

Contact: Donna Lindsay, Communications Manager
barbiew@girlscoutsofblackhawk.org

NEWS ITEMS FOR THE GIRL SCOUT WEB SITE

Girl Scouts of the Black Hills Council, Inc.

This summer, the Girl Scouts of the Black Hill Council will begin their land and water resource management stewardship project, "Ecotones in U-Pods." Girls will attend camp in the Black Hills National Forest at Sheridan Lake, where they will team up with members of the US Forest Service for training and presentations, learn what an ecotone is—the transition area between two ecosystems—then plan and put into practice their land management and conservation skills.

Girl Scouts of the Broward County, Inc.

Rebecca Schultz, a 16 year-old Girl Scout from Broward County who is working on her Gold Award, received the grant money for her program to construct and install artificial reefs off the coast of Southeast Florida to provide a thriving habitat for fish, coral, and other sea plants. She is now partnering with the Broward County and Tropical Florida Councils, the Department of Environmental Resource Management, members of her community, and high school scuba divers to get the artificial reef program afloat. Working with a local concrete company to design and cast the concrete reef balls, girls will deploy 23 reefs, ranging from 300 to 2000 lbs in weight, from two sites off the Atlantic Coast on March 25, 2006. After the initial deployment, there will be an educational phase to monitor and evaluate the progress and growth of the reefs, and Girl Scouts of all ages will be participating.

Girl Scout Council of the Catawba Valley Area, Inc.

Girl Scout Council of the Catawba Valley Area is collaborating with the USDA Forest Service to steward the "Green Invaders" program. Green Invaders will teach Girl Scouts, ages 5–17, what invasive species there are in North Carolina, and will serve as a career exploration of forest management. Participants will learn about five species of green invaders (including the ubiquitous kudzu), why they're bad for the environment, and what native plants they can use to replace the invaders. They will then start removing various "green invaders" from Girl Scout properties and federal land. Events will include a one day seminar, a father-daughter day, summer camp, and a regional camporee for Girl Scouts of all age levels,

and will be taught by staff from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, Catawba Soil & Water Conservation Commission, and the USDA Forest Service.

Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council, Inc.

“Parks Matter” is a project aimed at encouraging people to use Connecticut’s state parks. While attending Camp Murray in the New Haven area this summer, Girl Scouts in grades 7–10 will team up with DEP Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby and make trips to two DEP sites for research. Older girls will be creating a program for younger girls—researching different elements at various parks and developing a “badge lab” in which girls can earn assorted badges. The program is expected to remain in place for years to come, as girls participate in “Parks Matter” activities to earn badges.

Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc.

The once-dominant tallgrass prairie, now less than 0.1% of the original region, is the most endangered habitat within Iowa, so Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley (GSMV) developed “Restoring Iowa Prairies—Phase 2,” a sustainable management plan to ensure the health and growth of the recently restored two-acre prairie habitat at Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley’s Camp Conestoga. Girls will work with the US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Rock Island Field Office (FWS) to develop a prairie/environmental education curriculum that will be delivered to nearly 1,000 girls, ages 5–17, and adults attending resident camp in summer 2006, and will be available to troops or groups participating in year-round camping. Through hands-on environmental education activities and service projects, girls will become leaders and stewards of conservation and natural resource issues. They will also network with agency staff to explore careers in science, environmental science, and the outdoors, and learn the importance of safeguarding native habitats.

Girl Scouts of the North Country, Inc.

The “Discover the Dragonflies” program will utilize the North Country council’s access to some of the most diverse wildlife in the Adirondacks and its contacts among dedicated academic and wildlife specialists at the Adirondack All Taxa Biological Inventory (AATBI). One hundred and fifty girls, their parents, and members of the council will work alongside dedicated professionals to examine and document the order Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Girl Scouts will learn how to use dichotomous keys to identify dragonflies and damselflies in the field, and will submit their identifications and findings to a state-wide database. The experience will provide the girls with exposure to scientists who are actively engaged in research and service in careers that involve protecting Adirondack Park’s resources.