

The PROMISE



The Voice for Girls

As the nation's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls, Girl Scouting is harnessing its energy to become the voice for and with girls—all girls—in our communities, in our state and around the country.

I am proud that two of our Council's Girl Scouts were selected to represent youth on such an important issue.

– Traci A. Barnett
GSCM CEO

In order to ensure that all girls have the opportunity to be successful, Girl Scout Councils across the country are working collectively on addressing four key issues:

- Promoting girls' physical, social and emotional health
- Increasing girls' involvement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
- Strengthening girls' leadership development
- Helping girls develop financial literacy skills.

In central Maryland, our organization recognizes that we are uniquely positioned to tackle such issues as childhood obesity, healthy living and self-esteem, and to draw attention to other issues

that disproportionately affect girls' including: bullying; cyber-bullying; a lack of healthy media images; and eating disorders. GSCM is expanding girl programming on these topics

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We Are Forever Green

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As Girl Scouts prepares to look back over the past 100 years, we are also preparing for the next generation with "Forever Green" conservation efforts.

Be a Part of History

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To celebrate the anniversary, this Council is publishing a special keepsake book about Girl Scouting in central Maryland. We need your help to fill the pages.

The Year of the Girl

p. 6

Central Maryland delegates are preparing for the National Convention this November in Houston, Texas. You are invited to join us! Registration opens in August.

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Nearly 100 years ago, Juliette Gordon Low established Girl Scouting in the United States. Back then I am sure that she, like other trend-setting women of her time, knew she was doing something important; however, I wonder if she and her counterparts fully understood the impact of their actions. As we prepare to celebrate the century-old Girl Scout legacy begun on March 12, 1912 it is particularly interesting to look at the other important accomplishments of women of that century from a historical perspective.

The 1910s was a decade when women sprung into action. In 1912, the Junior League of Baltimore and Hadassah were founded, the Bread & Roses strike, led by women mill workers, took place and started a change in how women and children working in factories were treated; Mary Harris “Mother” Jones was arrested for civil disobedience after leading a protest about conditions in West Virginia mines. In 1914, Margaret Sanger published the first issue of, *The Woman Rebel*, in 1915 and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom was founded. In 1916, Jeanette Rankin became the first American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the National Women’s Party was founded. These events occurred four years prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Each of these “firsts” created a momentum that propelled women to greater heights. In the 1920s Edna St. Vincent Millay became the first woman Pulitzer Prize winner; Alice

Paul drafted the Equal Rights Amendment; Nellie Taylor Ross was inaugurated as the 13th governor of Wyoming; Amelia Earhart took her solo Atlantic flight, Frances Perkins became Secretary of Labor and the first female Cabinet member.

This is what happens when women unite their energies, harness their collective voices and share their experiences and zest to make the world a better place. And, when women combine forces to make the world a better place, it is a win-win situation for all. That is what Juliette Gordon Low set out to do for a room full of young women who became the first Girl Scout troop in the United States. And, nearly a century later, her intentions are still being realized.

In central Maryland, nearly 29,000 girls benefit from the ever-evolving Girl Scout leadership development program that focuses on helping them build the skills and character needed to make a difference in their own lives, in the community and in the world. Just like Juliette Gordon Low and countless other women visionaries of her time and the proceeding decades, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland relies on support from the community to make it happen. As we stand on the brink of 100 years of Girl Scouting, we are relying on you to ensure that the Girl Scout program thrives and that it will continue to be part of the synergy that propels girls to greatness for generations to come.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Traci A. Barnett, M.B.A.
Chief Executive Officer



We are Forever Green

Equipping girls to be the next generation's conservation leaders is vital to the preservation of the environment and the planet. Therefore it is essential that we provide today's Girl Scouts with knowledge, tools and examples of conservation and preservation while they are young, which is why the camp experience is central to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland has four camp properties that provide a myriad of activities for girls in grades 2-12. Kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, high ropes courses, horseback riding and swimming are part of the usual camp activities that we provide. In addition, and in keeping with the national Girl Scout theme, "Forever Green," we also offer camp activities that focus on ways girls can reduce their energy footprint; introduce them to the concepts and materials involved in "green" construction; and, show them how to use organic and fresh produce to create meals and beauty products.

