

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny Hoyer expressed his gratitude to Girl Scouts from across Maryland this week by joining them to celebrate "Girl Scout Week," a week dedicated to one of the core qualities of Girl Scouting, community service.

"Girl Scouting is a wonderful program that builds character and confidence in girls. This organization connects talented girls with adult volunteers who work tirelessly to empower these dedicated young women to develop to their full potential in a positive environment," said Congressman Hoyer. "Over the years, Girl Scouts have attracted women and girls by providing an exciting and instructive outlet for their abilities. From this solid foundation with the Girl Scouts, these women have gone on to be leaders not only in our communities, but in our nation and throughout the world."

"I am particularly grateful to the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, which supports Girl Scouting in the entire Washington metropolitan area, including four of the Maryland counties I represent: Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and Prince George's. Our communities have truly benefited from the contributions of the Girl Scouts through their commitment to service and dedication to enriching young women in our region," added Hoyer.

Jan Verhage, Executive Director of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, which has more than 72,000 members, said: "We are delighted that Congressman Hoyer has joined in the celebration of Girl Scout Week. His ongoing support of Girl Scouting has been invaluable, and we appreciate all that he does to help the youth of Maryland grow and develop into resourceful adults."

Founded on March 12, 1912 by Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia the first Girl Scout troop was started because Low believed that every girl should be able to learn new skills by serving in their communities, while also developing positive values and a greater sense of self-worth.

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls - all girls - where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnerships with committed adults, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives - like strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth. In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through the many enriching experiences provided by Girl Scouting, they grow courageous and strong.

GSCNC's membership consists of more than 50,000 girls in 4,000 troops, and they are supported by 22,500 adult volunteers. For more information about how to become involved with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, you can visit www.gscnc.org or call 1-800-523-7898.

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