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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Greater Los Angeles Girl Scout Council Renews Focus on Leadership Development for Girls *Local Girl Scout councils complete historic merger*

As the premier leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts has always been great, but Girl Scouting in the Greater Los Angeles Area is now even *greater!* The newly formed Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) began operations today following the completion of a historic merger of six Los Angeles area legacy Girl Scout councils. The new council will serve approximately 45,000 girls, ages five to 17, in partnership with more than 22,000 volunteers.

The six area councils have spent the past 18 months preparing for this transition. These six councils are among over 280 Girl Scout councils throughout the country that realigned under a national reorganization plan designed by Girl Scouts of the USA to create high performance, community-focused councils with strengthened infrastructures. Girl Scouts is redefining itself as the world's best leadership development program for girls and reorganizing its operations nationwide. These changes will ensure that Girl Scouts will continue to be compelling, contemporary and relevant to today's girls and be in the best position to serve the largest number of girls and volunteers for decades to come.

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles *Combining the resources of Angeles*

Joshua Tree – South
Greater Long Beach
Mt. Wilson Vista
San Fernando Valley
Spanish Trails

**45,000 Girls.
22,000 Volunteers.
One Mission.**

Central Region

*Arcadia Service Center
(Interim Headquarters)*
101 E. Wheeler Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 445-7771

North Region

Chatsworth Service Center
9421 Winnetka Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 886-1801

Lancaster Service Center
2330 Mall Loop Road #119
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 723-1230

Santa Clarita Service Center
21515 Soledad Canyon Road #118
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
(661) 287-1985

Southwest Region

Santa Monica Service Center
2525 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90411
(310) 450-3720

Long Beach Service Center
4040 N. Bellflower Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 421-8456

East Region

Montclair Service Center
9525 Monte Vista Ave.
Montclair, CA 91763
(909) 399-0808

The new greater Los Angeles council will be among the largest councils across the nation, serving more than 300 diverse communities in the area. While the council will initially serve 45,000 girls, it has the potential of reaching nearly one million girls.

Under the leadership of newly named CEO Lise L. Luttgens and a newly elected Board of Directors with Chair Janet Braun at the helm, the council will focus on strengthening its infrastructure, developing partnerships with the community, and creating more opportunities in Girl Scouting for even more girls.

“Girl Scouting offers girls a unique leadership development experience; interaction with positive female role models; and opportunities that build strong character and values that will serve girls and young women all their lives,” said Lise L. Luttgens, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. “We are committed to expanding our reach to make Girl Scouting available to every Greater Los Angeles Area girl interested in participating.”

This merger comes at a time when the Girl Scout Movement is renewing its focus on leadership development for girls through retooled program materials, expanded pathways for girls to experience Girl Scouting, and flexible options for volunteers to be involved. The council will now serve girls in more than 3,200 troops (the traditional Girl Scout experience), as well as reach girls through innovative pathways such as camp experiences, short-term programs, and after-school programs that make Girl Scouting possible for girls who might not otherwise have access due to socio-economic, cultural or language barriers.

“While the geographic boundaries between the legacy councils have disappeared to now connect us as a unified organization, our mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place, is unwavering. Council volunteers and staff remain fully committed to providing relevant and quality program opportunities for girls and look forward to bringing the strengths of the six councils together for the benefit of more girls,” said Board Chair Janet Braun. “In the coming months, we will spend time connecting to the community so that we can better understand and serve the needs of our volunteers and girls throughout the area and keep services and resources local and accessible.”

The legacy council offices will operate as service centers within four regions: **Central** (formerly Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council, *Interim Headquarters*), **North** (formerly Girl Scouts of the San Fernando Valley and Girl Scouts - Joshua Tree Council, southeastern portion), **East** (formerly Girl Scouts - Spanish Trails Council) and **Southwest** (formerly Angeles Girl Scout Council and Girl Scout Council of Greater Long Beach).

Girls and volunteers will have full access to programs, services and resources at each of the service centers and can expect expanded programs, greater access to camps and other program facilities, more opportunities for girls, and increased visibility for Girl Scouts as the council continues its transition.

