

For Immediate Release

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**Girl Scouts of Western Washington's Expanded Bremerton
Facility to Offer Girls Opportunities for Growth and Self Awareness;
Community Support Needed to Offset Financial Burden of Project**

November 18, 2008 -- Girl Scouts of Western Washington (GSWW) announced today the purchase of an expanded facility for its Peninsula Girl Scout Program Center. The 5800 square-foot building on two acres of land at 1600 NE Winters Road in Bremerton will provide a space better suited for the thousands of girls, in grades K-12, that GSWW serves in the Peninsula region. The current facility in downtown Bremerton sits on city-owned land that is slated for road expansion and needs to be vacated by April 30, 2009.

The expanded facility will allow Girl Scouts of Western Washington to significantly aid the community by providing more space for girls in the greater Peninsula region to conduct educational and skills development workshops, summer day camp and weekend program events, and troop meetings. Because Girl Scouts of Western Washington already provides 41 percent of its members in the city of Bremerton with financial assistance to pay for camp and troop dues, and has provided substantial financial assistance for girls from Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason counties, these opportunities are of even greater importance. The new building will allow Girl Scouts of Western Washington to offer greater programming that will help girls who might not otherwise have the opportunity due to financial limitations feel more connected to their community and allow them to build a stronger sense of self through shared experiences.

Additionally, the space will be large enough to hold four full-time staff members and up to two temporary staff members to serve the girls' needs.

Countless modifications need to be made in order to convert the building, which is an old church, into a facility suitable for youth program use. The original purchase price of the property was \$870,000, and expenses relating to architectural and construction fees were also incurred. GSWW has received a \$74,600 grant from the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust at the Seattle Foundation, and needs to raise an additional \$600,000 for the building. Of this amount, Girl Scouts of Western Washington is recommended to receive, subject to state legislative approval, \$205,000 in state funding from the State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED), but an additional \$395,000 still needs to be raised in order to complete necessary renovations.

Community assistance is crucial to the successful completion of this project. Foundations, corporations, local service clubs, Girl Scout families and individuals are urged to contribute via the GSWW website (<https://www.GirlScoutsWW.org/donate>), or through checks made payable to GSWW-Bremerton Campaign, P.O. Box 900961, Seattle, WA 98109, in order to ensure the continuance of healthy and safe programming for girls in the Peninsula region.

About Girl Scouts of Western Washington

At Girl Scouts we know that given the opportunity, every girl can become a leader with the courage to act on her values, develop the ability to make clear decisions, and acquire the self-confidence to make a difference in the world around her. Girl Scouts helps girls grow courageous and strong through girl-driven programs, reflecting the ever-changing needs and interests of girls.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington currently serves more than 26,000 girls in partnership with nearly 12,500 volunteers throughout 17 counties in Western Washington. We operate regional program offices in Bremerton, Seattle, DuPont, Bellevue, Aberdeen, Marysville, Longview, and Renton, as well as six camp properties located in Longview, Hoquiam, Belfair, Carnation and Lilliwaup on the Hood Canal.

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