

PRESS
RELEASE



Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
4806 Seton Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215-3216
T 410 358 9711 F 410 358 9833
Toll Free 800 492 2521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danita Terry, Director of Communications
(410) 358-9711/ dterry@gscm.org

Sixty-Eight Girls Receive Girl Scouts' Prestigious Gold Award

Baltimore—Sixty-Eight Girl Scouts from the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland (GSCM) council have earned the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award—the highest award in Girl Scouting. The Gold Award is a national award that is granted to Girl Scouts who have fulfilled the rigid national standards criteria which scrutinize the time, leadership skills, creativity and effort used to bring their community service project to fruition. This year's ceremony continues the council's 18-year tradition of girls participating in a formal pinning ceremony with their peers, friends and family members. The program takes place May 18, 2008 at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center astrophysicist, Dr. Ann Hornschemeier will present the keynote address.

The Girl Scout Gold Award embodies the very essence of the Girl Scout mission—to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. By receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award girls demonstrate that they have *discovered* their passion; *connected* with a community need that incorporates that passion and *taken action* to develop and design a service that will have a lasting impact on the community. In doing so, each young woman utilizes the leadership skills she has acquired throughout her Girl Scout experience and showcases the organizational and life skills she has developed. For many girls the experiences learned, before, during and after the project, build a connection that fosters a sense of community and commitment that serves as the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship.

--more--

Examples of this year's Gold Award projects are: a computer tutoring programs for senior citizens; "A Spiritual Facelift," that involved renovating the entrance to a church; adapting children's books for use by children who are mentally challenged; development of an after school violin tutoring program; and, creating a database for clinical patients' records for a hospital in Bangalore, India

"We are pleased and proud that these girls have showcased the values and practical skills they have learned through Girl Scouting," commented Traci A. Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. "Girl Scouts is a way for girls to develop friendships and have fun, but at the same time, it is also about developing leadership and citizenry skills that will make life better for the community—and ultimately, for each young woman that participates in scouting." Barnett added, "Each of these girls exemplify what Girl Scouts is really all about."

#

Girl Scouts of the USA 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 with the help of 10,000 adult volunteers in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.