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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STEMming Out to Change the World

Girl Scouts' Women's Leadership Forum features Women Working in STEM fields

Baltimore—As part of their effort to expose girls to the world of science, technology, engineering and math, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland's 4th annual Women's Leadership Forum, being held on March 10, 2010 at Mercy High School's Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium, will feature four local women who are changing the look and perspectives of those working in STEM fields. Judy Carroll of Carroll Engineering; Diana Parsons of Constantine Commercial Construction; Laura Penza of Penza Bailey Architects and Joyce Ulrich of Legg Mason will each share their insights with the audience comprised of women of all ages and teen-age girls and Girl Scouts. A pre-forum session, which begins at 5:00 pm, allows the girls in attendance to have personal time and conversations with each of the panelists. The forum and Q&A runs from 5:45 pm – 8:15 pm.

“We are thrilled that each of these women, who are paving the way for the next generation of women engineers, architects and IT professionals, have agreed to help girls get a better understanding of these fields,” remarked Traci A. Barnett, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. According to Extraordinary Women Engineers, colleges and universities are having difficulty recruiting women engineering students and, just 20 percent of undergraduate engineering students are women. Fewer than 10% of the nation's engineers are women. “Through hands-on learning with role models; a proven tool for students, particularly females, and other innovative programming, we hope to help more girls discover an interest in science, technology, engineering and math,” Barnett added.

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland(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. GSCM is among four Girl Scout councils in the U.S. to introduce these programs to girls. Through funding from Lockheed Martin, GSCM will host its second Science and Technology Summit on April 10, which invites girls to create and exhibit projects and spend a day as a mentor with STEM professionals from NASA and Johns Hopkins University. In addition, Space scientist, Dr. Ann Hornschemeier has created programs for Girl Scouts that allows them to investigate outer space and astronomical life—Big Explosions, Strong Gravity and ACE of Space. For more information about these programs visit: www.gscm.org or call 410. 358. 9711.

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Girl scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides a myriad of programs and activities for nearly 30,000 girls in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.

Where Girls Grow StrongSM