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Girl Scouts celebrate Earth Day with capstone event

Tallahassee, FL – Girl Scouts from across the Panhandle participated in the first annual Earth Day Capstone for Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle! Girl Scouts celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 23 at Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park. This year's Earth Day served as the capstone event for a year's worth of environmentally-based activities for the Girl Scouts Forever Green program.

Girl Scouts Forever Green is a national initiative which aims to lower energy use and help protect the environment.

In February and March, Girl Scout troops gave away Compact Florescent Light Bulbs at cookie booths in 19 counties, asking people to participate in Earth Hour and pledge to reduce their energy use. Pledges were tracked nationally at www.girlscouts.org/GSForeverGreen.

Girl Scouts pitched in with a service project for the State Park, helping to prevent soil erosion by laying down mulch on park trails. The mulch also covers tripping hazards and made the trails safer for the public.

Four Girl Scout Cadette and Senior troops facilitated activities such as: water relays, bubble pools, painting with color, and bean planting. Community partners joined in the fun, teaching Girl Scouts about different aspects of local environmentalism. MOAS, the Tallahassee Museum,

and IFAS were among a few represented at Girl Scout Earth Day. One of the girls' favorite activities was the delicious "Edible Florida Wildflower" that was provided by the Department of Education Dietetic Internship Program.

Everyone was invited to take an Energy Pledge detailing the steps they would take to reduce energy use. The most common responses included: unplugging phone charger, turning off lights and fans when leaving the room. The Energy Pledge wall was displayed so that everyone could see the pledges that were already made.

Girl Scouts ask you to reduce your energy use too! For more ideas, check out www.facebook.com/GSCFPForeverGreen or www.twitter.com/GSForeverGreen.

The Girl Scout Council 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. Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle is a United Way Agency.

-30-

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