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For Immediate Release

Girl Scouts learn about cybersecurity

As part of the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast community troop program, Georganna Cox, program facilitator, is bringing fun and discovery to the girls at Kraft Elementary School in Hampton. A group of more than 25 girls are participating in a series of after-school program activities where they will work on a Cybersecurity badge that will help them develop online safety, literacy, and communication skills for the digital age.

“Use of technology is imperative in today’s climate so it is important that girls know risks of online usage and how to use technology wisely,” Cox said.

On the first day of the six session series, the girls opened their meeting with the Girl Scout Promise and Law and were then challenged with a technology word search game to build their tech vocabulary. The first group that completed their challenge won scented bubbles. Cox says rewarding the girls and making the activities fun is essential and helps keep the girls’ interest.

“I like knowing more about how to stay safe on the internet,” Girl Scout and Kraft Elementary student Seriena said.

The session also included a lesson on passwords. Cox used an activity that included the girls being fingerprinted to demonstrate how passwords work in much the same way. Creativity was added by giving the girls an opportunity to draw on as many different emoji faces as they could think of onto their ink dried fingerprints. Upcoming sessions will include building investigative skills that will help girls spot problems and vulnerabilities in the cyber world.

“Cybersecurity keeps the world safe,” Cox said. “Every company that uses computers depends on people and software to protect them and the information they contain. Learning to solve puzzles and breaking codes are just some small ways to help girls learn what cybersecurity involves.”

About Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, a United Way agency, serves nearly 11,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the help of nearly 5,000 adult volunteers in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. Girl Scouts offers a one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls, unleashing the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] in every girl. Since 1912, Girl Scouts has been building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. To volunteer, reconnect, donate or join, visit www.gsccc.org or call 1-800-77SCOUT.

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Girl Scout Junior Lillian Snead and Girl Scout Junior Makayla McKnight with Community Troop Program Facilitator Georganna Cox during project show and tell time. “Kraft Elementary students Lillian and Makayla pose with Cox after learning the importance of strong passwords.”