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Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Announce 2017 Women of Distinction Keynote Speaker

DALLAS – Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (GSNETX) announced today that the first African American woman in space, Dr. Mae C. Jemison, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Women of Distinction Luncheon on Friday, November 3 at the Omni Dallas Hotel. The Women of Distinction Luncheon honors extraordinary women who have made significant contributions toward advancing opportunities for girls and women. The luncheon is chaired by Laura Downing and Susan Glassmoyer.

Dr. Jemison, the first woman of color in the world to go to space, served six years as a NASA astronaut. Today, Jemison is leading the 100 Year Starship program that is working to ensure the capability for human interstellar space travel to another star is possible within the next 100 years. She is also the founder of The Jemison Group, Inc., a technology consulting firm that integrates the critical impact of socio-cultural issues when designing and implementing technologies. Prior to working at NASA, she joined the Peace Corps for two and a half years as the Medical Officer for Sierra Leone and Liberia overseeing the healthcare system. At the Women of Distinction Luncheon, Jemison will inspire others with her story of how she dedicated her life’s work to scientific, technological and medical advancements.

“We are honored to welcome Dr. Jemison as our keynote speaker at the Women of Distinction Luncheon,” said Jennifer Bartkowski, chief executive officer for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. “Dr. Jemison, a former Girl Scout herself, is a representation of who we want our girls to be – a female not afraid to take risks, someone who has the courage to enter a field where she may be in the minority, and a woman with the boldness to advocate for her ideas. We all look forward to hearing Dr. Jemison’s inspiring story.”
The Women of Distinction Luncheon recognizes outstanding women leaders for their service to our community. Awards are issued annually in the categories of Lifetime Achievement, Women of Distinction, Young Women of Distinction, and newly introduced last year, the Man Enough Award. Recipients will be announced this spring. The Young Women of Distinction award, given to an active Girl Scout, will be announced late summer. Funds raised during the luncheon support the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas by providing leadership programming to more than 27,000 girls in Northeast Texas in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), financial literacy, healthy living, and outdoor leadership.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, purchasing tickets or a table at the event, please contact Amanda Rainey at wdl@gsnetx.org or visit [www.gsnetx.org/wdl](http://www.gsnetx.org/wdl).

**About Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas:**
Girl Scouts is the premier leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas serves more than 27,000 girls and 12,500 adults in 32 northeast Texas counties. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas recently received the Center for Nonprofit Management nonprofit of the year award in 2016. The board is chaired by Kit Addleman, partner at Haynes and Boone, who was recognized by both the *Dallas Business Journal* and Center for Nonprofit Management nonprofit board chair of the year awards in 2016. For information on how to join, volunteer, donate or reconnect to the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas, call (800) 442-2260 or visit [www.gsnetx.org](http://www.gsnetx.org).

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