



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Verizon Foundation Funds Girl Scouts of Central Illinois STEM program

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois is pleased to announce the Verizon Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 grant to fund the Girl Scout STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program. Funding will support STEM-related programs and camps for girls ages 5 to 17 throughout 38 counties across central Illinois during the 2011-2012 school year.

Through service centers in Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, Peoria, Peru, Quincy, and Springfield, support from the Verizon foundation will help fund STEM-related programs in topics such as entomology, zoology, chemistry, physics, meteorology, environmental science, robotics, and more. Funds will also be used provide financial assistance for Girl Scout membership and camp fees for STEM-related sessions, so that any girl within our jurisdiction may join us

STEM is a key program focus of Girl Scouts of Central Illinois. Research tells us that girls begin leaving science to boys as early as grade 7, and by the time they reach adulthood, women hold only 5% of the top positions in the medical sciences.

"We are committed to closing the achievement gap and ensuring that the voice of girls and women informs the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and we are grateful for the community support that helps make that possible," states Pam Kovacevich, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Illinois.

Program offerings will include council-sponsored day-long events, series that take place on the same subject across the span of the school year, camp sessions, field trips, and more.

For more information about the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois STEM program visit www.girlscouts-gsci.org or call 877-231-1446.

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About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, uses its technology, financial resources and partnerships to address critical social issues, with a focus on education and domestic violence prevention. In 2010, the foundation awarded nearly \$67 million to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered nearly 6 million hours million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

About Girl Scouts

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with 3.2 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Illinois serves 20,000 girls and 5,000 adult members in 38 counties throughout central Illinois. For more information, visit www.girlscouts-gsci.org or call your local Girl Scout Service Center at 877-231-1446.