In keeping with our commitment to environmental education and conservation, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is pleased to share that Camp Conowingo, the Council's largest camp, located in Cecil County has been permanently protected for future generations of Girl Scouts and for all those that care about the environment. GSCM has been working with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to facilitate the State's purchase of a conservation easement that will cover approximately 577 acres of the camp, restricting future uses on the site to protect the property's standing forests and Conowingo Creek, a Susquehanna River tributary. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland will still own the property and all Girl Scout recreational and educational programs will continue.

"Protecting and preserving the environment

is central to the Girl Scout mission. This easement is an embodiment of that belief. It allows Girl Scouts to ensure the future of camp experiences for girls in perpetuity while simultaneously conserving the natural habitat. Our partnership with TPL and the State of Maryland symbolizes our collective support for conservation efforts in our State, particularly along the Susquehanna River," said Traci A. Barnett, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.



Under the supervision of her troop leader, a Girl Scout drills into a rain barrel, which will be sold at the Big Outdoors Event, GSCM's annual Earth Day celebration.

"Protecting Maryland's major rivers and streams is critical to saving the Chesapeake Bay and enhancing the State's quality of life. The agreement between the Girl Scouts and the Department of Natural Resources restricting future development

of the Camp Conowingo property is a major step toward protection efforts along the Susquehanna River," said Kent Whitehead, TPL's Chesapeake director. "In addition, this deal ensures ongoing camp activities that have helped introduce countless young Marylanders and their families to the state's natural environment." American Rivers recently recognized the Susquehanna River as the most endangered river in the United States. The completion of this project will contribute to restoration activities along the Susquehanna by protecting an important tributary and lessening the effects of run-off caused by development.

GSCM has enjoyed working with TPL on this joint venture. Their mission of conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come is symbiotic with the Girl Scout Mission and our commitment to preserving and

protecting the environment. As we like to say, Girl Scouts were 'green' before green was **the** hot topic. As always, we encourage you to Take Action and be Girl Scout **green** in your homes, schools and communities. Future generations are counting on you!



For many girls, camping and Girl Scouting are one and the same. Camp is a formative experience that teaches social skills and independence simultaneously; and it can spark a lifelong interest in nature. The girls of summer 2011 and the GSCM staff would like to thank you for supporting Girl Scout camp.

ork together on the low ropes course; girls show off the inside of their quarters, a yurt..





The Year of the Girl

Between November 10–13 Girl Scout members, volunteers, alumnae and donors from near and far will gather in Houston, Texas for GSUSA's 2011 National Council Session. This event, held once every three years, brings our diverse membership together for activities, workshops, guest speakers and networking.

What makes the 2011 National Convention even more special is the celebration of the 100th Anniversary—100 years of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

So what does the 2011 National Convention have in store? Many plans are in the works for the 100th Anniversary celebrating the founding of Girl Scouts by Juliette Low on March 12, 1912. "Girl Scout University" will offer dozens of different programs starting Wednesday, November 9, from storytelling to creating exciting new roles for volunteers. And back once again, but better than ever, the Girl Scout Leadership Institute will give girls an opportunity to develop their own programming, making this a real girl-led event. In addition, November 10–12 attendees can visit exhibitors from professional services firms to consumer products companies, all looking to connect with Girl Scout members of all ages.

Attendees can join panels of experts for Conversations of Consequence,

thought-provoking discussions about the issues facing girls—and Girl Scouting—in the new century. These sessions aren't lectures; rather they are conversations that will continue throughout our 100th year and beyond. Topics include: Fund Development and Philanthropy; Leadership; The Female Factor; Diversity; Girls' Issues Defined By Girls and more. Attendees will learn how to use Girl Scouts' unique legacy to market their councils and anchor fund development programs leading into the centennial. Along with useful tips and techniques, there will be opportunities to exchange ideas with Girl Scout historians, alumna and colleagues from around the country.

