

Contact: Stacey L. Hovis, CIT
President
NAWIC
Phone: 404.441.1245
Fax: 404.920.3420

NAWIC, Atlanta Chapter
PMB 355
541 Tenth Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
Phone: 404.286.6010



NAWIC INTRODUCES GIRL SCOUTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BLOCK KIDS BUILDING PROGRAM

Atlanta, GA, September 2006 – The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) will hold its annual Block Kids Competition November 11, 2006 at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The participants will include young girls from Girl Scout and Brownie troops in and around Northwest Georgia.

“NAWIC is very excited to have the opportunity to work with the Girl Scouts again. We feel that it is a wonderful opportunity to educate them on the construction and design industry; something they may never have exposure to with it being considered a non-traditional female career choice. The competition provides girls with the tools and opportunities to achieve academic success as well as sparking creative thinking and problem solving abilities,” stated Lisa Simms, the event Chairperson. “Our goal is to build interest in the construction and design industry early in their lives and continue to foster that interest through other NAWIC educational programs which are geared towards our children. Many people don’t know this, but 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.” This year NAWIC has added a new component to its annual competition. Typically, there is no charge or any kind of fee to participate in this program; however, this year each girl was asked to bring a minimum of two cans of food as a donation to the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The Atlanta Chapter of NAWIC will also do a food drive to match what is brought in by the participants.

The Block-Kids Building Program is a national building 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 and is free of charge to the children. The competition involves the construction of a structure using interlocking blocks and three of the following additional items: a small rock, string, foil, and poster board. Each participant is interviewed by a variety of local industry professionals as to what they built, who will benefit from its use and what they want to be when they grow up. These “judges” review notes and the “projects” to determine the winner. 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 75 children to participate in the local program. The Block Kids program exposes children to the excitement of building construction 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 Lisa Simms at lsimms@eberly.net.

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

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) originally began as Women in Construction of Fort Worth, Texas. It was founded in 1953 by 16 women working in the construction industry. Women in Construction of Fort Worth was so successful that it gained its national charter in 1955 and became the National Association of Women in Construction. NAWIC's core purpose is to enhance the success of women in the construction industry.

NAWIC has a membership of more than 5,500 with 179 chapters in almost every U.S. state. Since 1996, NAWIC has seen its core purpose grow internationally, with the signing of International Affiliation Agreements with NAWIC-Australia, NAWIC-New Zealand, South African Women in Construction, NAWIC-United Kingdom and in 2006, with the Canadian Women in Construction (CAWIC). In its 51 years of service to its membership, NAWIC has advanced the causes of all women in construction, from trades women to business owners.

####