

REF: 06.07
News Release
For Immediate Release
Date: 20th June 2007

***Bedford* BROWNIES and GUIDES were AMONG 38,000 CHILDREN TO RAISE £1 MILLION IN WORLD RECORD BT GIANT SLEEPOVER 16/17 JUNE 2007**

Brownie and Guide units from **Bedford** were among 20,000 Brownies and Guides from across the UK taking part in this year's BT Giant Sleepover - the biggest sleepover in history on Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 June 2007.

The 2007 event, sponsored by BT, is looking to smash the Guinness World Record set by last year's Giant Sleepover in June 2006 when a new Guinness World Record was set for the biggest simultaneous sleepover on one night. The event raised over £200,000 for the children's chosen charities.

With more than 40,000 children aged seven to 12 expected to take part in the 2007 event sleeping over in their school, guide halls, caves, ships, tents and even cardboard boxes, the charity fundraising should top £1 million. At least 50 percent of the funds raised will go to BT's nominated charity, ChildLine, the free and confidential 24-hour helpline for children and young people in the UK. The rest can go to other charities including Brownie and Guide units.

Gill Lake said; "This is a fantastic event for Brownies and Guides to take part in. It's amazing to think that more than 20,000 Brownies and Guides are taking part to raise valuable funds for Childline, Girlguiding UK and other charities!"



Event founder, Steve Malkin, said: "The idea for the BT Giant Sleepover came after we had helped to run a summer fete to raise money for my sons' primary school. We wanted to organise an annual fundraising event for volunteers across the UK and also something that is huge fun for kids before they go to secondary school. It is fantastic to see it grow and also to break our Guinness World Record!"

Ends

For further information about which Brownie and Guide units are taking part in your area and to send a photographer please contact **Philipa Tolley** on **07734 955857**. For further information on BT Giant Sleepover and general

photography contact Katy Ashby/Steve Malkin at Image Wizard
on 01732 455500 or 07050 600966 or email
steve@imagewizard.co.uk



Notes to Editors

Girlguiding UK is the UK's largest voluntary organisation for girls and young women, with more than 600,000 members. The organisation, which runs Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section, is part of a worldwide Movement that enables girls and young women, whatever their background or ability, to realise their full potential and take an active and responsible role in today's society. This is achieved through a distinctive, stimulating and enjoyable programme of activities provided by 80,000 trained adult volunteer Leaders.

Girlguiding UK is committed to developing the skills and self-confidence of girls and women. Adult Leaders receive excellent training and gain transferable skills they can use in the workplace due to the wide range of roles and opportunities available in guiding. Girlguiding UK seeks to work in partnership with other individuals and organisations who share our Vision. Registered Charity No: 306016.