



**Girl Scouts of
Southern Alabama**

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Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting

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For Immediate Release:

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Girl Scouts Centennial Exhibition Opens at History Museum of Mobile
Display Takes a Look at Scouting in Mobile

MOBILE, Alabama, -- February 16, 2012 -- Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama's exhibition "Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting" opens at the History Museum of Mobile on March 12, 2012, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Current and former Girl Scouts, community leaders and anyone with an interest in Girl Scouts are invited to join GSSA for heavy hors d'oeuvres and a night of history. On display until March 25, the exhibit features a journey through time with restored Girl Scout photos, vintage sashes, patches and newspaper clippings as well as mannequins dressed in traditional Girl Scout Uniforms. Tickets for the opening reception are on sale for \$25.

March 12, 2012 is an historic day in Girl Scout history as it marks the first Girl Scout Troop meeting. The inaugural meeting consisted of 18 girls led by Girl Scouts founder Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low in her hometown of Savanna, Georgia. Since that time, Girls Scouts has grown to 3.7 million members and is the largest educational organization for girls in the world.

Girls Scouts initially came to the Gulf Coast area in 1916 but was short lived. Girl Scouts reemerged in Mobile in 1937 under the name Mobile Girl Scout Council. Over time, the local organization expanded and merged with other councils realigning in 2007 to become Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama. Currently, GSSA serves 30 counties in Southern Alabama and has more than 9,000 registered Girl Scouts with an additional 2,500 volunteers. "Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting" will feature large format photographs from the early years of the organization in this area along with shadowbox displays of badges, pins and newspaper clippings showing the growth of Scouting throughout the decades.

"One of the most interesting things from the shadow box clippings is the service from Girl Scouts during wartime," GiGi Baroco, archivist for GSSA, said. "Most of this was during World War II." Other local clippings feature themes of camping, national recognition and community service. A notable piece among the collection is a Golden Eaglet, which was recently donated to GSSA by Sarah Cobb Wilder, who became a Girl Scout in 1925. Her Golden Eaglet and accompanying certificate is in pristine condition and was the highest award a Girl Scout could achieve at that time. Wilder will be in attendance for the dedication of her contribution to the exhibit.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make
the world a better place.



For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Virginia Edington, Director of Development, at 251-344-3330 ext.1804 or vedington@girlscoutssa.org. Tickets are available online at www.girlscoutssa.org/100.php or at the following locations:

History Museum of Mobile, 111 South Royal Street

Robert S. Edington Law Office, 551 Church Street

Iberia Bank, 15 West I-65 Service Road North (between Dauphin St and Old Shell Rd)

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama office, 3483 Springhill Avenue

The exhibition “Celebrating 100 Year of Girl Scouting” and opening is made possible in part through donations from the following sponsors: Iberia Bank, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Kentwood Springs, BASF, MyShotz, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and Hargrove and Associate.

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