



May 4, 2009

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHAWNEE GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL PREPARES TO MERGE WITH GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL

A vote by members of the Shawnee Girl Scout Council on May 9, will set the stage for Shawnee Girl Scouts to become part of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC). "We are very excited to become part of such a dynamic council," said Berniece Collis, President of the Board of Directors of Shawnee Girl Scout Council. "This merger will create enormous opportunities for our girls."

Many Girl Scout Councils across the country have been coming together to create high capacity councils, with volunteers, staff and financial resources to serve growing numbers of girls. By the end of the year, this nationwide effort to combine councils will reduce the number of Girl Scout Councils from 313 to 109.

Shawnee Council, in its entirety, 5,000 members and 491 troops in 14 counties, will become part of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. This merger will allow Girl Scouting in the Shenandoah region to continue to grow and thrive.

"We are united by one single commitment, to provide opportunities to girls," said Diane Tipton, President of the Board of Directors for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. "Our new members can expect to find at GSCNC a strong sisterhood and the highest regard for local involvement. We will continue to serve volunteers through the Martinsburg office and continue to operate Camp White Rock for the benefit of all girls."

The special meeting of Shawnee Girl Scout members, to vote on the merger, will take place at the Best Western in Winchester, VA. Shawnee Girl Scout Council and Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital were formed in 1963. Both Councils are delighted to have their first presidents Marguerite Cyr (Shawnee) and Bobby Lerch (GSCNC) participate in a merger signing ceremony, following the vote, on May 9th.

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Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council, Inc. serves fourteen counties in three states: Allegany and Washington Counties in Maryland; Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren Counties in Virginia; and Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan Counties in West Virginia.

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC) is a non-profit organization with over 82,000 members, including 58,000 girls in 4,500 troops throughout the District of Columbia, six counties in Maryland and five counties in Northern Virginia. With the help of dedicated volunteers, the generosity of corporations and foundations, and our popular Girl Scout Cookie program, GSCNC helps girls from kindergarten to 12th grade become leaders through a wide range of fun and educational activities. GSCNC is headquartered in Washington DC, with satellite offices in Frederick and Waldorf, Maryland; Lorton, Leesburg and Manassas, Virginia; and soon to be added Martinsburg, West Virginia. To get involved, visit our website at www.gscnc.org.

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PRESS RELEASE