

For Immediate Release
Friday, October 24, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford, Honorary President of the Girl Scouts of the USA, has accepted an invitation to participate in the opening ceremony of the Triennial Convention on Sunday, October 26 at the Washington Monument Sylvan Theater. The ceremony will begin at 2:00 PM.

Miss Anne Formeller, Miss Mary Formeller and Miss Delores Gardner from Cadette Troup 1293 in Philadelphia will present to Mrs. Ford the Girl Scouts 200th Birthday Book to the Nation. Mrs. Ford, on behalf of the Nation, will thank the Girl Scouts. Mrs. Ford will also light the first torch during the ceremony.

Mrs. William McLeod Ittman will open the ceremony. The program will include "Songs of Freedom," the works of American composers, played by the U.S. Army Band, Pershing's Own, and sung by a 150-voice Girl Scout chorus from Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. A parade of 94 international flags, plus the flags of the 50 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D. C. A symbolic lighting of torches which symbolizes liberty and America. There will be a performance by Lexington, Mass., Girl Scout Drum and Bugle Corps.

The audience will include delegates and visitors from 352 Girl Scout councils in the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone and U.S. Territories plus international guests from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

This will be the first time the National Girl Scout Convention has been held in Washington, D. C. It will be a four-day convention (October 26-29) with representatives of America's Girl Scouts from all 50 states and U.S. territories. They will meet to discuss policies and directions of the Girl Scout movement during the next three years.

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