The opening ceremony will begin on Thursday evening with a reflection of a century of achievement behind us, and a glimpse into the exciting possibilities of our future. The tradition of Girl Scouts exchanging keepsakes (or swaps), started long ago when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides first gathered for fun, song and making

new friends, will continue in the Swaps Girl Lounge.

There will also be an opportunity to meet some of America's most accomplished Girl Scouts at the National Young Women of Distinction ceremony on Friday afternoon and see how these young ladies have already changed the world. Saturday night all will share a toast and raise the roof with unforgettable entertainment worthy of a once-a-century event. The party will be bigger, the speakers will be even more phenomenal, and the business sessions will be streamlined to offer more time to celebrate 100 years of leadership development for more than 50 million Girl Scouts nationwide.

In addition to our Councils' local delegates, we hope that everyone who has ever been a member of the Girl Scout family will come to Texas and be a part of Girl Scout history. There is still time to attend this once in a lifetime opportunity. Registration for the 100th Anniversary is now open. More information can be found at www.girlscouts.org/convention. So round up your old Girl Scout troop (or your current one), load up the van, come alone or with friends and be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. See you in Houston!

Be a part
of history

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is creating an 100th Anniversary keepsake memory book to celebrate Girl Scouting in central Maryland. This book will feature hundreds of photos—including the first troop established in the Baltimore area. We want this to be a book that will be special to all current and former Girl Scouts troops in the Maryland area BUT we need YOU to make that happen! That's why we are asking you to submit photos from your Girl Scout years. We especially need photos from the '70s, '80s and 90s. So get your scrapbooks out and see what photos you'd like to share with the central Maryland Girl Scout community (captions, names and dates are required.) Send your photos (digital or print) to: Danita Terry, Director of Communications, GSCM, 4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215 or dterry@gscm.org.



Project Anti-Violence Education

As part of the summer experience, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland hosts a Project Anti-Violence Education (P.A.V.E.) Summer Enrichment Day Camp for girls between the ages of 7 and 12, free of charge. P.A.V.E. camp is a natural follow-up for the teen Peer Counselors, who have received peer-mentoring training and for the younger girls, who participated in the P.A.V.E. program during the school year. The day camp

allows the girls the time to delve more deeply into the issues of bullying/harassment and cyber-bullying, conflict resolution, problem-solving, nutrition, exercise and outdoor activities.

Kicking off this summer's camp season, P.A.V.E. camp was held June 20–24, 2011 and nearly 200 at-risk girls participated in this unique camp experience developed each year through a collaborative process between the P.A.V.E. Peer Counselors and GSCM staff members. This year we hosted two P.A.V.E. camps for the first time...one at Camp Woodlands, located in Anne Arundel County on Broad Creek and, in response to the growing need in the community for this type of camp program, the second one was held at our new Urban Program & STEM Center, located in Baltimore City.

Shannon Marshall and Stacy Tomasiewicz, GSCM Program Specialists, served as camp directors for the P.A.V.E. camps in Baltimore City and Annapolis. The overall goal of P.A.V. E. camp is to provide girls with positive strategies that help them deal with negative situations. This is done by incorporating different activities—such as storytelling, arts and crafts, dance and other creative expression, team-building exercises and exploration activities (hiking, rock-wall climbing and an engineering challenge)—into the camp curriculum. Guest speakers included local police, firefighters, school officials, dancers, chefs and martial artists, who shared their knowledge and expertise with the campers.

Campers learned how to use positive strategies during negative situations, including **self-defense**, like Tae Kwondo, to protect themselves and to build self-confidence; **connecting to others**, including finding a trusted adult with whom they can confide; and **self-discovery**, so that they can better understand themselves and are aware of their strengths, likes and dislikes. Together these strategies help to make them less vulnerable to peer-pressure and bullying.

