

**PRESS
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Girl Scouts®

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Girl Scouts Celebrate Earth Day with Green Activities

Baltimore—Girl Scouts in the central Maryland area will celebrate Earth Day with activities designed to promote environmental awareness and sustainability, an ideal that began with Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low. She brought girls of all backgrounds into the outdoors, giving them opportunity to learn about nature and develop self-reliance and resourcefulness. On Saturday, April 19th over 50 girls will participate in a “Caring for the Earth” activity at Girl Scouts’ Camp Conowingo in Conowingo, MD. The girls will learn about Soil Conservation and Leave No Trace—a technique used by campers that leaves minimal disturbance to environment and terrain used while hiking, biking, camping and other outdoor activities. Girls will also have the opportunity to visit the Caitlin Dunbar Nature Center—a hands-on activity center stocked with live critters and specimens native to central Maryland.

“The Girl Scout approach to nature,” Juliette Gordon Low has been quoted as saying, “is not through collections of flora and fauna but through understanding of living things, appreciation of their beauty, and conservation of them as they live.” To that end, Girl Scout staff members will also conduct conservation classes for 400 children at Altholton Elementary School in Howard County on April 23 and 24. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland recently opened their second nature center in Howard County at their Camp Ilchester. The nature center at Camp Ilchester has snakes, turtles, hissing cockroaches, a butterfly garden and bee apiary. Both nature centers are open to the public. For more information about the nature center and other Outdoor Programs, contact Billy Heinbuch on 410.358.9711 or bheinbuch@gscm.org.

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