

Youth

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor in Chief Tom Bodus at tbodus@ivpressonline.com or (760) 337-3427.

Raising the bar

Girl Scouts in Imperial Valley earn higher awards with impactful projects

BY STEFANIE CAMPOS
Special to This Newspaper

It's not all about cookies. Girl Scouts is about empowering girls and young women to rise up as leaders in their communities.

Through the higher awards program in Girl Scouts, girls starting in fourth grade learn how to look into their community, find a need and look for a way they can make a difference. As girls develop, the program adjusts accordingly and girls are challenged to develop projects that will be of an even larger impact.

If you know a girl who would like to make her mark in our community, reach out to Membership Supervisor Nina Crabtree at ncrabtree@sdgirlscouts.org.

Check out some the girls who earned their higher awards this school year as they tell their own stories in words and pictures:

Kassidy's Mini Library

Hi, my name is Kassidy Lueken. I am 14 and currently a freshman at Brawley Union High School. This Girl Scout year I earned my Silver Award! I made "Kassidy's Mini Library." I love to read and I know other kids don't have easy access to free books, so I wanted to help with that. People are able to come get a book, they can keep it if they really want to, or return and grab another. I also received book donations to the library so that was cool!

I am proud of my accomplishments and am excited to begin work on the next level, the Girl Scout Gold Award!

Favorite recipes

Troop 7777 had tossed around ideas in the past, but the one we always came back to was a cookbook. A few recipes we made were pancakes, grilled cheese sandwiches and mini hamburgers. The tools we used were pie irons, a portable stove and a fire pit. We made the cookbook so that girls from other troops could try them and so our troop could cook them when we go camping. Girls from Troops 7777, 7270, 7038 and 7232 participated in this service project.

— Natalia Murillo

Feeding the hungry

As I did my Silver Award project in eighth grade, I needed to identify the issues in the community. The three basic needs in life are: food, shelter and clothing. I saw homeless people in our community. I wanted to help them, but it would need a lot of work, time and money to build them a shelter. So I thought of food. People need food for nourishment and sustenance. I am a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church. They feed the hungry every day. I was able to help in my own little way.

I prepared two loaves of ham and cheese sandwiches on a monthly basis for a year using my allowance, and I will continue doing so. To all eighth-graders out there whether you are in Girl Scouts or not, we can help the hungry neighbor by donating sandwiches.

Also, I wanted to extend helping further; Brawley Feed the Need required to fill in their monthly calendar for lunch donations. With this, I scheduled a lunch date and prepared a full meal. I went to Walmart and bought what I need with my money. I made three loaves of ham and cheese sandwiches and baked two 9 x 13 pan of brownies. I set them on individual plates with some potato chips and served our hungry neighbors. I want to do this again this summer.

What do I get from this experience aside from the Silver Award is the satisfaction I get and the people I helped. This is a way to making a better community to live in.

—Marie Jose

Keeping learning fun

My name is Crispina Flores Wyatt, from Troop 7011, and I have been a Girl Scout for four years. I enjoy being a Girl Scout because I have made new friends and learned new skills. To earn my Bronze Award I chose to build a bookshelf and fill it with school supplies and S.T.E.A.M. toys. I decided to donate it to the library because more kids can use it there. This helps my community in several ways: Little kids that don't know how to read yet have something to do, the toys are fun, but they are also learning while they are playing. I really liked that I was able to add a section for kids to get free school supplies!

