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A Centennial of Girl Scouting
Girl Scouts celebrate 100 years of building girls of courage, confidence, and character

TALLAHASSEE- From October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 girls across the Florida

Panhandle and across the nation are celebrating the 100th year of Girl Scouting with the Year of the Girl.

Founded on March 12, 2012 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia Girl Scouting as grown from 18 members to over 3.2 million girls and adults, and 50 million men and women alumni.

“I truly believe in Girl Scouting; it makes a difference in the lives of girls and adults,” said Josephine Newton of Tallahassee. “It gives basic information of tradition, morals, and life, which encourages dedication to explore ideas that girls feel strongly about.”

During the past 99 years, girls have been learning skills relevant for their time. During World War I and II Girl Scouts did their part by helping to selling defense bonds, growing victory gardens, and collecting scrap iron.

“As an adult, I felt that Girl Scouting fit the way I wanted to live my life, and have continued working with troops through many years and in many places,” said Kitty Poulson of Ft. Walton Beach. “I even ran my household of 6 children using a Kaper Chart (a traditional Girl Scout tool) for the fair distribution of jobs.”

Poulson was honored in September with the Pearl Lifetime Achievement Award in Girl Scouting for the Pensacola area.

Today girls are staying relevant earning badges such as: Public Policy, Website Designer, Public Speaker, and Philanthropist. Girls are still staying true the Girl Scout Promise and Law; which still entails community service, using resources wisely, and being a sister to every Girl Scout.

"As a young girl scout I learned the promise and laws and each word struck a connection to the person I strived to become," said Gretchen Erickson, of Niceville and GSCFP Board President.

"I look back on my 42 years in scouting and I can proudly say I live by those laws each and every day."

Each month of the 100th year Girl Scouts are participating in a series of events. In December Girl Scouts will be out in the community in participation of "100 Girl Scout Sightings."

Community members are encouraged to snap a photograph of Girl Scouts they see in their community and send it in to Holly Jones at hjones@gscfp.org. Pictures will be placed on www.gscfp.org and the official GSCFP Facebook page in honor of the Year of the Girl.

Girl Scouts of the USA are celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting on March 12, 2012 with the Year of the Girl. The Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle invites girls from kindergarten to twelfth grade, to join the adventure and empower themselves through courage, confidence and character, to make the world a better place. Currently, the council serves 6,024 girls and 1,980 volunteers across 19 counties of the Florida Panhandle. To volunteer or join Girl Scouts, contact the local council office at 1-888-271-8778 or visit www.gscfp.org.