



April 1, 2009

Girl Scouts Join to Form New Council

Girl Scouts is reinvigorating its local structure to make the most effective use of community resources and to deliver a superior Girl Scout Leadership Experience to even more girls in the area. Effective October 1, 2009, Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council will join Girl Scouts - Green Hills Council, Girl Scouts - Rock River Council and Girl Scouts - Fox Valley Council to form Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.

“We are excited about the opportunities this alignment presents,” said Jane Carter CEO of Girl Scouts - Sybaquay Council. “It strengthens our position as a community-based organization and allows us to focus our efforts on working with girls to develop their leadership skills, connect with others, and take action to identify and address issues facing them and their communities.”

While the geographic area of the council will change, the mission to *build 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 Sybaquay, Green Hills, Rock River and Fox Valley councils together for their benefit.

In Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, girls will explore outdoor and year-round program opportunities at many more premier council property sites including Camp Medill McCormick in Stillman Valley, Camp Far Horizons, Hannover, IL, Camp Dean, in Big Rock, IL, Camp Pokonokah Hills, New Auburn, WI, Camp Chapman Hills, East Troy, WI, and Camp Mary Ann Beebe, near Harvard, IL

Efforts to reach girls at risk will be expanded, and more resources will be allocated to provide programs and activities to girls who have not yet had the opportunity to experience Girl Scouting.

The organization's larger territory will present more opportunities for volunteers and girls to work with and learn from girls and adults from diverse backgrounds.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will serve over 23,000 girls and over 6,600 adult volunteers in parts or all of Boone, Winnebago, Ogle, Stephenson, Jo Davies, Whiteside, Carroll, Lee, Kendall, Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Lake and LaSalle counties. A council realignment committee, with representatives from all geographic regions, has been formed to prepare for the integration of program and administrative functions that will provide uninterrupted service to the girls and volunteers in our communities. Currently, there are program and service centers located in Rockford, Freeport, Sugar Grove and Elgin.

To view a map of the new council's boundaries, go to Sybaquay's Web site at www.gs-sybaquay.org. Click on Council Realignment in the gray Quick Links box.