



Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

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News Release

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

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Glen Carbon, Illinois -- The Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council merged today and became the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI). Work to complete this process began on Oct. 1, 2008 and culminated with a Girl Scout Sunrise and Sunset Flag and Candle Ceremonies.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is 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.

While the jurisdictional area of the new council expanded, the mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place, was unwavering. Both legacy council Boards of Directors and staff were fully committed to providing quality program opportunities and leadership opportunities for girls and volunteers that both councils had provided in the past.

A Council Realignment Committee (CRC) was formed last summer and was charged with leading the realignment process and ensuring a successful joining of the two councils. Representatives from both councils

and both boards comprised the CRC. CRC members from River Bluffs were: Cherri Hendrix, Mary Griggs, Rose Bickmore and Renee Johnson. CRC members from Shagbark were: Betsy Murphy, Roberta Campbell, Deanna Litzenburg and Cheryl Settle.

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.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization supported by various United Ways throughout the region. The Girl Scouts is a Proud Partner of United Way.

For more information, please call Jay Strobel at (618) 692-0692 or Tricia Higgins at (618) 242-5079.

Check us out at: www.gsofsi.org

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