



Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

Corporate Service Center

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News Release

Release #04262010

Date: April 26, 2010

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Jessica Bynum



Shannon Buchanan

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois names Outstanding Graduating Seniors *Shiloh and O'Fallon girls earn \$500 Scholarship*

Glen Carbon, Illinois – The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) is pleased to announce that Jessica Bynum from Shiloh and Shannon Buchanan from O'Fallon have been selected as the Girl Scouts' 2010 Outstanding Graduating Seniors. The girls were recognized April 25 at GSSI's annual All That Glitters Ceremony held in Whittington. In addition to earning this prestigious award, each girl receives a \$500 scholarship for the college or university they will attend this fall. Jessica is the daughter of Kevin and Roxanne Bynum and Shannon is the daughter of Larry and Mary Buchanan.

Jessica, who plans to attend the University of Kentucky, will pursue a career in the medical field and hopes to eventually become a doctor. She has also earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and the Girl Scout Silver Award.

Jessica, who attends Belleville East High School, has not only been very active in Girl Scouting, she also volunteers in her community at a local food pantry and at her church.

“I have spent most of my life involved in Girl Scouting and this has been a passion of mine since I was a little child,” Jessica said. “Even though I am graduating from high school this summer, I will continue to advocate for the Girl Scouts as it represents everything I stand for. As time permits, I know I’ll become a Girl Scout leader to help lead other girls down this path,” Ms. Bynum concluded.

Shannon, who plans to attend Ball State University, will pursue a career in architecture. She is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. Shannon, who attends O’Fallon Township High School, has not only been active in Girl Scouting, she also volunteers in her community. She is a member of the O’Fallon Township Youth Committee and a member of the Spanish and art club.

“Girl Scouts helped me figure out the identity question, {Who am I}), and thanks to Girl Scouting I have discovered and developed my artistic ability,” Shannon said. “The most important thing I learned in Girl Scouting is understanding and respecting who I am. I have grown from being a shy and quiet little girl into a confident and outgoing Ambassador Girl Scout,” she added.

The Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois became operational on October 1, with the successful merging of the Girl Scouts of River Bluffs and the Girl Scouts of Shagbark councils. GSSI is a high-capacity Girl Scout council serving approximately 14,500 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 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.

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.gsofsi.org

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