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The attached press release is for immediate release. Please give photography credits to the Alabama State House. From left to right: Emily Munro (Elmore County), Abigale Boehm (Baldwin County), and Abby Bishop (Baldwin County).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Girl Scout Advocacy Day Honored by Alabama Legislators

MONTGOMERY - Legislators and other state elected officials gathered at the Alabama State House on Thursday, March 9, with more than 100 Girl Scouts, volunteers, and staff from throughout southern Alabama to celebrate Girl Scout Advocacy Day.

Girl Scouts Abigale Boehm and Abbie Bishop from Baldwin County led the Pledge of Allegiance, while Emily Munro from Elmore County led the prayer. A Coffee and Cookies Reception followed.

"Girl Scout Advocacy Day is our chance to share updates on the Girl Scout Programs we've implemented all year, and share our vision for the years to come, Karlyn Edmonds, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama (GSSA), said. "Also, it is inspiring watching our young future leaders interact with our state elected officials."

In an effort to build tomorrow's leaders, GSSA prioritized the following public policy issues and initiatives:

- Encourage Healthy Living Opportunities for Girls
 - o Promoting safe and healthy living opportunities for girls by increasing access to outdoor activities
 - o Prevent bullying/relational aggression and build healthy relationships
- Promote Economic Opportunities for Girls
 - o Increase girls' involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
 - o Strengthen girl's financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills
- Foster Global Citizenship and a Global Voice for Girls
- Support a Thriving Nonprofit Community

Alabama State Treasurer Young Boozer spoke to the Girl Scouts on the importance of numbers and gaining leadership skills, and encouraged the girls to aim for the highest honor in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award.

"Hearing Mr. Boozer talk about his achievement really inspires me to start working on earning the Gold Award," Abbie Bishop, a 6th grader at Fairhope Intermediate, said. "He showed me just how much the leadership and life skills he gained through the Boy Scouts helped him throughout his life, and how the Girl Scouts can do the same for all of us."

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama seeks to partner with policymakers to ensure that all girls have financial literacy skills and support the role of youth-serving organizations in providing real-world financial literacy experiences for girls, in addition to encouraging policymakers and community leaders to work with human services organizations to ensure a healthy, effective, and strong non-profit community.

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama serves more than 7,000 girls, ages 5-17 and 2,700 volunteers across 30 counties. For more information, please visit www.girlscoutssa.org.

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