

President Obama Signs Girl Scout Commemorative Coin Act

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2009

CONTACT:

Michelle Tompkins
Girl Scouts of the USA
212-852-5074
mtompkins@girlscouts.org

President Barack Obama signed today the Girl Scouts of the USA Commemorative Coin Act authorizing the minting of 350,000 silver dollar coins in honor of Girl Scouts and the achievements of the 50 million women across the nation whose lives have been influenced by Girl Scouting.

“This is a wonderful honor for Girl Scouts,” said Kathy Cloninger, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of the USA. “Congress only allows the minting of two coins a year and this is such a fitting way to honor our Movement and the million of girls and women whose lives Girl Scouting has touched. We are grateful to the President, the House and the Senate for their support.”

The bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 621), sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), easily passed by a voice vote and with more than 300 cosponsors on October 15. A companion Senate bill (S. 451), sponsored by U.S. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), also passed unanimously on October 19. President Obama signed the bill at a ceremony at the White House that included Connie L. Lindsey, GSUSA National Board Chair, Laurie Westley, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Advocacy & the Research Institute, and girls from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital.

The legislation directs the U.S. Mint to produce 350,000 silver coins. Ten dollars from the sale of each coin will go to GSUSA to help fund much-needed renovations at the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia. The bill also calls for the Secretary of the Treasury, in collaboration with the GSUSA and the Commission of Fine Arts, to design the coin in a manner “emblematic of the centennial of Girl Scouts.” The coin will be minted and sold in 2013, marking the end of Girl Scouts’ yearlong centennial celebration and kicking off a new century of leadership and service to girls.

Girl Scouts was founded on March 12, 1912, when Juliette Gordon Low organized the first two troops consisting of 18 members in Savannah, Georgia. Today, Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary association for women and girls in the United States. More than 50 million women have been Girl Scouts, including 58 percent of the women in Congress.

“From their first meeting in Savannah of just 18 members, the Girl Scouts have grown into a worldwide organization,” Congressman Kingston said. “Today, Juliette Gordon Low’s legacy of friendship, education and ideals is shared by 3.7 million girls and women. We should be very proud to live in a country where such an organization exists.”

Senator Collins said: “The Girl Scouts have a tremendous history, which should be celebrated and remembered. The character, volunteerism, and leadership skills that Girl Scouts build contribute greatly to our society, and this commemorative coin will honor that tradition.”

The minting of the coin is only one of several events Girl Scouts has planned for its yearlong centennial celebration, including a National Community Action Project focused on girl leadership related to environmental issues, a Young Women’s World Forum, and a national gala event.

About Girl Scouts

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with 3.6 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girls Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) GSUSA 4 U (800-478-7248) or visit www.girlscouts.org.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN FAQs

How does the coin relate to the 100th anniversary celebration?

- We have four goals for the 100th Anniversary:
 - Showcase the Girl Scout Leadership Experience
 - Advance the Brand
 - Raise a Significant Amount of Money
 - Increase Membership and Diversity

The 100th Anniversary projects, programs, and activities were selected according to several criteria, one of which was that each activity meet at least one of the 100th Anniversary goals.

Why is the coin being issued in 2013?

- Congress only allows for the minting of two coins per calendar year. GSUSA chose 2013 as it will mark the end of our year-long celebration of our 100th Anniversary, and kick-off the next century of Girl Scouting.

How much will the coin cost?

- The sale price will be determined by the U.S. Mint, and varies from year to year, depending on the price of silver and other cost factors. Recently minted silver commemorative coins were sold by the Mint for about \$42 per coin.

Can it be used as currency?

- The coin is considered legal tender. However, because they are commemorative coins, and cost much more than the face value, it is unlikely that they will be actually *used* as legal tender.

How much of the cost of the coin will go to Girl Scouts?

- 350,000 coins will be minted, and a surcharge of \$10 per coin sold will be allocated to Girl Scouts of the USA, resulting in the potential to raise \$3.5 million.

How will the proceeds from the coin be used?

- The funds have been designated for critically needed restoration and improvements to the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace.

What metals will the coin be made of/percentages?

- The Girl Scouts Centennial Commemorative Coins will be silver \$1 coins, weighing 26.73 ounces and sized at 1.5 inches in diameter. They will be 90 percent silver, 10 percent copper.

What is the design of the coin?

- The design, according to the Bill, “shall be emblematic of the Centennial of the Girl Scouts.” The design will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Commission of Fine Arts. The design will also be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

How can I purchase the coin?

- Individuals and councils will be able to order online, by mail, and by phone. Girl Scouts of the USA will share—well in advance—with councils, alumnae, and supporters details about how to order.

Can the coins be sold in council shops?

- Yes, and council shops may be able to get a small discount. However, the U.S. Mint requests that councils do not sell the coins for more than the Mint’s published price.

How many coins can individuals and councils order?

- For the first 30 days, there will be a limit of 50 coins per household. Councils and council shops will be able to place advance orders, and the details will be shared as soon as they are available.

When will the coin be made available?

- The coin will be made available in 2013. The Mint will not give us an exact date.

What is the bill/law number?

- H.R. 621 was the final version of the legislation passed by both the House and Senate. It can be viewed by visiting www.thomas.gov.

How many coins will be made available?

- 350,000 coins will be minted.

Where will the coin be minted?

- The coin will be minted in West Point, New York.