



News Release

For immediate release

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

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GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER ATLANTA CELEBRATE WITH RIBBON-CUTTING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

MABLETON, May 28, 2010 — Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta held their ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. Over 80 people were in attendance, including girl and adult members and community supporters.

The event marked the official inauguration of the refurbished Girl Scout Service Center, and the new Girl Scout Business Center, an environmentally friendly and sustainable, LEED® certified building in Mableton, GA. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. "We are thrilled to celebrate the construction of our new facility," said Marilyn Midyette, CEO for Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta. "Our building serves as a symbol of our commitment as an organization to environmental education and reducing our environmental footprint."

The morning began with 19-year-old Morgan Coffey, a Girl Scout Gold Award winner and 2009 Woman of Distinction, speaking to the attendees about the importance of Girl Scouting, telling the audience, "Girl Scouts is an organization, but more importantly it is a movement. It is a living breathing body of girls and young women who are learning how they are going to change the world before them."

Morgan was followed by keynote speaker, Rob Garcia, President of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, welcoming Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta to their new home at Camp Timber Ridge.

Chair-elect, Kristin Lewis led the group outside to the Girl's Garden to present gifts three long-standing volunteers. A marble bench was dedicated to life-long Girl Scout, Ms. Stephanie Parker. Ms. Parker was Chairman of the Board during the inception of the Coming Home Capital Campaign. She oversaw "a nationally driven realignment, the feasibility study of the capital campaign, and a nationwide CEO search," said Ms. Lewis.

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Two Japanese Maples were planted in honor of Ms. Dabney Hollis and Mr. Van Price for their work as Co-Chairs of the Coming Home Capital Campaign. Ms. Lewis praised their “selfless contributions of time, expert advice and willingness to lead,” which “planted the seeds that have grown into a realized dream of a council-owned facility.”

Ms. Lewis also thanked two women who she said “have been living the Girl Scout Promise and making sure that every girl has an opportunity to achieve her dreams through Girl Scouting.” Ms. Margaret Perdue and Ms. Claire Smith were each presented with bouquets of flowers, as Ms. Lewis told the crowd “The Margaret Perdue Room will see generations of girls, volunteers and staff engage in training, collaboration and celebration. And thousands of girls will get their first Girl Scout uniforms in the Claire Smith Badge & Sash.” Both the Margaret Perdue Room and the Claire Smith Badge & Sash are located in the refurbished Girl Scout Service Center. A long-time Girl Scout champion, and honorary Chairman of the Coming Home Capital Campaign, Ms. Smith was then asked to lead the crowd in a classic Girl Scout standard, Make New Friends.

The day ended with Senior Girl Scout, Becca McIver, leading a group on tour of the campus. Becca was a member of the Forever Green Committee, and helped select the materials, including paint and carpet, during the construction and refurbishing process.

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta achieved LEED® Silver certification of the Girl Scout Business Center for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. The building’s green design and construction features include 80% recycled steel and FSC-certified wood; a bioswale for filtering storm and rainwater; low-emitting GREENGUARD unit furniture, no-odor paint, and carpet; low-flow toilets, sinks and showers; efficient systems including solar panels to heat water; “rock star” parking for fuel efficient vehicles and car-poolers; and green housekeeping products for ongoing maintenance.

By achieving LEED® certification, Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta is leading by example, reinforcing their commitment to environmental stewardship and education. Morgan Coffey understands the need to create the change she wants to see. “Girl Scouts is about cookies and it is about camping, and it is about growing and being and learning and loving the life we live. But Girl Scouts is also about being a new kind of leader. It is about a leader who has what it takes to change our world because Girl Scouts changed hers.”

About Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc. is the premiere leadership development organization for girls, serving over 41,000 girls with almost 18,000 adult members in 34 counties in the greater metropolitan Atlanta area, northwest Georgia and Polk County, TN. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. For more information on how to join, volunteer or donate to Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, Inc. call 800.771.4046, or visit www.gsgatl.org. For information on the national organization visit Girl Scouts of the USA’s Web site at www.girlscouts.org.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS

rob garcia1.jpg

Rob Garcia, President of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, welcoming Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta to their new home at Camp Timber Ridge.

ann hooper - marilyn midyette - kristen lewis1.jpg

Left to right: Ann Hooper, chairman; Marilyn Midyette, CEO; and Kristen Lewis, chair-elect begin ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

becca mciver conducts tour1.jpg

Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, Becca McIver conducts tour of the new LEED certified facilities in Mableton, Georgia.

claire smith conducts singing1.jpg

Emeritus board member, Claire Smith, conducts singing of Girl Scout traditional song, "Make New Friends".

morgan coffey standing ovation1.jpg

Girl Scout Gold Award recipient and 2009 Woman of Distinction, Morgan Coffey, addresses ceremony attendees.

ribbon cutting1.jpg

Left to right: Van G. Price (Board member), Emmaleigh Micale and Dakota Manyon (Troop 6016), Becca McIver (Troop 21325), Ann Hooper (Board Chair), Dabney Hollis (Board member), Rita Whitehead (Board Secretary), Marilyn Midyette (Girl Scouts of Atlanta CEO), Kristen Lewis (Board Chair-elect) and Brian Little participate in cutting the ribbon.

ribbon cutting crowd1.jpg

Over 80 attendees gathered outside to the view ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.