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## Beyond cookies and camping

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The CEOs were also impressed by the girls, a diverse group from the 34 counties that Midyette called “a microcosm of the community we serve.”

“They thought they were going to do all the teaching and they learned a lot, too,” she said.

One of those executives, syndicated columnist and author Jackie Gingrich Cushman, agreed. “Every CEO I have talked to was thrilled to be involved,” she said. “They got a lot more out of it than they were expecting.” Cushman praised the effort put into the inaugural program by the Girl Scouts. “I was impressed by how good they were matching the CEOs with the girls,” she said. Her partner was a high school student who hopes to pursue a career in writing. “The girls came from a

wide geographic area and I was impressed at how well they interacted,” she said. “We all need successful role models.”

Midyette said the Girl Scouts are hoping to be able to offer two sessions of the camp next year because of increased interest on both sides — girls and CEOs.

For the future, Midyette said she is focused on the capital campaign to pay for the council’s new LEED Silver certified home office at Camp Timber Ridge in Mableton and the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the Girl Scouts in 2012, but is still looking out for opportunities to “create that bridge and find ways to collaborate with businesses.”

“Everybody needs leaders and strong employees,” she said.

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