

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FEATURED AT EVENING DESSERT EVENT

Mansfield: Just when you thought Girl Scout cookies couldn't get any better, you soon will be able to enjoy them in a new way – as ingredients in desserts made by area chefs.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council and Richland Bank are hosting Dazzling Desserts – Recipes for Success, Saturday, March 19. The evening event, starting at 6:00 p.m., is being held at the Mansfield Holiday Inn. The event will feature dessert creations from eight area dessert artists, a delicious dinner, an exciting live and silent auction, and more. Before eating dinner, guests will get to sample all desserts and vote for their favorites.

Dessert creations feature at least one taste-tempting type of Girl Scout cookie as its key ingredient. The winning chef will receive the Golden Whisk award and runners-up will receive the Silver Whisk and Bronze Whisk awards. After winners are chosen, their desserts are auctioned in a live auction.

Participating area chefs are: Chuck Carey, Knox Community Hospital, making Tagalong Cream Banana Tart; Joe Lucas, Mansfield Fire Dept., Station #2, making Chocolate in my Peanut Butter or Ice Cream on my Cookies; Gail Meyers, making Lemon Cloud Burst; Carrie Ventresca, owner of Iced Cake Designs, making Not So "THIN" Mint Layer Cake; Teresa Noe, making Caramel & Chocolate Delight; Linda Shaffer, Ed Picken's Cafe on Main, making Do Si Mint Cake; Matt Barter, Galion Community Hospital, making Trefoil Turtle Cheesecake; and Olivia Hatten, Pioneer Career and Technology Center.

“This is the second year we've hosted this event in Mansfield and we are very encouraged by the community's support for it. We hope it grows larger every year,” explains Paula Confalone, regional director of the Girl Scouts' Mansfield service center. “The purpose of Dazzling Desserts is to raise the visibility and awareness of Girl Scouting, and of course, we want our supporters to have fun, and enjoy a great dinner and desserts, as well.”

Proceeds from the event will be used to help support Girl Scout programs for 34,000 girls throughout 30 counties in central and southern Ohio. The event is sponsored by Richland Bank.

One highlight of the event is the silent auction, where dozens of cookie jars are featured as themes for each auction package with items related to that theme making up the auction item. Past auction items include these themes: Ohio State football, Girl Scout items, Ohio Lottery, chocolate delights, resort vacations and theme parks, home improvement, golf, baking, and more. Local Girl Scout troops collect donations of items for the silent auction from vendors throughout Ohio, including attractions at Lake Erie and Hocking Hills.

Last year, the first-place Golden Whisk award went to Personal Chef Karin Turowski for her recipe entitled “Decadent Tagalong Cheesecake.” Turowski's winning dessert creation consisted of a layer of chocolate and peanut butter filling resting on a Girl Scout Tagalong cookie base. The Silver Whisk award went to LaDonna Secrist of the Squirrel's Den, and the Bronze Whisk award went to Chuck Carey of Knox Community Hospital.

Tickets to the event are \$35, which includes dinner and all desserts. The Girl Scouts also still are accepting entries from area chefs for dessert creations. Those interested in tickets or more information may call (419) 522-0391 or 800-433-1290. The Mansfield Holiday Inn is located at 116 Park Avenue West.

Those who can't attend the event but would like to donate to the Girl Scouts may visit www.gsooh.org or send a donation to: Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland, 35 North Park Street, Mansfield, Ohio, 44902.

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 Cutlines:

Photo #1: Chris Whitlatch puts the finishing touches on his Tagalong Cannoli at last year's Dazzling Desserts event.

Photo #2: Desserts such as this "Baya Nata Crunch" will be available for sampling and buying at the Girl Scouts' Dazzling Desserts – Recipes for Success event.