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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Girl Scouts Explore Scientific Technologies in Space

Baltimore—On Saturday, April 10, 2010 middle-school and high school age Girl Scouts will participate in Girl Scouts of Central Maryland’s (GSCM) second annual Science and Technology Summit where they will spend the day learning about astronomy, physics and engineering with scientists, astronauts flight software technicians and engineers from NASA, Johns Hopkins University, Northrup Grumman and the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) at Johns Hopkins University’s Mudd Hall. Keynote speaker for the event is Barbara L. Scott, Flight Software Manager for the Hubble Space Telescope Operations Project.

The Science and Technology Summit is an opportunity for girls to expand their knowledge and understanding of science, technology, engineering and math while learning about the real world applications of these fields. Some of the Girl Scouts attending the conference will be presenting information about what they learned through GSCM’s “Big Explosions, Strong Gravity” program, which was developed by NASA scientist Dr. Ann Hornschemeier specifically for teen-age girls. Other girls will talk about what they learned after spending the day with mentors Dr. Tara Ebersole, biology professor at CCBC; Yolanda Mitchell an electrical engineer with Northrop Grumman; Vanessa Matos-Cruz, graduate student at Johns Hopkins University’s Cellular, Molecular, Developmental Biology and Biophysics program; and Caitlin Eubank a propulsion engineer at NASA/Goddard Space Center. In addition, all participants will attend workshops that will allow them to have hands-on experiences with various science, technology, engineering and math applications.

“Through hands-on learning with role models; a proven tool for students, particularly females, we hope to help more girls discover an interest in science, technology, engineering and math,” said GSCM CEO Traci A. Barnett. To this end GSCM offers a variety of programs that expose girls to STEM including, Techbridge—a program of Chabot Space & Science Center—which gives girls hands on experience with toy engineering and design, circuitry, electronics and soldering and environmental design. Reflective of many girls’ interest in the field, one mentee applicant wrote: When I grow up, I want to be an astronaut; I want to learn more about life beyond earth. When I become an astronaut, I want to redesign the suit so we could go to Mars. Girl Scouting is special to me because it gives me a chance to apply myself to this program, and lets me talk to real people who have already studied the advanced side of science. For more information about these programs visit: www.gscm.org.

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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