WHEREAS, March 12, 2012, marks the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, the award winning Girl Scout Leadership Program helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, complete the project and also inspire others to sustain it; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Award honors leadership in the Girl Scout tradition, and Gold Award recipients have already changed the world as high school students; and

WHEREAS, core programs around Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), environmental stewardship, healthy living, financial literacy, and global citizenship help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 2000, the Girl Scout Research Institute has become an internationally recognized center for original research, research reviews, and surveys that provide significant insights into the lives of girls; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, the Girl Scout Program is brought to over 11,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Maine; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae, 3.3 million girls and adult volunteers are active members, and Girl Scouts is the largest member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global movement comprised of more than 10 million girls in 145 countries worldwide.

NOW THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for their 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, and proclaim 2012 as

YEAR OF THE GIRL

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this ninth day of March Two Thousand and Twelve.

Paul R. LePage
Governor

Charles E. Summers, Jr.
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY