



10008 Dupont Circle Drive East
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
p. 260.422.3417
800.283.4812
f. 855.422.0084
www.gsnim.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2020

Media Contact:

Faith Van Gilder

Chief Officer, Marketing & Development

O: 260.422.3417, Ext. 63138

C: 260.437.7583

faith.vangilder@gsnim.org

GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE \$100,000 FROM THE AEP FOUNDATION FOR STEM PROGRAMMING

(Fort Wayne, IN) – Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana (GSNI-M) is pleased to announce that the council has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the American Electric Power Foundation to enhance its focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programming.

In particular, the grant will allow the council to create “makerspaces” at Girl Scout facilities including Camp McMillen in rural Hometown and Camp Soni Springs in Three Oaks, Mich. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage girls to design, experiment, build and invent as they engage in science, engineering and tinkering. A makerspace is not just a science lab, woodshop, computer lab or art room, but it may contain elements found in all these spaces.

“We are honored to accept this generous donation from the AEP Foundation,” said GSNI-M CEO Sharon Pohly. “Thanks to support from AEP and other corporate and individual gifts, we will increase and strengthen our high-quality, girl-empowering programs that help give girls a level playing field in STEM careers and prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow.”

“Education is the foundation of brighter futures for our communities,” said Janelle Coleman, vice president AEP Corporate Philanthropy & Community Engagement and president of the AEP Foundation. “We are pleased to support learning opportunities for all students, especially girls, in pursuit of STEM education which hold promise of future innovation.”

For more information, visit www.gsnim.org.

###

About Girl Scouts® and Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana

Today, as when founded in 1912, Girl Scouts® helps cultivate values, social conscience and self-esteem in young girls, enabling them to succeed as leaders today and tomorrow. Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana provides leadership experiences for more than 6,000 girls ages 5-17. They are guided by more than 3,000 adult volunteers who mentor them and work behind-the-scenes to support Girl Scouts and our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

About American Electric Power Foundation

The American Electric Power Foundation is funded by American Electric Power and its operating subsidiaries. The Foundation provides a permanent, ongoing resource for charitable initiatives involving higher dollar values and multi-year commitments in the communities served by AEP and initiatives outside of AEP's 11-state service area. The Foundation focuses on improving lives through education from early childhood through higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math and by meeting basic needs for emergency shelter, affordable housing and the elimination of hunger. Other foundation support may be offered to protect the environment, support healthcare and safety, and enrich life through art, music and cultural heritage.

About American Electric Power

American Electric Power, based in Columbus, Ohio, is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions to our customers. AEP's approximately 17,400 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 221,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million regulated customers in 11 states. AEP also is one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including more than 5,300 megawatts of renewable energy. AEP's family of companies includes utilities AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana, east Texas and the Texas Panhandle). AEP also owns AEP Energy, AEP Energy Partners, AEP OnSite Partners, and AEP Renewables, which provide innovative competitive energy solutions nationwide. For more information, visit aep.com.

follow us on [twitter](#) [facebook](#) [YouTube](#)