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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Local Girl Scout is Winner in Nickelodeon’s  
*Let’s Just Play* Giveaway**

**Baltimore--**Nine-year-old Autumn Johnson, a Junior Girl Scout from Columbia, MD, is thrilled that she was recently chosen as a national winner in Nickelodeon’s *Let’s Just Play Giveaway*. The giveaway was developed to encourage children to engage in physical activity and to promote healthy lifestyles among youngsters nation wide (*more details about the event can be found in the attached Nickelodeon press release*). The local Day of Play will take place Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Girl Scouts of Central Maryland’s Camp Ilchester located just outside Ellicott City. Over 300 Girl Scouts from Howard County are expected to be in attendance.

Autumn was one of many youngsters across the country selected by Nickelodeon to win \$5,000 to be donated to a community group that encourages healthy living among children. “I’m so excited about this award,” she said. “I really enjoy camping with Girl Scouts, jumping rope and playing at the park.”

Girls and boys submitted a short paragraph about why playing was important. In her winning entry, Autumn explained that children need to spend more time playing outdoors because it’s good for them, it helps them make friends, and it’s fun. “Computers are fun, but kids should also enjoy the outdoors,” she wrote in her essay.

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Autumn has been a Girl Scout for four years. Because of all the fun and interesting things she has done in scouting, she designated Girl Scouts of Central Maryland as her winning organization. "I chose to donate my winnings to Girl Scouts because I have had so much fun camping," Autumn said. "I really enjoy the nature hikes."

Her Troop Leader, Clarissa Ferraris, is leading a committee to develop plans for a Howard County Day of Play on September 29 to coincide with Nickelodeon's National Day of Play. The local Day of Play will feature activities that encourage kids to get up and get moving. "I can't wait to participate in all of the activities," said Autumn. "It's going to be great!"

Local businesses are lending a hand to help make the Day of Play a success. Some of the Howard County businesses participating in the Day of Play are: Kinetics Dance Theatre in Ellicott City, demonstrating various forms of dance, including ballet, tap and jazz, Fitwize4Kids in Columbia, showcasing jump roping, a mini trampoline and free weights and, Timbers at Troy Golf Course in Elkridge, featuring golf etiquette such as stance, posture, etc.

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Girl Scouts is the preeminent organization for, and leading authority on girls with 3.7 million girl and adult members. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. Girl Scouting develops girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.