



## **Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle Celebrate Earth Hour March 26**

### *Girls Take Action to Protect our Natural Resources*

**TALLAHASSEE – March 22, 2011** – Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle are celebrating the collaboration with [Earth Hour](#) across the 19 counties of the Florida Panhandle by powering down and unplugging all non-essentials electric devices.

"Our girls are thrilled about participating in a meaningful global initiative that makes a positive impact on the environment," said Raslean M. Allen, CEO of GSCFP. "It's also a significant lesson in teamwork and giving back to our community."

More than 300 Girl Scouts across the Panhandle will be participating in the community activities to support Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m. on March 26.

"I am excited to help our environment," said Girl Scout Brownie, Grace. "We get to save the planet and have fun."

Other Florida Panhandle Earth Hour activities include:

- **Earth Day Celebration at Lake Jackson Mounds State Park, Tallahassee, FL. April 23, 2011 from 9am- 12pm; open to the public. Girl Scouts will host a series of environmental activities to help the public learn about the importance of environmental awareness.**

Girl Scouts across the country are taking activities beyond the hour by installing ENERGY STAR®-qualified or other energy-efficient light bulbs in homes, schools and businesses during the month of March.

The Earth Hour collaboration is one part of the Girl Scouts' broader commitment to environmental sustainability. [Girl Scouts Forever Green](#) (GSFG), the Girl Scouts' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Take Action Project, involves three key projects: 1) using reusable water bottles and bags to reduce plastic waste; 2) planting and maintaining rain gardens at schools, homes and other sites; and 3) participation in Earth Hour events and installing ENERGY STAR qualified or other energy-efficient light bulbs. Participants are also encouraged to take an [online pledge](#) stating their yearlong commitment to GSFG efforts. Beginning in July, all 112 Girl Scout councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas will be invited to participate in Girl Scouts Forever Green.

Earth Hour is a global initiative that invites individuals, businesses, governments and communities to turn off their lights for one hour – 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26 – to show support for environmentally sustainable action. This year, Earth Hour is asking participants to go "Beyond the Hour" by committing to an action, big or small, that they will sustain for the future of our planet. In the United States, Earth Hour is partnering with the Girl Scouts to bring the movement to life.

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Initially a single-city initiative in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, Earth Hour has become a global movement in which hundreds of millions of people from every continent join together to acknowledge the importance of protecting and improving the planet. Since its inception in 2007, Earth Hour's iconic "lights out" event has seen some of the world's most recognized landmarks switch off their lights, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Buckingham Palace in London, San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and the Forbidden City in China.

For more information, visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) or [www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen](http://www.girlscouts.org/forevergreen).

### **About Girl Scouts**

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with 3.4 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girl Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) GSUSA 4 U (800-478-7248) or visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org). For more information on *It's Your Planet, Love it* visit [www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your\\_planet](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/your_planet).

### **About Earth Hour**

Earth Hour is a global initiative in partnership with WWF. Individuals, businesses, governments and communities are invited to turn out their lights for one hour on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 8:30 p.m. to show their support for environmentally sustainable action. The event began in Sydney in 2007, when 2 million people switched off their lights. By 2010, Earth Hour had created history as the largest voluntary action ever witnessed with participation across 128 countries and territories and every continent, including the world's most recognized man-made marvels and natural wonders in a landmark environmental action.

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