



Volume 3
Issue 3



Our Voices

“I Got To Ride A Horse For The First Time!”

For most girls living in the inner city, the great outdoors may be nothing more than a city park. But this year, thanks to the support of donors like you, more than 50 girls who participate in Girl Scouts through their school went to Camp E-ko-wah. Much to the chagrin of the younger girls, twenty-five older girls got to spend the night under the stars.

Riding horses; doing science experiments; singing songs, cheerleading and eating s’mores were just some of the activities made possible through donations to the in-school pathway. Leadership Specialist Jean Marie Hill said the girls were excited to be in camp for a day and a night with so many other girls. **“Most often, the activities at their schools are in small groups.”**



Parents were also thrilled for their girls’ experiences, calling In-school coordinator Christie Tipton and sharing that their daughters were so excited, they couldn’t stop talking about what a great time they had. Already many girls are looking forward to next year!



Your support has made it possible for our Council to provide this experience for girls - your gifts to the in-school pathway make it all possible. Thanks to the OKC Public Schools for providing buses to take girls to the Camp and to the Marlow Police Department for sharing their drug awareness program with girls at camp.

From Teen Moms To Scholar Graduates

Your support makes it possible for girls like Kayla and Veronica to find their own voice and be a leader. To support our outreach opportunities, call 405-528-3535.



A teen mom, a reluctant student, Kayla Mayes (*left*), was introduced to Girl Scouts through Emerson Alternative School. Kayla was named a delegate to the 2008 GSUSA national convention, and this year, made us all proud of her by being named Valedictorian at her high school. Veronica Mondragon also a Girl Scout participant at Emerson, was named to both the National Honor Roll and to the **Principal’s Honor Roll!** **Both plan to continue on to college.** Alicia Bruner, Outreach Coordinator, said that Girl Scouts is helping girls in alternative

schools build leadership skills. These Emerson Girl Scouts who graduated this year did **so with high marks and big plans for the future.** Here’s what Veronica said being a Girl Scout means to her now:



“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader!”

Girl Scouts “Challenge and Change” Their Communities!

Identifying a community need, creating a plan of action for that need, recruiting other community leaders to get involved in the plan and then implementing it to make a **permanent change in that community is what “Challenge and Change” is all about.** Girl Scouts throughout our region have accepted the challenge of changing their communities by getting involved.

Through funding from a USDA grant, girls are thinking of new and creative ways to tackle issues that create positive, sustainable change.

In Walters, a group of Girl Scouts decided that the community needed to create a Neighborhood Watch Program. The girls worked with local police and other community businesses the Dahlia Club to organize a Neighborhood Watch Fair. Through their efforts, more than 14 local businesses purchased booth space at the fair.

“It was difficult for the girls to gain community support initially, but as time has gone on, they have had more businesses and residents take interest in what they are doing,” said Halie Campbell, field marketing executive. **“The girls have civic leaders involved and have created a network of people who are watching out for the community.”**

Girl Scouts from Timberlake school worked with the Goltry city council on a community pride project called **“Forget Me Not”** to install a sign in the city park and organize a Forget Me Not Day to help community members who need help with tasks or projects.

Girl Scouts in Watonga started a project called **“Pal Paradise”** to address the problem of stray animals. **“The girls have raised awareness on animal abuse and neglect, and with the support of local veterinarians they have successfully hosted community workshops on animal care,”** said Carla Burdick, field marketing executive.

Girl Scouts in Cherokee have started **“Harassment Stops with Me”** to raise awareness of bullying in the schools. **“They wanted to raise awareness of hazing and bullying in their schools. They created rubber bracelets that say “Bullying Stops with ME!” to remind students that bullying is never right. They planned and conducted community workshops on bullying,”** Burdick said.

Girl Scouts are making towns all over western Oklahoma better places to live and to be a girl. To support these or other projects, call 405-528-3535.



Girl Scouts Forever Green Plants Seeds Of Change In El Reno

Girl Scouts from Calumet visited the ARS Grazinglands Research Laboratory in El Reno recently to participate in the **People’s Garden** project. **The girls, ranging in age from kindergarten to 6th grade, helped create a butterfly garden at the GRL project.** They planted butterfly weed, a native species of milkweed, and goldenrod in the butterfly garden. The girls plan to return to see how their planting efforts are progressing.



“This project is an example of how Girl Scouts is reaching out into our communities to be part of projects that benefit the community but also provide them with a leadership opportunity,” said Lisa Johnson, field marketing executive serving the El Reno area. **“Girl Scouts is part of a nationwide initiative called Girl Scouts Forever Green. This effort encourages girls to take part in projects that are environmentally friendly and that make a difference in their communities. By taking part in this garden project, the girls are helping create something that will last while learning about the value of being green.”**

To support the local Girl Scout Forever Green projects, call 405-528-3535.

