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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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## **Minneapolis Area Corporations Host Event at Bakken Museum to Help Girl Scouts Earn Intellectual Property Patch**

WASHINGTON, DC (December 18, 2015) – On December 5, four corporations hosted an event at the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis, MN at which over 100 Girl Scouts earned the Intellectual Property Patch.

Attorneys and staff from Medtronic, Inc.; Cargill, Inc.; Upsher-Smith; and Smith's Medical encouraged girls to enter STEM careers by familiarizing them with how creativity and innovation are fostered and protected by the intellectual property system.

Activities taught girls to use critical thinking skills to solve problems; explore several solutions to the same problem; decide what materials are needed to solve the problem; determine what works and what doesn't; and then share an invention with others and consider how it may be protected through a patent.

The IP Patch was developed by the Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation (IPOEF) in conjunction with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC).

Medtronic Vice President & Chief Patent Counsel, and Intellectual Property Owners Association Board member, Michael Jaro said, "The event exceeded all our expectations and was a huge success! The theme for our event was 'study STEM, practice IP.' The girls, and even the adults, had a great time exploring the Bakken Museum's scientific displays while also learning about intellectual property, the various types of intellectual property, and how intellectual property promotes prosperity and progress."

The patch curriculum is written for Girl Scouts aged Brownie through Senior and is available on the IPOEF website ([www.ipoef.org](http://www.ipoef.org)). Patches can be purchased through the GSCNC store by calling 800-523-7898 x212. To find an IP professional in your area who might be willing to help your troop earn the IP Patch explore the Intellectual Property Owners Association's IP Speaker Search ([www.ipo.org/ipspeakersearch](http://www.ipo.org/ipspeakersearch)).

For more information about the IP Patch and how to bring it to a troop in your area, please contact Colleen Wellington-Caban at (202)507-4500 or [CWellington-Caban@ipo.org](mailto:CWellington-Caban@ipo.org). Press inquiries may be directed to Robin Muthig at (202) 507-4514 or [RMuthig@ipo.org](mailto:RMuthig@ipo.org). To find out more about IPO Education Foundation programs visit [www.ipoef.org](http://www.ipoef.org) or call 202/507-4500.

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