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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council receives \$250,000 from the AEP Foundation**

The Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council will be able to expand its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming to more than 34,000 girls in 30 counties and celebrate Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with service projects thanks to \$250,000 from the AEP Foundation.

The foundation's \$250,000 gift will provide \$150,000 over the next three years to help the council develop and implement STEM and environmental education initiatives. The programming helps Girl Scouts in grades K-12 explore STEM-related themes while tapping into community resources and partnerships.

Additionally, \$50,000 of the \$250,000 gift will help fund the completion of wetland and prairie habitats at the council's Camp Ken-Jockey located in Galloway. Through the foundation's generous support, the council was able to begin the first phase of creating a wetland and a prairie at Camp Ken-Jockey. The new funding will help support the final phases of both the wetland and the prairie. Each area will offer unique experiences for exploration and hands-on learning and enhance the educational programming at the Elam Environmental Center Wetland.

Another \$50,000 will sponsor the AEP Forever Green Community Service Projects that girls will undertake to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouts in 2012. The projects will focus on improving air quality, waste management, water and energy use, conservation and the preservation of green space, and other environmental initiatives.

"Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland has maintained and continues to build a strong tradition of providing STEM-based exploration programs for girls," said Chief Executive Officer Tammy Wharton. "With AEP's continued partnership, Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland will add even more depth to our science programming, as we boost and reinforce the girls' interest in STEM and their pursuit of the STEM fields."

“Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland is serving a much needed role in central Ohio and beyond by giving young women an opportunity to explore science and math programming that could spark a desire for a long-term career path into the future,” said Joseph Hamrock, President and Chief Operating Officer, AEP Ohio. “These initiatives complement the AEP Foundation’s focus on pre-k through grade 12 education in the areas of science, math, technology and the environment, and the foundation is proud to play a role in their success.”

The American Electric Power Foundation is funded by American Electric Power (NYSE:AEP) and its utility operating units. The Foundation provides a permanent, ongoing resource for charitable initiatives involving higher dollar values and multi-year commitments in the communities served by AEP and initiatives outside of AEP's 11-state service area.

The Foundation’s areas of focus include special emphasis on improving lives through education from early childhood through higher education, protecting the environment, providing basic human services in the areas of hunger, housing, health and safety, and enriching life through art, music and cultural heritage. The Foundation is based in Columbus, Ohio.

The American Electric Power Foundation was created in 2005 to continue to support that goal. The Foundation generally will consider requests of not less than \$25,000 or those for multi-year commitments from organizations in the communities served by AEP’s regional utilities or where AEP has major facilities. The Foundation may also consider -- by invitation only -- initiatives outside of AEP’s 11-state service area. AEP and its regional utilities continue to emphasize corporate giving on local initiatives.

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the premier leadership development program for all girls from kindergarten through high school. Girl Scouts’ mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Through activities in such areas as science and technology, business and economic literacy, and outdoor and environmental education, Girl Scouting provides girls with opportunities for fun and friendship, while fostering the development of leadership skills, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, headquartered in Columbus, serves more than 34,000 girls and more than 9,000 adult volunteers in 30 counties: Adams, Ashland, Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Union, Vinton, Wayne and Wyandot.

For more information on how to join, volunteer, or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) 621-7042 or visit [www.gsooh.org](http://www.gsooh.org).

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