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NEWS RELEASE

NAWIC INTRODUCES CHILDREN TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BLOCK KIDS BUILDING PROGRAM

Atlanta, GA, November 2005 – The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) will hold its annual Block Kids Competition, February 11, 2006 at a location to be announced at a later date. The participants will include young girls from Girl Scouts and Brownies troops across Georgia.

“NAWIC is very excited to have the opportunity to work with the Girl Scouts. We feel that it is an excellent program not only to partner with for this event, but because it provides girls with the tools and opportunities to achieve academic success as well as necessary life skills,” stated Marianne Boston, the event Chairperson and a construction attorney with the law firm of Stites & Harbison, PLLC. “The Construction Industry faces a work force shortage that poses a serious problem for our national economy, therefore, in order to meet the demand for construction, the industry needs to attract, educate and train about 240,000 newcomers annually.”

The Block-Kids Building Program is a national building program competition that is sponsored on the local level by NAWIC chapters and other organizations. The award-winning program introduces children to the construction industry in an effort to create an awareness of and to promote an interest in future careers in one of the many facets of the industry. The program is open to all elementary school children in grades 1 through 6 free of charge to the children. The competition involves the construction of various structures with interlocking blocks and three of the following additional items: a small rock, string, foil, and poster board. Local winners advance to the Regional competition, and one semi-finalist from each region is entered in the National Program competition. National prizes are awarded to the top three projects.

This year, NAWIC is expecting approximately 100 children in the program. Judges are composed of many professionals that work in the construction industry from many different companies. The Block Kids program exposes children to the thrills of building and introduces them to construction industry role models. This can have a lasting impression and will encourage a natural interest in designing and building, pique curiosities and form the right impression at an age when they are still impressionable.

For more information on the program or to become a sponsor, please contact Marianne Boston at mboston@stites.com.

More about the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) was founded in Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1955. Since its founding, NAWIC has grown to a membership of approximately 6,500 with more than 200 chapters in 47 U.S. States and in three Canadian provinces. In 1996, NAWIC signed an International Affiliation Agreement with NAWIC-Australia. In its 45 years of service to its membership, NAWIC has advanced the causes of all women in construction whose careers range from business ownership to the skilled trades.