

# PRESS RELEASE



February 1, 2012

**For Release: Wednesday, February 1, 2012**

Contact: Danita Terry, Director of Communications  
410.358.9711/dterry@gscm.org

## **Local Girl Scouts Participate in Year of the Girl Launch on Capitol Hill** **Girl Scouts seek to ensure that leadership is shared more fully between women and men**

**Baltimore**—Girl Scouts of the USA began a two-day launch of their 2012 campaign—The Year of the Girl—yesterday in New York City and in Washington, DC on February 1, 2012. The campaign celebrates Girl Scouts' 100-year history of providing girls with the requisite skills, including courage, confidence and character, to become leaders in their schools, communities and the world and begins a nationwide effort dedicated to girls' leadership issues. "Girls and women are one of the most underutilized resources in the nation; they are capable and powerful--and can be effective leaders," stated GSUSA CEO Ana Maria Chavez. The goal of the campaign: balanced leadership within one generation.

Thirty-four central Maryland Girl Scouts from Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Harford and Howard counties participated in the event that brought hundreds of supporters to the Cannon House Office Building to engage in dialogue about the importance of changing the leadership landscape so that is more fully shared between women and men. Honorary Girl Scout Troop Capitol Hill members, including Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Sen. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Sen. Kay Bailey Huchinson (R-TX), Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) and Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) each shared their memories of Girl Scouting and the valuable lessons they learned from the generations old organization. Sen. Pelosi encouraged the girls in attendance to: "Know your power; you have a very unique contribution to make." She added, "You're standing on the shoulders of many who went before...someday a generation will be standing on your shoulders." Kathleen Sebilus, Secretary of Health and Human Services was also present and gave remarks. She encouraged girls to "Stand up and show up" for the causes and issues that impact them.

Girl Scouts is seeking support from elected officials, corporations, non-profit organizations, parents and all adults to support the Year of the Girl campaign. Women have already proven their leadership potential; 70% of all women in Congress were Girl Scouts, as were 80% of all US women business owners. It's now time to get her there. For more information about the Year of the Girl campaign, visit [togetherthere.org](http://togetherthere.org). For more information about Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, visit [gscm.org](http://gscm.org).

# # #

*Girl Scouts of Central Maryland provides leadership programming for nearly 30,000 girls in central Maryland residing in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. For more information about the programs GSCM offers visit [gscm.org](http://gscm.org); follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook.*

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, 4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215 410.358.9711.800492.2521. [www.gscm.org](http://www.gscm.org)