



Media Advisory

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Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council

to join forces to become

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council

The Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council are joining forces to become the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council. Work to complete this process began today (October 1, 2008) and will be completed with the formation of a new council on October 1, 2009. The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council will be a high-capacity Girl Scout council serving approximately 16,000 girls and 4,800 adult volunteers in 40 ½ counties in southern Illinois. This restructuring is part of a national Girl Scouts of the USA initiative to create councils that are well equipped to provide compelling, contemporary and relevant experiences that meet the needs of girls in today's fast-changing world.

The name Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council was selected by Girl Scouts, volunteers and community members who voted for it on the Girl Scouts' web site. "We are pleased to announce our

new name of Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council,” said Roberta J. “Bobbie” Campbell, CEO of Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council and Mary C. Griggs, CEO of Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council. “Our new name, which we will begin using on Oct. 1, 2009, shows our commitment to all girls, their families and our communities in southern Illinois. We also want to thank everyone who visited our website to suggest a name or vote on the name for our new council,” Campbell and Griggs added.

Earlier this summer, a Council Realignment Committee (CRC) was formed and charged with leading the realignment process and ensuring a successful joining of the two councils. Representatives from both councils and both boards comprise the CRC. CRC members from River Bluffs are: Cherri Hendrix, Rose Bickmore, Renee Johnson Mary Griggs. CRC members from Shagbark are: Betsy Murphy, Deanna Litzenburg, Cheryl Settle and Roberta J. (Bobbie) Campbell.

Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, councils nationwide are joining in a historic organizational transformation centered around the best leadership development experience for girls in the 21st century, while ensuring the traditions and values that have been core to Girl Scouting since its beginning remain strong and relevant.

While the jurisdictional area of the new council will expand, the mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place, is unwavering. Both council Board of Directors and staffs are fully committed to providing quality program opportunities and leadership opportunities for girls and look forward to bringing the strengths of both councils together for their benefit.

Anyone who wants to follow the realignment process, has questions or would like to comment or make a suggestion throughout the realignment process can check out the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council interim website at girlscoutssouthernillinois.org.

The Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council are not-for-profit United Way agencies and are partially supported by a number of United Ways throughout the region.

For more information, please call Jay Strobel, Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council at (618) 692-0692 or Breanna Burton, Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council at (618) 242-5079.