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## **World Thinking Day Encourages Girls to Engage in the Global Discussion about Water Conservation**

February 7, 2008 - Did you know that less than 1% of the world's fresh water is accessible for human use? As global attention focuses more and more on the conservation efforts needed to reverse the earth's shrinking water supply and improve the quality of drinking water, Girl Scouts are thinking globally and acting locally. The 2008 theme of World Thinking Day is water and Girl Scouts in western Washington are organizing activities throughout February (see attached list) to celebrate as they discover and connect to their world in new ways.

Many of this year's World Thinking Day activities will be focused on water's importance to health and on the issues of access to clean water and water conservation. For example, on February 15, Girl Scouts will meet at Rainier Middle School in Auburn where they will learn how other countries use and conserve water. Making glass jar terrariums will help girls learn about the benefits of water and air in a microcosm. Girls will also enjoy snacks representing the various countries. At another event, girls in Mt. Vernon will be watching a video about streams and stream bugs, learning about water cycles and planting sunflowers.

World Thinking Day also gives Girl Guides and Girl Scouts a chance to celebrate international friendships, and is a reminder that Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a global community—one of 144 countries in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Many Girl Scout troops use this day as an opportunity to study about other countries and cultures. On February 10, more than 400 Girl Scouts from Seattle will meet for an international festival celebrating the cultures of other countries. They will be dancing, singing, sharing food, and contacting girls around the world using a HAM radio.

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Girls in Hoquiam will be at the Elks Building challenging each other in *Games of the Olympics*, while about 100 Girl Scouts in Longview will meet at the Mark Morris High School for cultural activities representing the countries of their choice.

In honor of World Thinking Day, girls and their Girl Scout troops are encouraged to reflect upon the importance of building international connections through support of the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. This fund, created in memory of the founder of Girl Scouts in the United States, helps to extend Girl Scouting to girls worldwide, enables girls to travel abroad and supports international friendships through community service projects.

### **About World Thinking Day:**

Since 1926, World Thinking Day, celebrated annually on February 22, has given Girl Scouts the opportunity to celebrate their “sister” Girl Guides around the globe. World Thinking Day gives Girl Scouts opportunities to continue discovering, connecting, and taking action in their local communities and beyond to make the world a better place. Through this connection girls can begin to bridge cultural differences, transcend borders, and spread goodwill and friendship.

### **About Girl Scouts of Western Washington:**

Girl Scouts is a unique girl-only place where a girl finds: courage by exploring new adventures, confidence by discovering her abilities, character by shaping her own values and connections through friendships with other girls and where a girl returns those gifts by making the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Western Washington serves 27,000 girls ages 5 – 17, who have already discovered the fun, friendship and power of girls together. For more information, please visit <http://www.GirlScoutsWW.org>