



Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

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Dr. Sandra Magnus returns Girl Scout flag from *International Space Station*

Dr. Sandra Magnus met with approximately 50 Girl Scouts and their volunteers Saturday at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville to present them a council flag she had taken with her on her voyage to the International Space Station (ISS) last November. In January, Dr. Magnus, who is a Girl Scout alumni, spoke to approximately 100 girls during a live satellite link from the ISS. Girl Scouts not only asked the Belleville astronaut questions about her role on the ISS, but got to see their council flag floating in space behind her.

Dr. Magnus also shared with the Girl Scouts and volunteers an 18-minute video of her experience and work aboard the ISS. She also spent about a half hour answering girls' questions about her job and role aboard the ISS. The In-Flight Event held in January was made possible because of a Girl Scout partnership with NASA and the Boeing Corporation which provided the live satellite link.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) has been introducing Girl Scouts to science, technology, engineering and math through its STEM Program.

On Oct. 1, the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois became operational when the Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark Council merged into one high-capacity council serving 16,000 girls and 4,800 adult volunteers in 40 ½ counties in southern Illinois. On Oct. 1, the Board of Directors also ratified Villie M. Appoo as the first Chief Executive Officer of GSSI.

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 Proud Partner of the United Way and is partially supported by various United Ways throughout the region. For more information, please call Jay Strobel, Director of Communications and Marketing at 618.692.0692. Also check out the new Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois website at

www.gsofsi.org

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