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GIRL SCOUTS OF WESTERN NEW YORK TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM RALPH C. SHELDON FOUNDATION

Buffalo, NY.....The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation will present the Girl Scouts of Western New York with a grant of \$13,500 on July 1, 2011, which will last until June 30, 2012.

The money will be used to support the operating, supply, and maintenance costs associated with Camp Timbercrest's horse stables and tack room.

The only opportunity many girls will ever get to know the joy of horseback riding is through participating in the Girl Scouts of Western New York's equestrian programs at Camp Timbercrest in Randolph, N.Y. This exciting activity is particularly attractive and of interest to inner-city girls, who may not often have the chance to experience being out-of-doors in a natural environment.

"Learning to ride and care for a horse offers numerous emotional, physical, and social benefits, such as a heightened sense of self-confidence, emotional control, and self-discipline," Alison Wilcox, Senior Vice President of Program & Membership said.

"Learning to ride a horse also develops love and respect for animals; improved hand-eye coordination, posture, strength of core muscles, as well as communication skills and multi-tasking abilities," she added.

Every building begins to show its true age especially when it is at the mercy of severe winter weather and unpredictable rain and wind conditions. Such is the case with Camp Timbercrest's tack room. Providing dependable structures in which to conduct programs is a major factor associated with protecting all Girl Scouts' personal safety. Without a functional tack room, the Girl Scouts of Western New York's equestrian programs would suffer from a lack of space to store tack, feed, and other necessary supplies.

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Girl Scouts of Western New York guides girls along lifelong paths to lead with courage when they speak out on issues they care about and take active roles in their communities; lead with confidence when they make the most of their strengths and feel empowered to make a difference in their lives and beyond; and lead with character when they act with integrity and compassion, making decisions that promote the well-being of themselves and others, as they continue to make the world a better place.

It is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls and young women, serving over 20,000 girls and 9,000 adult volunteers across the GSWNY jurisdiction, including Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties. The council's administrative headquarters is located in Buffalo, N.Y. GSWNY program and service centers are located in Buffalo, Batavia, Jamestown, Lockport, and Rochester.

Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strives to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the leading authority on girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults. In November 2011, the organization will launch its' 100-years of service celebration.

For information about joining, volunteering, or making a donation contact 1.888.837.6410 or visit gswny.org for more.