

Volunteer Florida FOUNDATION

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Governor Crist Announces New Serve to Preserve Scout Award

~ Award will encourage conservation and volunteerism among Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts- ~

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today was joined by the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. to announce the new Serve to Preserve Scout Award. Approximately 50 scouts, as well as state government leaders who are former scouts, joined the Governor to learn more about the new award program.

“Through programs like Serve to Preserve Florida, we are linking two of Florida’s greatest resources – our children and our environment,” said Governor Crist. “The award will give scouts the opportunity to develop a sense of stewardship for the environment and create an effective way for young people to share new ideas and approaches to protect natural Florida.”

The program allows scout troops to earn an award insignia by completing educational activities about Florida’s natural environment. Age-specific requirements for the Serve to Preserve Scout Award were developed in partnership with leaders from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Florida. Requirements for the award include:

Cub Scouts (ages 7 – 10) and Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts (kindergarten – 3rd grade)

- Have a community clean-up day where your group picks up trash in a park, on school grounds, or another area that needs to be cared for.
- Draw pictures or write a letter to Governor Charlie Crist showing ways young people can Serve to Preserve Florida’s natural environment.

Boy Scouts (ages 10 – 18) and Juniors, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 3 – 12)

- Organize a Serve to Preserve day in your community or school. Invite speakers from your community to speak to your classmates or group about ways to reduce pollution, conserve energy and help combat climate change.
- Learn about biofuels and how they are made, and list some of the alternative energy projects taking place in our state.

“For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America have taught young scouts about conservation, nature and the great outdoors,” said Matt Hart, CEO of the Suwannee River Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. “We are excited to further promote education among our young people and recognize scouts for their accomplishments.”

Created in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America have more than 4.5 million participants throughout the nation, with more than 379,000 members in Florida alone. Its purpose is to provide a program that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for boys and young adults. The Girl Scouts, founded in 1912, have 3.7 million members throughout the United States – and more than 108,000 in Florida – and is the world’s preeminent organization dedicated to helping girls build character and skills for success in the real world, such as leadership, strong values and social conscience.

“The knowledge and experience Girl Scouts will gain as they work to receive this award will help them develop a better understanding of conservation and community involvement,” said Raslean Allen, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend Inc. “The Serve to Preserve program supports our mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.”

Serve to Preserve, in cooperation with the Governor's Volunteer Florida Foundation and Commission, will create partnerships with environmental groups to assist in engaging volunteers in environmental conservation, restoration and protection projects throughout the state. The program will catalogue environmental needs throughout Florida that can be addressed through volunteerism and will promote environmental action.

For more information, visit www.myfloridaclimate.com or www.myflorida.com.

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