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**PHEASANT RUN RESORT & SPA HOSTS FIRST-EVER
GEAR UP FOUNDATION 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

***Hundreds of Firefighters, Notable Authorities Meet In Chicago
to Help Worldwide Firefighting Community***

ST. CHARLES, Ill. (September 13, 2007) – Firefighters from more than a dozen countries will converge on Pheasant Run Resort & Spa to experience firsthand the latest in firefighting technology and help raise money and awareness for firefighters in need of resources and equipment, within the U.S. and abroad, as part of the first-ever Gear Up Foundation 2007 International Convention being held the weekend of September 21-23, said Joe Pinto, Vice President of Hotel Operations, Pheasant Run Resort

Gear Up Foundation is an organization that donates firefighting equipment, provides training, and supports firemen with additional resources, in the U.S. and around the globe. Gear Up was created as a living tribute to those firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and others in the firefighting community who continue to give their lives helping others. According to foundation co-founder Vincent Forras, a 9/11 survivor, the goal of Gear Up is to generate healing by helping those who faced the destruction of 9/11 while reaching out to others who need additional resources for fire fighting professionals around the globe.

Although the Gear Up Foundation has previously held local fundraising events, the 2007 International Convention is the first time the organization will draw firefighters from around the world to meet at one time. Pheasant Run Resort has donated the exhibition space to help deflect the cost of the event.

Highlights of the Gear-Up Foundation 2007 International Convention include:

- An exhibition -- open to the public -- of more than 40 manufacturers, service groups, and visiting professionals showcasing the latest in firefighting equipment, procedures and information. A 9/11 traveling tribute and “Memorial of Towers” sculpture will also be on display.

- Appearances by many local and national leaders from the firefighting community, including:
 - Chicago Fire Department Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco
 - Chicago Fire Department Asst. Fire Commissioner Robert Hoff
 - A third-generation firefighter and 30-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Dept.
 - Field instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 - The 1991 movie "Backdraft" is based on Bobby and his brother Ray
 - Led Chicago firefighters to New York on 9-11-01 to assist at Ground Zero

 - Former FDNY Commissioner Thomas VonEssen
 - Schaumburg Fire Department Captain Rick Kolomay
 - Gear Up Foundation Co-Founders Vincent Forras and Monica Carrera
 - World renowned tenor and former NYPD officer Danny Rodriguez
 - U.S. Congressman (IL-6th) Peter Roskam
 - Dr. Steven I. Levin, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, New York
 - A physician proponent from Mt. Sinai’s ongoing medical screening and monitoring program of first responders to the World Trade Center on 9-11-01.

- A display of 200 outdated uniforms being donated by the Chicago Fire Department to international firefighters as well as firefighting gear collected by Wisconsin and Schaumburg firefighters.

- Many used and outdated fire trucks and engines which will be donated to both foreign and domestic firehouses in need.

According to local event organizer, Joe Cantafio, “we are hoping to raise at least \$25,000 for the international firefighting community. However, it’s very hard to put a price tag on the gear we collect for the foreign firefighters who basically have nothing. It’s just incredible to see the look of appreciation on their faces when they receive the used gear.”

The exhibition hall is open to the general public and located at the Mega Center at Pheasant Run Resort and Spa. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. A \$10 per person suggested donation is requested.

More information about the Gear Up Foundation 2007 International Convention is available by visiting www.gearupfoundation.org.

Pheasant Run Resort offers 473 spacious guest rooms, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 36 holes of championship golf and year-round practice center, the Mario Tricoci Hair Salon and Day Spa, two professional live theaters and a Zanies Comedy Club. Listed below is a sampling of packages currently available at Pheasant Run Resort & Spa for the upcoming fall season. For more information, call 800.4.PHEASANT (800-474-3272) or visit www.pheasantrun.com.

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