Girl Scouts Take The Field At Sports Camp



If we continue at the current rate by 2018 Oklahoma will have the highest obesity rate in our nation. Healthy living is a skill best taught to young girls, in the hopes that they will carry these skills with them throughout their lives. Women athletes at the University of Central Oklahoma teamed up with Girl Scouts one recent Saturday and introduced about 50 Girl Scouts to **the fun of women's sports while encouraging them to find a sport they like and stick with it.**



"It was amazing watching our student athletes interact with the girls," said Tami Peck, assistant athletic director at UCO. **"We all felt like this was a good start on something we can build on in the future."**

Girls took part in many track and field events, golf, basketball, long jump and other activities designed to get the girls moving, jumping, running and getting more active.

"The girls were enthusiastic and excited," said Julie Crocker, event coordinator and one of the UCO women athletes. **"I am excited to have created this connection with Girl Scouts and look forward to doing more events in the future."**

Crocker said that athletics has had a positive influence on her life — allowing her to go to college, and learn things that carry over into other aspects of her life like leadership, dedication and discipline. She said it is important to show young girls that female athletes are strong role models and how sports can have a positive impact in their lives.

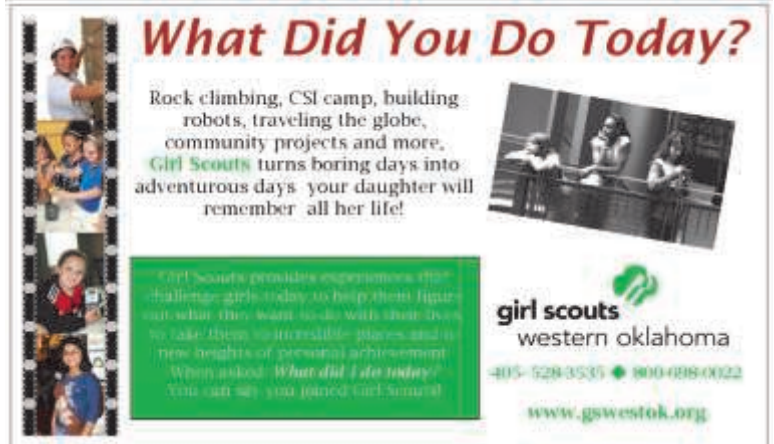


"Partnerships like this one helps Girl Scouts expand into new areas of mentorship for girls," said Cathy Stackpole, CEO. **"Girls need to see women athletes as strong leaders, and be encouraged to pursue their own athletic interests. It will not only benefit them as they grow up, but it will also impact Oklahoma's overall health in the future. It is critically important that we continue to offer opportunities that give girls the chance to develop life-long habits. We are grateful for the student athletes at UCO to volunteer their time to make this happen! It was a great event."**



What Did You Do Today?

What Did You Do Today? Moms all over the country will be asking girls that question in the next few years as Girl Scouts rolls out its new brand campaign. Unveiling an updated logo and a renewed focus on all of the wonderful opportunities that Girl Scouts provides for girls, **Girl Scouts is asking girls and adults, "what did you do today?"** as a way of pointing out the myriad of activities and opportunities in Girl Scouts. For adults specifically, we will be asking what did you do today to advance leadership opportunities for girls.



For us in Oklahoma, we are building a campaign in honor of our 100th anniversary that answers the question of what did you do today by asking that each of us support Girl Scouts by investing in Oklahoma and investing in girls in our state.

The updated branding is also reclaiming Girl Scout green. It is more vibrant and contemporary. It better represents what Girl Scouts is all about today — an array of leadership opportunities like robotics, rock climbing, public speaking, science, travel and more. A small change in the three faces of the trefoil shows diversity in Girl Scouts that reflects the many images of Girl Scouts from all walks of life.

"As we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2012, we also are looking forward to the next 100 years of leadership for girls," said Cathy Stackpole, CEO. **"This is an exciting time to be part of Girl Scouts — celebrating our past successes and energizing for the future. We want everyone in Oklahoma to invest in Girl Scouts - invest in a girl."**

To support girl leadership and be part of the 100 years celebration, call 405-528-3535 or email Crystal Slater at cslater@gswestok.org.

Cookies In Afghanistan!

"Cookies make everything better! Check out this picture of cookies outside the combat stress tent!"

so said soldier, Michael Sweet-Fitzgibbon of Edmond. Pictured is a stack of Girl Scout Cookies that had just arrived at an army base a few miles from the Pakistan border in Afghanistan. Nancy Sweet-Fitzgibbon is a troop leader in Edmond. Michael sent her the picture from the base in Afghanistan with the note above.



