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### **Surrounded by a 270 Acre Natural Campus, Stem-focused Charter School Breaks Ground Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and Amana Academy Charter School Form Unique Partnership**

Mableton, GA – Imagine a school under a canopy of native Georgia trees, surrounded by trails, a lake, and other natural habitats instead of concrete, roads, and traffic. Now imagine this school is open for any child in Georgia to attend, no tuition required. This will be the newest campus of the Amana Academy Charter School located on the grounds of Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta's (GSGATL) Camp Timber Ridge in Mableton, GA.

The campus location is the first of its kind in Georgia and the brainchild of Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta CEO, Amy Dosik and Ehab Jaleel, Executive Director of the award-winning Amana Academy, Inc. nonprofit organization.

In looking for a home for their second campus, Amana sought a location reflecting the organization's mission to prepare students to be 21st-century changemakers and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) leaders. With its emphasis on STEM programming, outdoor education & adventure, real-world skills, and entrepreneurship, Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta proved an ideal partner.

In turn, Girl Scouts was looking for a way to thoughtfully turn a little-used area of the sprawling 100-year-old camp into a space reflecting the growing interests of their girls.

After months of meetings, studies, county, and community input, GSGATL, and Amana Academy hosted a January 20<sup>th</sup> ceremonial ground-breaking at Camp Timber Ridge.

The new school, Amana Academy West Atlanta, will open in August 2022 to students in grades K-3, adding a grade each year until it reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The school is expected to attract students primarily from West Atlanta, South Cobb, and South Fulton communities. Initially opening with four smaller cabin-style buildings, the school will work closely with Girl Scouts to develop a comprehensive plan to install a larger, permanent facility that meets the needs of both organizations in the future.

Amana has a long history of using innovative practices along with a robust, hands-on STEM program rooted in design thinking. This, coupled with the organization's strong emphasis on school culture and social-emotional learning, has led to great results at their flagship school.

The original campus, located in north Fulton County, receives an A grade from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, serves a majority minority population, and is among the highest performing schools in the Fulton County Schools' portfolio.

"By nature of being a charter school we seek opportunities to try and share innovative practices; and we are encouraged by several organizations, both local and national, to replicate our high-quality model in other areas of the



city,” says Ehab Jaleel, Executive Director of the Amana Academy, Inc. nonprofit organization “They see the success we are having with closing opportunity gaps and inspiring students to higher levels of achievement in preparation for the new economy with an incredibly diverse population at our flagship school.”

At the groundbreaking, Amy Dosik, CEO of Girl Scout of Greater Atlanta highlighted the opportunities this means for the Girl Scout community. “Girl Scouts are responsible stewards of the land. We are also innovators. This partnership allows us to maintain the natural beauty of Camp Timber Ridge and provide additional learning resources to children eager to explore the exciting world of STEM. By working together, we increase our capacity to prepare more Georgia students for success in school, careers, and community life.”

Additional information, FAQs, and schematics can be found [here](#). Applications to the new school are now being accepted.