



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA OFFERS TRAININGS TO THE PUBLIC ON SERIOUS ISSUES IMPACTING YOUTH TODAY

TAMPA (Oct. 22, 2009) – As the leading experts on girl issues today and the largest organization serving girls across the country, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) will be offering three specialized trainings to the public over the next several months that address and offer guidance on serious issues that surround today's youth. The trainings are Digital Danger, A Hard Pill to Swallow and Bullying, and are open to Girl Scout members and non-members.

“The lives of today's youth are more complicated than ever, regardless of what walk of life they come from” said Amy Foster, director, girl and adult leadership development, GSWCF. “As the world changes at an exponential pace, parents and other caring adults need resources and information about the issues and pressures facing the youth of today. These trainings provide practical tips and tools for caring adults to help youth work through the significant challenges they face on a daily basis.”

Each of the trainings is conducted by extensively trained GSWCF staff. Parents and youth professionals alike will benefit from the trainings.

- **Digital Danger (online safety)**
Sexting, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, AIM, YouTube and blogs. For most adults, these technologies can be intimidating. Today's kids are “digital natives” and parents must be aware of the dangers lurking in cyberspace. This training will explore issues like sexting, cyberbullying and social networking sites, as well as offer ways to protect your child from online predators and other dangers of the digital age.

Tampa

Saturday, Nov. 14
2 – 4 p.m.
5002 W. Lemon St., Tampa

Ocala

Tuesday, Dec. 8
6 – 8 p.m.

3620 NE 8th Place, #12, Ocala

Lakeland

Wednesday, Jan. 13

6 – 8 p.m.

1831 N. Gilmore Ave., Lakeland

- **A Hard Pill to Swallow (drug abuse)**

Did you know that between 1992 and 2003, prescription drug abuse increased by 94 percent? This issue is rapidly becoming an epidemic for our youth, and you should know the lingo they use to conceal their behavior. Fifty-five percent of teens don't think using cough medicine to get high is risky. Learn about "pharm" parties, how to recognize prescription drug abuse in teens, how to help and what resources are available.

Tampa

Saturday, Dec. 19

2 – 4 p.m.

5002 W. Lemon St., Tampa

Wildwood

Wednesday, Feb. 3

6 – 8 p.m.

Costello Lodge, Camp Wildwood, Wildwood

Lakeland

Wednesday, Feb. 10

6 – 8 p.m.

1831 N. Gilmore Ave., Lakeland

- **Bullying**

Why do girls bully each other? How should adults handle bullying? What is cyberbullying, and what can you do about it? This training will explore these and other questions. Learn how to prevent situations where bullying can occur, as well as how to deal with bullying once it has already happened.

Ocala

Wednesday, Nov. 18

6 – 8 p.m.

3620 NE 8th Place, #12, Ocala

Lakeland

Tuesday, Dec. 1

6 – 8 p.m.

1831 N. Gilmore Ave., Lakeland

Tampa

Wednesday, Dec. 2
6 – 8 p.m.
5002 W. Lemon St., Tampa

Trainings are \$5 per Girl Scout member, \$17 per non-member. Please register for trainings on the council website, www.gswcf.org. Click on the Event Calendar and search for the training by date.

For more information on Girl Scouting in West Central Florida, please visit www.gswcf.org.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of West Central Florida serves nearly 30,000 girls and 13,000 adult members in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter counties. Did you know that more than 53 percent of all women business owners are Girl Scout alumnae? For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, visit www.gswcf.org or call (800) 881-4475.

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