

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHEFS AWARDED WINNING WHISKS AT GIRL SCOUT DESSERT EVENT

Zanesville: Three area chefs received bronze, silver and gold whisk awards at the Girl Scouts Dazzling Desserts -- Recipes for Success event at Longaberger Golf Club Saturday night, March 12. The event featured desserts made by area chefs using Girl Scout cookies as a key ingredient. Guests also enjoyed dinner, live music, a live and silent auction, and got to sample desserts provided by eight dessert artists and vote for their favorites.

Jodi Gwin, a teacher at John Clem Elementary School in Newark took the top prize gold whisk award for her melt-in-your-mouth Samoa coconut cheesecake. Her dessert featured a chocolate crust with a coconut-flavored cheesecake topped with crushed Girl Scout Samoa cookies, fresh coconut and caramel ice cream topping. Gwin's winning cheesecake was later sold for \$170 during the live auction at the event. Gwin lives in Frazeyburg.

The silver whisk award for second place went to Amanda Sourbaugh for her fruity-sweet Trefoils-Samoas Apple Delight dessert. Sourbaugh lives in Zanesville and is a chef at Emeritus Inn at North Hills. Her dessert included a crust partly made of Girl Scout Trefoil cookies topped with apple pie filling, and finished off with crushed Girl Scout Samoa cookies. Her second-place dessert brought \$175 at auction.

Newark resident Brian Merritt, a chef at Licking Memorial Health Systems, took the third-place bronze whisk award for his elegant Girl Scout Thin Mint terrine dessert. Merritt's well-dressed dessert featured a chilled dessert made of layers of chocolate mousse, white chocolate and mint mousse, and Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies, presented on plates painted with chocolate and green mint. His dessert was auctioned for \$70.

All eight desserts were auctioned, with some bringing as much as \$200. All proceeds from the fund-raising event go to the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, which operates a regional office on Bowers Lane in Zanesville.

The event was sponsored by Park National Bank and was hosted by Brenda Larrick, radio personality from WHIZ radio. Auctioneer Craig Connelly led an exciting live auction of donated artwork, athletic memorabilia, Longaberger products and more. Live music was provided by the West Muskingum High School Jazz Band, led by Andrew Ruetz.

"We had great participation by more than 130 Girl Scout supporters in our community," said Kendra O'Reilly, regional director of the Girl Scouts' Zanesville service center. "The chefs, the band, MC and auctioneer all helped us make it an enjoyable, resourceful evening. We also owe a big thanks to the many Girl Scout troops who supplied dozens of fantastic silent auction items, enabling bidders to support the Girl Scouts and get great vacations, home décor, arts and athletic items, and more."

Other dessert artists were: Tiffani Arnold, of C-Tec, Culinary Arts; Sarah Burris, of Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council; Baker Brooke Hickman, of Sweet Treats by Brooke; Lisa Hornback, friend of Girl Scouts; and Baker Cheryl Lohrman, of Creative Catering.

The Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council is holding another Dazzling Desserts -- Recipes for Success event in Mansfield this Saturday, March 19. For information about that event, call Paula Confalone at 800-433-1290.

Dessert Recipes can be found at www.gsooh.org.

About the Girl Scouts

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

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.

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Photo Outline:

Photo #1: Award-winning dessert artists (left to right) Jodi Gwin, Amanda Sourbaugh and Brian Merritt display their gold, silver and bronze whisk awards respectively.