

Alfred University student group to teach area girl scouts about globalization

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ALFRED Hundreds of area Girl Scouts will converge on the Alfred University campus April 13 for a daylong lesson on the global marketplace. The AU Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) group is hosting the event, which will be held in McLane Center gymnasium and attended by some 200 girl scouts, grades 3-6, from the Seven Lakes Council of Girl Scouts of America. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Ben Lawrence, a junior business major from Washington, D.C., and president of the SIFE club, said his group, with assistance from volunteer students and adult scouting advisors, plan to give a very basic lesson on globalization and the importance of a global economy. Lawrence said the scouts will be divided into groups of 10, with each group being designated a country. They will learn about their country's economy - including currency, rate of exchange - as well as its religions, culture, government and natural resources. "We want them to learn how the global marketplace works," he said. "Every country sells products made in other countries, or has its own products sold in other countries." Lawrence said scouts will each be given different kinds of candy, representing products of each country, which will be sold from one country to other countries. "They'll get an idea on how the different exchange rates work," he noted. SIFE has organized the event to include a competition. The groups that buy and sell the most candy, and learn the most about their designated country, will win, with donated prizes being awarded. Student facilitators from the College of Business will be on hand to teach the scouts and help them develop their plans for buying and selling. The plan will stress concepts such as efficient consumer spending and the importance of advertising. "Our goal is for (the youngsters) to get an idea on how different countries interact," Lawrence said. "We want to make the point early that you can't hide from globalization. To thrive in the world economy, we have to stress social interaction."