

Outstanding Community Partner

By Eleanor Oman, Civil Engineer, Tongass National Forest

The Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council presented the Outstanding Community Partner award to the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center at its Annual Meeting in Ketchikan November 8, 2008. Tim Fisher accepted the award on behalf of the Discovery Center, his staff, Leslie Swada and Pat Schmidt, and the Ketchikan Misty Ranger District and Tongass SO. Tim, Leslie, and Pat, along with District and SO employees, enthusiastically provided their time and facility to support Girl Scout activities in Ketchikan during the 2007/2008 school year. This work has been featured in a previous edition of *Sourdough Notes*. Their efforts included Pat and Leslie helping Brownie troop 59 earn patches and Tim graciously agreeing to host Girl Scout events at the Discovery Center, including Thinking Day 2008.



Sarah Amspacher teaches kayaking skills.



Top: Girls learn kayak basics.



Left: Troop 59 at Ward Lake Shelter

The following text was taken from the award letter: *Sometimes we wonder about the impact our work and efforts have on the future. Thinking Day 2008 changed the course of history at Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council. Let me again say that your work and the work of the USDA Forest Service was life changing in the lives of girls and the way in which Girl Scouts work in their communities.*

There is a huge value to Girl Scouts to use our community partners which had long been unused. The USDA Forest Service and the Discovery Center were much more than under utilized community resources. It took Thinking Day 2008 to show Girl Scouts – troop leaders, volunteers, and staff, to really get us to work together as well as impact and support the Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Thanks again from all of us at Tongass Alaska Girl Scout Council for all of your work last year with the Girl Scouts in Southeast Alaska. Congratulations for being our Outstanding Community partner in 2008”.

Girl Scouts in Ketchikan are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Forest Service and the Discovery Center. Thinking Day 2009 is planned for Feb. 28. This time we will work on the new Alaska’s National Wildlife Refuges Patch and the Eco-Action patch and badges.