

Girl Scouts recognize nine Women of Distinction

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The Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama will recognize nine outstanding women Thursday at their East Alabama Women of Distinction Luncheon at Jacksonville State University's Leone Cole Coliseum.

The luncheon, which is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will pay tribute to women in St. Clair, Talladega, Etowah, Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Clay and Randolph counties who have made special contributions to their community through civic, academic or professional involvement.

This year's honorees are Marie Akin, senior vice president, Exchange Bank of Alabama; Betty Carr, civic leader; Tina Gregerson, owner and CEO, Personnel Staffing Inc.; Joyce Hughes, medical staff credentialing coordinator, HealthSouth; Christie King-Ray, president, C King Benefits Auction; Carol Pappas, former editor and publisher (retired), the Daily Home, Talladega; Valerie A. Richardson, vice president of institutional advancement and student services, Gadsden State Community College; and Jean F. Stanko, nurse practitioner, Anniston Family Practice.

Also, Josephine Ayers, founder and editor-in-chief of the Long Leaf Magazine, will receive the 2010 Frances E. Couch Award at the luncheon.

Gail Collins, a New York Times columnist, will be the speaker.

Proceeds from the luncheon provide direct support to Girl Scouts in North-Central Alabama, which includes more than 19,000 girls in 36 counties.

Luncheon tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$35 for Girl Scout members.