



Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Corporate Service Center

4 Ginger Creek Parkway

Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034

618-692-0692

www.gsfsi.org

News Release

Release #112409

Date: Nov. 24, 2009

Contact: Jay Strobel jstrobel@gsfsi.org

Katie Pejka receives Girl Scout Gold Award...the highest individual achievement in Girl Scouting

Glen Carbon, Illinois -- The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is pleased to announce that Katie Pejka from O'Fallon earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive.

For her Girl Scout Gold Award project, Katie was inspired by her love of medicine to hold a community health fair and blood drive that would increase public health awareness. The health fair offered free blood pressure screenings and body fat analyses, as well as interactive stations concerning common cancers, immunizations, nutrition and exercise. Each station was equipped with take-home pamphlets so participants could share the educational experience with others. In addition, the blood drive collected 24 units of blood that were donated to the American Red Cross. Through her project, Katie learned that she "works well under pressure and that time determines the final product." Katie is the daughter of Jon and Penny Pejka. She is currently a freshman at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where she is majoring in Nursing.

The Girl Scout Gold Award recognizes Girl Scouts who have committed themselves to applying the skills and values they have developed into a plan to make the world a better place. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, a Girl Scout Senior or Girl Scout Ambassador devotes significant time and effort to a project she feels passionate about, cultivates her leadership skills and inspires others to improve and enrich their lives and their communities. Only about 5 percent of eligible girls earn the prestigious Gold Award.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois serves approximately 15,000 girls and 4,800 adult volunteers in 40 ½ counties in southern Illinois. Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912. As the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting approaches, 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.

For more information, please call Jay Strobel at 618.692-0692 or by e-mail at jstrobel@gsfsi.org

The Girl Scout Mission:

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

Check us out at: www.gsfsi.org

-- 30 --

