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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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Girl Scouts' P.A.V.E. Camp is a Blast!

Baltimore—Girl and boy campers attending Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's annual Project Anti-Violence Education (P.A.V.E.) Camp at Camp Ilchester in Ellicott City, had the opportunity to sharpen their soccer skills with the help of Baltimore Blast team members Machel Millwood and Mike Lookingland on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. The pair said they really enjoy helping kids develop their love for soccer. Millwood and Lookingland told the P.A.V.E. campers, as they handed out autographed team photos and soccer balls, they were glad to be at P.A.V.E. camp, encouraged them to continue playing soccer and, of course, to come out to a Blast game.

Girl Scouts P.A.V.E. camp is designed to provide city youth with real camp experiences and teach them about making wise decisions when choosing friends and after-school activities. The camp, which is coordinated by P.A.V.E.'s teen peer counselors who then serve as camp counselors for the week, included sessions on bullying, Internet safety, self esteem and peer pressure. Members of the Baltimore Blast, the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute and the Howard County Police department lend their assistance as adult mentors who provide additional activities and workshops for the youth. Over 100 campers from Baltimore city schools participated in the summer enrichment camp.

Girl Scouts' Project Anti-Violence Education program is designed to help prevent teen girls and boys from becoming victims or perpetrators of detrimental behaviors often influenced by their peers. Teens between the ages of 14-17 years partner with Girl Scouts of Central Maryland to become trained as peer counselors and mentors for youth ages 5– 17 years of age. The peer counselors develop strategies, including activities for the summer camp, to help steer youth from the lures of gangs, smoking, alcohol, and drugs.

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Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland serves 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties providing programs and activities that allow them to Discover, Connect and Take Action.

Where Girls Grow StrongSM