



Media Advisory

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Girl Scouts Grow Stronger in Southern Illinois Council Realignment Committee (CRC) named

The Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council will join with the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council to form one high-capacity Girl Scout council serving approximately 16,000 girls and 4,800 adult volunteers in 40 ½ counties in southern Illinois. Work to complete this process begins on October 1, 2008 and will be completed on October 1, 2009. This 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.

A Council Realignment Committee (CRC) has been formed and is 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, Mary Griggs, Rose Bickmore and Renee Johnson. CRC members from Shagbark are: Betsy Murphy, Roberta Campbell, Deanna Litzenburg and Cheryl Settle.

“We are excited to begin our work together,” said Roberta “Bobbie” Campbell, Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council CEO. “By joining the resources, strengths, and talents of both councils, many new and expanded opportunities will be available to our girls and volunteers,” Campbell added.

“We also want to thank our dedicated CRC members who will play a vital role in the joining of our two councils,” said Mary Griggs, Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council CEO. “There is much work ahead of us, but joining our councils together will allow us to focus on meeting the needs of girls now and into the future, as well as providing the support needed to our volunteers,” Griggs added.

Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912. As we approach our 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, councils nationwide are joining in a historic organizational transformation centered around the best leadership development program 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 geographic area of the new council will change, 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 fully committed to providing relevant and quality program 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 Southern Illinois Region website at gsriverbluffs-shagbark.org.

The Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council are not-for-profit United Way supported agencies.

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.