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Girl Scouts celebrate 95th anniversary

The 95th anniversary year of Girl Scouting kicked off March 12 when Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Kathy Cloninger hosted a ceremony in New York City and launched a series of nationwide events. Locally, Indiana Lakeland Girl Scout Council had already started the celebration with an action-packed get together and community service project March 9 and 10 that highlighted the Girl Scout movement's tradition of building leadership through action.

Susan Kuntz, Lakeland council program and membership director said, "Recognizing that after the holidays, many food pantries in the council's area have diminished supplies, Girl Scouts collected canned/non-perishable food items for pantries in the four counties at a winter camp out at the North Webster Community center. Emphasis of the event was on doing active games such as volleyball, basketball, yoga, bike stations and jump rope as well as karaoke and dance, pottery and board games. Girls made their own yogurt parfaits and shared healthy group mixes as part of Girl Scouting's goals of teaching healthy lifestyles."

Other anniversary events included:

- ~ Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place Week+March 12-19, featuring good deeds by 3.6 million Girl Scout members around the country
- ~ The spring release of a new Girl Scout Research Institute research review on girls and leadership
- ~ A national tree-planting initiative this spring in which each of the 309 local Girl Scout Councils, including Lakeland, plants 95 trees as part of the launch of "Trees for the 21st Century" program, a collaboration with The Future of Life, Inc.
- ~ A sing-along for more than 100,000 Girl Scouts on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. June 9
- ~ A GSUSA National Advocacy Day June 13 featuring meetings between 700 Girl Scout executive leaders, girls and members of Congress to discuss issues important to girls today.