Your support of this year's cookie sale made it possible to send Girl Scout Cookies to our military overseas.

Thank you!

Reaching Out To Homeless Girl Scouts

"Imagine being a young girl living in a homeless shelter with little that she can call her own," said Brooke Watson, AmeriCorps Member Serving Girl Scouts. **"Now, imagine that a Girl Scout volunteer goes in and offers her a world of leadership, self-esteem and activity opportunities that gives her a sense of what the future can hold."**

Bringing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to as many girls as possible is our goal. Wherever girls are is where we want to be too!

This summer, Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma will be reaching out to homeless girls through the Oklahoma City Rescue Mission. Girl Scouts will visit the mission site every other Saturday beginning in June, and we need volunteers to help make this opportunity a success.

To volunteer for or support our city rescue mission pathway, call Brooke at 405-528-3535 or email bwatson@gswestok.org.

Girl Scout Volunteers Do More Than Lead Meetings

"We sometimes are the only key to helping these girls grow into mature, healthy women," a volunteer wrote. "My heart breaks for her and I will do my best to be a rock for her." A leader in a local troop is helping a young girl recover from incredible turmoil. She is one of an amazing group of volunteers helping a Girl Scout and her family reinvent their lives.

A volunteer for Girl Scouts becomes a mentor to girls in many ways. Whether it's helping a girl develop a community service project, a Gold Award activity, or sell cookies, a volunteer is there to answer questions and help girls find success in whatever leadership opportunity they choose to tackle. But in other cases, a volunteer becomes the one person a girl can go to if she is experiencing trouble at home.

Your support of Girl Scouts means volunteers like this will be there to help a girl find her own path in life — whether it is through Girl Scout activities or just stepping in when and where help is needed.

To be a Girl Scout volunteer or to support the volunteer opportunities, call 405-528-3535.

Girl Scouts Come Together To Help Others In Need

Storms, tornadoes, hail and floods aren't anything new to Oklahomans in the spring-time. And when those devastating events occur, Girl Scouts is always there to help in any way possible. This spring has been no exception. Many Girl Scout families found themselves rebuilding, repairing and starting over when a tornado pushed through the Norman/Little Axe and Choctaw/Harrah areas this year. Girl Scouts joined forces with each other and with other community relief organizations to collect donations, deliver much-needed items, and encourage local businesses to help out.



Nina Schlesinger (left) helped organize donations in the OKC metro area, and Harrah Girl Scout volunteers worked to sort and transport donations in that community. Pictured above (left to right) is Girl Scout Danica Cadell, Harrah Church volunteer Cobi, Valerie Curtis, Jason Curtis and Daisy Girl Scout Elizabeth Ray.

Girl Scouts Going To Broadway!

"I'm sad that my mom got cancer, but my Brownie troop helped me get through it easier," wrote Kassidy Long. Her Girl Scout Troop 232 of Norman will take center stage on Broadway this summer as part of the production of "Wicked" for a national Girl Scout program called StudentsLive. Other Girl Scouts were selected to participate from an essay contest and 9-year-old Kassidy Long's essay is among those chosen. For her efforts, she will read an essay she wrote on breast cancer awareness. "To be recognized on this national level is amazing," said troop leader Andrea Marler.



Troop 232 poses before the Zumbathon fund raiser they hosted to help pay for the New York City trip.

Girl Scouts-Western Oklahoma
121 NE 50th
Oklahoma City, OK
73105-1809

Our Voices
Periodical Postage
Paid at
Oklahoma City, OK

Voices (USPS 486-120) is published six times a year. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Our Voices, 121 NE 50th St., Oklahoma City, OK, 73105-1809

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place!

Other Girl Scout News

Enid Girl Scout Wins Tree Poster Contest

LaVeshe Porter of Enid won first place in the Enid 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest. Enid students in grades 3-5 were asked to submit original artwork to the city. **LaVeshe's poster featuring "Trees Are Terrific" encouraged recycling and re-planting.** Congratulations LaVeshe!



Yukon Girl Scout Honored for Volunteerism



Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice congratulates Kenna Baker, 18, of Yukon and a Girl Scout, on being named among the top youth volunteers in Oklahoma for 2010 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Kenna was honored at a ceremony May 2 at the **Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History** in Washington, D.C., and received a \$1,000 award. Congratulations, Kenna. You are a great representative for Girl Scouts and leadership in Oklahoma.

Contact Us!

(800) 698-0022

Cathy Stackpole, CEO
(405) 528-3535 or
cstackpole@gswestok.org

Deborah Gooding,
Marketing/Communications
(405) 528-3535, ext. 130
dgooding@gswestok.org

Crystal Slater
Chief Development Officer
(405) 528-3535, ext.120
cslater@gswestok.org

United Way
Partner Agency

