

For Immediate Release

National Partnership Announced Between Girl Scouts and American Red Cross

Partnership will boost disaster preparedness and response in Central Valley communities

August 23, 2013/Fresno – Girl Scouts of the USA has announced a new national partnership with the American Red Cross that provides Girl Scouts across the country access to Red Cross training at reduced rates under a nationally standardized agreement. The local partnership between Girl Scouts of Central California South and the American Red Cross Central Valley will allow for an easier, more streamlined process of signing up for preparedness courses to help save lives in the Central Valley.

Core trainings offered by the American Red Cross include CPR and First Aid, Lifeguarding, Water Safety and Rescue, Babysitting, and more. The trainings are available to both adults and girls, as age appropriate. Girl Scouts will benefit from shared resources, such as the use of authorized trainers and specialized skill workshops. American Red Cross Central Valley strives to help people prevent, prepare, and respond to natural and human-caused disasters.

“We are excited about the partnership between the two organizations and what it means for the future of our local families,” said Cathy Ferguson, CEO of Girl Scouts Central California South. “Girl Scouts are passionate, ambitious and love to help others to make the world a better place. American Red Cross has the tools and resources for these girls to help their community and create their own positive change.”

Ellen Knapp, Regional CEO for the American Red Cross Central Valley stated, “Red Cross emphasizes saving lives by teaching ordinary citizens to be leaders when disaster strikes. The partnership between American Red Cross and Girl Scouts of the USA provides the training Girl Scouts will need to help service our communities across the country when it is needed most.”

Through this new partnership, Girl Scouts and their troop leaders will have more opportunities to learn skills necessary to help others from the American Red Cross, using nationally-acclaimed training practices. Greater numbers of adults and youth will be trained and ready to provide quality public service to their communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

To learn more about Girl Scouts of Central California South, visit www.girlscoutscs.org

To learn more about American Red Cross Central Valley, visit www.redcross.org/ca/fresno.

About Girl Scouts of Central California South

Girl Scouts of Central California South serves more than 10,000 girls and 3,000 adult volunteers in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties, including 5,000 deserving girls through its Girl Scouts Connect Program. Girl Scouts aims to give every girl access to life-changing experiences that enable her to reach her full potential, through programs that teach practical life skills and leadership. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) 490-8653 or visit www.girlscoutscs.org.

Headquarters: 1377 W. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711

Regional Office: 1831 Brundage Lane, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Regional Office: 230 NW 3rd Ave, Visalia, CA 93291

About the American Red Cross Central Valley

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org/ca/fresno.

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