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9,000 Women armed with knives, blades, and wire cutters gather in Novi May 7-9

Great Lakes Mega Meet celebrates 10 years providing a safe haven for women who like to cut, snip, distress, and crop...photos.

Novi, MI – April 20, 2009 – You may have seen the t-shirt that warns, "Runs with Scissors". The women coming soon to Novi don't run with just scissors – they also wield trimmers, wire cutters, and swivel blade knives. Some even employ guillotines. And they mean business – business for on-site vendors – many Michigan-based – as well as local hotels and restaurants. They are coming to attend the Great Lakes Mega Meet, a popular scrapbooking event held at the Rock Financial Showplace over Mother's Day weekend.

"This is an industry that went from \$200 million in total sales in 1996 to over \$2.5 billion less than 10 years later," said Kate Griswold, owner and organizer of the GLMM, referencing survey results from Photo Marketing Association*. "It's clear that scrapbooking is a hobby that has found a permanent place in households in Michigan as well as all over the country. The goal of the GLMM is to provide scrappers with money and time-saving techniques and products in one convenient and exciting weekend."

About 9,000 enthusiastic crafters will be descending upon Novi to attend the annual event held May 7-9. The event provides scrappers with a weekend of scrapbooking ideas, products, hands-on classes and Make-It Take-It opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to browse 75 vendor booths, and sit down to work on projects in the open crop area. Professionals from popular companies such as Quick Quotes, Rusty Pickle, and designer Melissa Frances will teach classes reflecting the latest styles and techniques.

"Scrappers throughout Michigan have come to know and love the Great Lakes Mega Meet," Griswold said. "There is the opportunity to see, touch, and try so many new things. To have so many classes available in one place at one time is something guests don't often get to experience anywhere else."

This year a special 10-year birthday celebration will take place May 6 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and will include birthday cake, party favors, games and many prizes. Late-night crops will be held Thursday and Friday evenings of the event. Crops provide scrappers with large work spaces and a friendly environment. Page and table contests keep things entertaining and fun throughout the evening. Guests are urged to reserve a spot at the crop early, as the events tend to sell out. Class schedule, registration, ticket purchasing and discount packages are available at the event web site, www.megameet.com.

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EDITORS: Kate Griswold is available for interviews.

* <http://pmaforesight.com/search.aspx?q=Scrapbook&sc=t&dt=a&al=>