

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senator Bettye Davis

### SCR 17 "Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and proclaiming 2012 as the Year of the Girl."

#### Sponsor Statement

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SCR17 declares 2012 to be the "Year of the Girl" in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Girl Scouts of the USA is the largest organization for girls in the world and its mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place. As they celebrate their 100th anniversary as an organization this year, SCR17 recognizes the positive impact that the Girl Scouts have made historically and continue to make in the lives of girls and women throughout the United States.

Statistics indicate the need for such organizations as the Girl Scouts to help mitigate issues with safety, sexual activity and pregnancy, tobacco and substance abuse, and violence among girls. Also, participation in organizations like the Girl Scouts holds great potential for increasing the rate of civic activism and volunteering among girls and women throughout their lives.

Studies indicate that girls who participate in Girl Scouts develop important leadership skills and self-confidence, which help them in many other aspects of their lives. Research shows that girls who participate in Girl Scouts develop a strong sense of self, develop positive values, gain practical life skills, seek challenges in the world, and develop critical thinking, all of which can benefit girls in such important areas as education, physical and mental health, and sports and physical activity.

The Girl Scouts of Alaska includes 6,000 girls ages 5-17 and 1,500 volunteers. Some of the activities that the Girl Scouts of Alaska reported in their December 2011 newsletter included participation in the "Girl Scouts Forever Green" public action project encouraging changes in aspects of daily life to conserve natural resources and protect the environment. Also, the newsletter reported that the Girl Scouts of Alaska conducted a Single Soldier program in which girls wrote letters to soldiers overseas without wives or children to help keep their spirits up, and they also put together nine robotics teams that will compete in statewide robotics competitions in January 2012.

SCR17 honors Girl Scouts of the USA for their contribution to the lives of girls and women and to society by declaring 2012 to be the "Year of the Girl."