

GIRL SCOUTS ANNOUNCES 2013 CELEBRATE LEADERSHIP HONOREES

Six Orange County Women Recognized by the Nation's Preeminent Leadership Development Organization for Girls

IRVINE, Calif. (July 16, 2013) – Girl Scouts of Orange County has announced six extraordinary local female leaders, all Girl Scout alumnae, who will be recognized at the organization's Fourth Annual Celebrate Leadership event on November 1, 2013 at the Island Hotel in Newport Beach. The Celebrate Leadership Honorees will each be paired with a current Girl Scout at the event, giving the leaders of tomorrow an opportunity to connect with a current leader.

2013 Celebrate Leadership Honorees

Laila Pence, a resident of Tustin, is an owner and president of Pence Wealth Management, a comprehensive financial services firm in Orange County. In June 2013, *Barron's Magazine* ranked Pence as #10 in the Top 100 Women financial advisors in the nation. She was a 2012 recipient of the Orange County Business Journal Women in Business Award. Pence is an active volunteer in her daughter Sarah's Girl Scout troop. She and her husband, Dryden, support local and national organizations, including Orange County United Way, Saddleback Church, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the U.S. Army. *Laila Pence is a Registered Principal and an Investment Advisor Representative with LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Barron's rankings are based on assets under management and quality of the advisor's practice.*

Ashleigh Aitken, of Anaheim Hills, is Of Counsel at Aitken*Aitken *Cohn, where she specializes in complex business litigation, class actions and major personal injury cases. Aitken's greatest passion is giving back to her community and using her legal training for public service. She is involved with several professional associations, serving as past president of Orange County Women Lawyers; Consumer Attorneys of California, member; Central District of California, Pro Bono Panel; and treasurer of the Orange County Bar Association. Aitken was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the 32nd District Agricultural Association Orange County Fair Board, is a committee member for the South Coast Repertory Theatre Gala, and is Chairwoman of the Anaheim Community Services Board. In 2012, Aitken was recognized by Super Lawyers Southern California Rising Stars, National Trial Lawyers- Top 40 Under 40 and OC Metro 40 Under 40. Aitken was a Girl Scout in Orange County.

Donna Giordano, of Huntington Beach, is President of Ralphs Grocery Company, a division of The Kroger Co. and is responsible for 238 stores in Southern California that employ more than 25,000 associates. A strong advocate for giving back to the community, Giordano has supported the YWCA and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Community Development Roundtable. The University of Washington Women's Center named Giordano among the 100 women who have broken barriers in the state of Washington. She is recipient of *Progressive Grocer's* 2011 "Top Women in Grocery" award in recognition of her dedication, talent and expertise in the grocery industry. Giordano also serves on the Board of the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) as the Education Chairperson, and is actively involved with the Network of Executive Women

(NEW) organization. Giordano was a Girl Scout in Denver, Colorado. Donna and her husband, Mario, reside in Huntington Beach.

Joan Patronite Kelly, of Huntington Beach, is Managing Principal and co-founder of BonTerra Consulting, a certified woman-owned small business enterprise that provides a wide variety of environmental planning consulting services. She was recognized in May 2011 as a distinguished Alumna of UCI, School of Social Ecology. Kelly is a member of the Orange County United Way Real Estate Community Builders and the Women's Philanthropy Fund. Kelly was a Girl Scout in Los Angeles for many years, continues to be a lifetime member of Girl Scouts and is a former member of the Girl Scouts of Orange County Board of Directors.

Ingrid Otero-Smart, a Capistrano Beach resident, is President of Casanova Pendrill, an award winning Hispanic advertising firm in Costa Mesa. She has twice been named one of Hispanic Business Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential Hispanics. Other accolades Otero-Smart has earned include 2009 Hispanic Advertising Executive of the Year, 2012 OCBJ Marketing Person of the Year, and 2013 Hispanic Achievement Award. Otero-Smart was a Girl Scout in Puerto Rico.

"We are proud to recognize these exceptional women," said Nancy Nygren, CEO of Girl Scouts of Orange County. "They are each leaders in their respective fields and truly serve as role models for tomorrow's female leaders."

The Fourth Annual Celebrate Leadership Gala will host over 400 of Orange County's community and business leaders, all gathering to raise vital philanthropic funding to support Girl Scouts of Orange County's leadership development programs for nearly 23,000 Orange County Girl Scouts and more than 10,000 dedicated Girl Scout Volunteers who lead them. Funds raised at the event also provide the necessary resources to serve more Orange County girls through the nation's most successful leadership values and skills development program for girls. The event features an exciting live auction as well as a silent auction.

Support Girl Scouts of Orange County's Celebrate Leadership event by becoming a sponsor, donating auction items, and/or purchasing tickets. Contact Charlotte Finklea at (949) 461-8836 or cfinklea@girlscoutsoc.org.

About Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls and the leading authority on girls' healthy development. Girl Scouts has been building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place for 100 years. In Orange County, nearly 23,000 Girl Scouts from every social and economic background are developing values, skills and abilities for success in the 21st century. According to a recent study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute in conjunction with an independent research firm, women who were Girl Scouts as children display significantly more positive life outcomes than non-Girl Scout alumnae. Girl Scout alumnae have higher perceptions of self, higher rates of volunteerism and civic engagement, higher rates of college education and higher household incomes than non-alumnae. To join, volunteer, reconnect with or donate to Girl Scouts, call (949) 461-8800 or visit www.GirlScoutsOC.org.