The theme of both camps was *Buddies not Bullies*. Unfortunately, it became clear as the week progressed that many of the girls have been exposed to bullying, some just didn't recognize it as bullying. P.A.V.E. camp helps girls recognize bullying and lets them know

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while simultaneously using its experience and connection to girls to create a platform for policy discussions.

Continuing the Council's focus on key issues, GSCM has recently been selected by Girl Scouts of the USA to be a Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Advocacy Champion, an honor bestowed upon only 17 Girl Scout councils nationwide. This new national initiative prepares Girl Scout councils to lead efforts at the local and state level to increase girl involvement in STEM.

The strength of our nation depends on increasing girl involvement in STEM, to develop critical thinking, problem-solving and collaborative skills that are important throughout life. While the percentage of careers requiring advanced STEM education increases, an alarmingly high percentage of girls lose interest in STEM subjects early in their development. If the United States is to maintain its competitive advantage in the global economy, we urgently need to ensure that our entire population of young minds, and especially girls, are educated in STEM fields. As a STEM Advocacy Champion, GSCM will continue to build awareness and educate the community on the important issue of increasing girls' involvement in STEM and look for policy solutions to the problem.

Because Girl Scouts believes in the inherent value of girls using their own voices to tell their own stories, GSCM has been working with Girl Scouts of all ages to advocate for issues that are important to them, whether it be around the issues of the environment, bullying, STEM, media images or something else entirely. Learning to participate in appropriate discourse is important: an active, engaged citizenry

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what to do when it happens. Many girls said they told an adult, but some internalized the negative statements and actions, which, ultimately, has a harmful effect on their self-esteem and self-perception.

In Annapolis, the P.A.V.E. campers had the opportunity to participate in water activities such as canoeing and fishing. For many of them, this was a first time experience. The excitement in the air was palpable; the girls were beaming, especially when a few of them caught a fish in the program activity called – Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs! Campers expanded their horizons with the idea that if they can visualize a better future

for themselves then that is the first step in creating it.

Additionally, both camps engaged in an engineering project that could help people with physical challenges. To introduce the topic of engineering and its practical applications, the girls were given materials that they then used to construct a prosthesis that could be used by someone without an arm. Each of the girls' newly constructed prosthetic arms had the ability to lift a small cup of marbles. In addition to their new engineering skills, the girls had the chance to experience the challenges of someone with a physical impairment.

is the very core of the American system of government and community involvement.

To that end, GSCM is pleased to announce that two Girl Scout Seniors have been selected to serve on the national Youth Advisory Council of the Healthy MEdia: Commission for Positive Images of Women and Girls. The nationwide commission, chaired by Academy Award-winning actress Geena Davis and Former FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, will convene media industry leaders to



examine the images shown to children. GSCM Girl Scouts Jasmine Dent and Allie Lundell are serving on the Youth Advisory Council for the Commission. Girl Scouts of Central Maryland CEO Traci Barnett said, "I am proud that two of our Council's Girl Scouts were selected to

represent youth on such an important issue. Jasmine and Allie will provide invaluable input. They will present perspectives of young females as the Healthy MEdia Commission works to promote healthy female images in the media."

If you are interested in learning more about GSCM's efforts to advocate for girls, please contact Maria Johnson, Vice President of Advancement, mjohnson@gscm.org or 410.358.9711 ext 247.

All too soon the week came to an end, yet the lessons learned at this camp will last a lifetime. Girls left camp empowered...having developed strategies to help them deal with their challenges; experienced new activities that stretched their minds and broadened their skills; and made new friends. Isn't that what summer camp is all about?

Special thanks to the Charles Crane Foundation, the Children's Fresh Air Fund and many individual donors whose financial support made P.A.V.E. camp 2011 possible.