“One of the most exciting benefits of the merger is the expanded resources girls and volunteers will have,” said Susan Galeas, Vice President of GSGLA’s Central Region. “Girls can attend new programs throughout the Greater Los Angeles Area, while volunteers can conveniently attend trainings at various locations of their choice.”

For more information on how to register your daughter, volunteer your time or donate to the Girl Scouts, call 1 888 GSGLA 4 U or visit www.girlscoutsla.org.

About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles serves approximately 45,000 girls and young women, ages five to 17, throughout the Greater Los Angeles Area in partnership with more than 22,000 volunteers. The council is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA, the world’s preeminent organization for girls. For more information on how to register your daughter, volunteer your time or donate to the Girl Scouts, call 1 888 GSGLA 4 U or visit www.girlscoutsla.org.

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles FACT SHEET



The Unique Girl Scout Experience

- Leadership Development
- Domestic & International Travel
- Camping & Outdoor Adventures
- Science and Technology
- The Arts
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Community Service
- Community-Based and After-school Programs for girls from low-income families

Girl Membership Levels

- Girl Scout Daisy:** Grades K-1
- Girl Scout Brownie:** 2-3
- Girl Scout Junior:** 4-5
- Girl Scout Cadette:** 6-8
- Girl Scout Senior:** 9-10
- Girl Scout Ambassador:** 11-12

Volunteer Opportunities

Girl Scouts is a movement that depends upon volunteers to open up a world of opportunities for girls.

The council provides training for adult volunteers to help them make programs for girls possible.

Volunteer positions are varied and volunteering requires no previous experience in Girl Scouting, just a strong commitment and a desire to make a difference in the lives of girls.

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About Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles

The new Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, in partnership with nearly 22,000 volunteers, serves approximately 45,000 girls and young women, ages five to 17 throughout the Greater Los Angeles region and parts of San Bernardino County.

The new Girl Scout council, which began operations on Dec. 1, 2008, is the result of a historic merger of six Los Angeles Area legacy Girl Scout councils. Angeles Girl Scout Council, Girl Scout Council of Greater Long Beach, Girl Scouts - Joshua Tree Council (southeastern portion), Girl Scouts - Mt. Wilson Vista Council, Girl Scouts - Spanish Trails Council, and Girl Scouts of the San Fernando Valley have been participating in an ongoing merger process for the past 18 months. Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles will combine the resources of its merging legacy councils to offer girls the premier leadership experience. The council serves more than 300 communities throughout the area.

The merger is part of a nationwide core business strategy for the Girl Scout Movement. The council is chartered by Girls Scouts of the USA, the world's preeminent organization for girls. Today, as when founded in 1912, Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages five-17.

The Girl Scout Program

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls, where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success. The Girl Scout experience, a unique personal growth and leadership development program, engages girls in discovering themselves, connecting with others, and taking action to make the world a better place.

The program is girl-driven, reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of today's girls. Through leadership development, field trips, sports clinics, community-service projects, cultural experiences and environmental adventures, girls grow courageous and strong.

Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full individual potential by cultivating values, social conscience and self-esteem, while also teaching them critical life skills that will enable them to succeed as adults. Girls learn the importance of personal responsibility, the value of goal-setting, the spirit of teamwork and the thrill of accomplishment.

Girl Scout Gold Award

The Girl Scout Gold Award - Girl Scouting's highest honor - recognizes Senior Girl Scouts for outstanding accomplishments in leadership development, career exploration and a large-scale service project that leaves a positive and lasting impact on their community. The Gold Award is acknowledged by many government, national and local organizations, and colleges and universities.

Girl Scout Cookie Program

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is America's leading business and economic literacy program for girls today. In the cookie program, girls participate in carefully developed age-appropriate cookie activities that help develop skills they can apply throughout their lives.

45,000 Girls. 22,000 Volunteers. One Mission.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts Greater Los Angeles Service Regions and Properties

