

# NEWS

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.  
2 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570

(914) 747-3080



---

CONTACT: Jean Havens, ext. 221

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

## **OCTOBER 1 INAUGURAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE CREATION OF NEW SEVEN-COUNTY GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL**

Pleasantville, NY — Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., the newly created Girl Scout council serving seven counties in the lower Hudson River Valley, will officially become a reality on Monday, October 1, 2007. A special kick-off event to commemorate the occasion is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., at Anthony's Pier 9, 2975 Route 9W, in New Windsor. Tickets for the event, which is open to the public, are \$50 per person.

Billed as a "ribbon-joining" celebration, the evening's festivities will welcome Girl Scouts, their friends and supporters, from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties. The council's CEO, Carmela Raiti, will be on hand, along with the new council's board of directors and governmental representatives of the seven counties.

Raiti comes to the organization with a wide range of senior level experience in national and international not-for-profit organizations. In her new position she is actively building collaborations among partners such as volunteers, the corporate community, and other youth-serving agencies.

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson will serve 34,000 girls and 15,000 adult volunteers with a professional staff of about 80. The central administrative office will be in Pleasantville, with regional offices in Kingston, Middletown, New City, and Poughkeepsie. With this realignment, the new council will be better able to offer greater program choices, thus meeting the diverse interests of today's girls and ensuring that Girl Scouting will remain the best personal leadership development program for girls ages 5 – 17 for decades to come.

Girl members of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson will be able to take part in a vast array of program activities available in the area ranging from the Catskills to the Bronx border. A wider choice of innovative outdoor opportunities will be open to them at the new council's seven camp properties, and everyone, girls and adults alike, will be able to utilize the diverse cultural, historical, and corporate resources available within the seven-county area.

Nationwide, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) is realigning its current 313 local jurisdictional areas into just over 100 high-capacity councils that will allow the highest number of girls and volunteers to participate in Girl Scouting. Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, the organization strives to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the world's pre-eminent organization for, and leading authority on, girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults.

For information about joining, volunteering, or making a donation to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., contact (914) 747-3080 or visit [www.girlscoutshh.org](http://www.girlscoutshh.org).