolis—On Thursday, February 22, 250 Girl Scouts from all across the state of Maryland will gather at the Annapolis State House for the annual Girl Scout Legislative Leadership Day and present their Senators and Delegates with their points of view on pending legislation. Topics up for discussion include: the vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer (SB 54); child sexual abuse and crimes of violence (SB 170); a bond bill for the creation of an urban (Baltimore City) Girl Scout Training Center (SB 387); a prohibition against artificial trans fat (HB 91); and, a scholarship program for Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients (HB 206).

The day begins with an orientation from legislative staff and pages. A representative from the office of Delegate Smiegel, sponsor of HB 206, has been invited to give the girls additional background on the bill. While some of the Girl Scouts attending this year's Legislative Leadership Day may have been present at the first hearing for this bill, this is the first time for others.

Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Amanda Cohen attended the 2005 hearing and told legislators that she made a choice to get involved in community service activities and projects that help other people. "Gold Award recipients are motivated and active in

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Where Girls Grow StrongSM

schools and community,” she told the group of legislators. Community service is the cornerstone of Girl Scouting. Over 100 Girl Scouts in central Maryland designed and implemented projects that made a sustainable difference in their communities and resulted in at least 60 hours of community service, in order to receive their Gold Awards this year.

Girl Scouts will also be speaking with their representatives to garner support for a bond bill to help finance an inner city Girl Scout training center, and to talk about the pros and cons of the new cervical cancer vaccine. During lunch, they will learn more about the Girl Scout role in the legislative process from GSUSA Director of Advocacy, Tralonne Shorter.

“The day should provide the girls with a great hands-on learning experience,” said Traci Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, “It’s a wonderful lesson on collaboration since the three Maryland area Girl Scout councils—GSCM, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay and Girl Scout Council of the Nations Capital-- will be present.” Barnett added, “It’s also a great demonstration of the power of girls coming together for a common purpose.”

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Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves nearly 30,000 girls and 10,000 adult volunteers. The Maryland Girl Scout Legislative Coalition, comprised of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, and Girl Scouts of the Nations Capital, serves nearly 60,000 Maryland Girl Scouts and their families.