

Girl Scouts to host 8th Annual "Dancing With Our Stars" fundraiser

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Deadline to purchase tickets is July 25

Mt. Vernon – It's time to once again dust off your dancing shoes and join Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois (GSSI) for the 8th annual Dancing With Our Stars (DWOS) fundraiser. The event will be held at the Krieger's Convention Center in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, August 6. This is the 8th year that GSSI has hosted this popular fundraiser to support its mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

“This year's Dancing With Our Stars event is going to be fantastic! We have at least 10 teams competing for the mirror ball trophy this year. The evening is definitely going to be full of entertainment,” said Jill Gobert, GSSI Chief Development Officer.

The agenda for the event consists of a cocktail hour, silent auction and wine grab beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the dance competition at 7:30 p.m. After the stars take to the floor, guests can dance until midnight thanks to DJ Fred Klapetzky.

Tickets for the DWOS event are \$45, which includes dinner and an evening of dancing. Table sponsorships are available for \$500 and include a table for 10 attendees. Other sponsorship opportunities are available and start at \$100.

Hosts for this year's event are Brandon Bullard with Rare Chop House and Rachel Hunsell with Mt. Vernon Convention & Visitors Bureau. Choreography services for a number of the routines have been provided by Shannon Owens of Centre Stage Studios.

Teams will be competing to win DWOS' renowned mirror ball trophy by earning the top spot in a two part scoring system. The judges' scores provide the first element to the dancers' scores. The second element adds a dash of audience participation and even more excitement, as dancers can accrue points with each donation from their supporters. At the end of the DWOS competition, the mirror ball trophy goes home with the team with the highest overall score.

All proceeds from DWOS will be used to provide financial assistance to at-risk girls, to maintain and improve GSSI camps and to develop Girl Scout leadership programs for nearly 13,000 girls throughout southern Illinois.

For more information about becoming a sponsor for Dancing With Our Stars, or to purchase tickets, please contact Jill Gobert at 618.242.5079 or by e-mail at jgobert@gsofsi.org.

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois serves approximately 13,000 girls and 4,500 adult volunteers in more than 40 counties in southern Illinois. Girl Scouting has inspired more than 50 million girls and women since its founding in 1912. Girl Scouting is focused on providing a premier Girl Scout Leadership Experience for girls in the 21st century, while ensuring the traditions and values that have been core to Girl Scouting since its beginning remain strong and relevant.