

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carmichael Middle School Sixth Grader Earns Girl Scout Silver Award *“Fish Tracking” Will Teach Thousands of Fourth and Fifth Graders about Tagged Fish*

(Tri-Cities WA – April 30, 2014): Twelve year old Girl Scout Cadette and Carmichael Middle School sixth grader, Olivia Hallquist, has earned the Girl Scout Silver Award for her project entitled “Fish Tracking”. The project includes an interactive game that will be used with nearly 2,000 fourth and fifth grade students attending a two-day long Salmon Summit in Kennewick’s Columbia Park on May 6th and 7th.

Hallquist worked in conjunction with Benton Conservation District, who sponsors the two-day long event, to create a game that allows students to find fish that have been “tagged”. This game simulates what wildlife officials and scientists do when they survey migratory salmon.

“Salmon Summit is the crowning jewel of our ‘Salmon in the Classroom’ program. Our hope is to see students think about how they fit into the Columbia River story,” said Rachel Little of Benton Conservation District.

After attending a fisheries workshop at Expanding Your Horizons held at WSU Tri-Cities this spring, Hallquist was inspired to create her game. In that course, the girls played a game of high-tech hide and seek using radio telemetry equipment to locate a fish tag.

“I thought that the kids attending the Summit should have an interactive way of learning about salmon tagging,” said Hallquist.

Realizing that radio telemetry equipment is expensive, Hallquist devised a low tech simulation by placing rare earth magnets inside some of the game’s fish. Students then use wand magnets to determine which of the plastic fish are tagged.

The Silver Award is the second highest award in Girl Scouting. It is the highest award that Cadette Girl Scouts ages 11-14 or in grades 6-8 can earn. It represents a girl’s accomplishments in Girl Scouting and her community, as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others.

About Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, the leading authority on girls' healthy development and is working with girls and women to transform the leadership landscape for girls into the next century. Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho serves more than 8,200 girls and 2,600 adult volunteers. The council region encompasses 67,000 miles that includes 20 counties in central and eastern Washington and 10 counties in northern Idaho. Girl Scouts Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho is committed to discovering, celebrating and fostering the leader in every girl. Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.