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Girl Scouts, your local heroes

Girl members and adult volunteers impact your community every day.

SACRAMENTO – Girl Scouts have been serving the community for nearly 100 years. Members are not just providing a short term service or solution for community needs; they are educated about the importance of looking deeper to fix the root cause of the problem.

Girls learn three keys to leadership: discover, connect and take action. They are encouraged to focus on taking action by identifying community needs, think of resourceful ways to solve problems, be advocates for themselves and others locally and globally, educate and inspire others, and feel empowered to make a difference. Girl Scouts promotes how necessary it is for girls to take action in their community so that girls will grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

During the 2009 – 2010 Girl Scout membership year, there has been an 11% increase in membership in the Kit Carson service area, which consists of members who live in East Sacramento, downtown and midtown. Here are some specific examples of how Girl Scouts in East Sacramento are impacting the community:

- An East Sacramento Girl Scout Troop organized a book drive and collected 1,000 books for a school in South Africa. After realizing they could not afford the shipping fees, the troop held an event that focused on teaching Girl Scouts about positive body image and self-esteem, and also collected enough money to ship the books to Africa.
- An East Sacramento Girl Scout volunteer saw the skill of sewing declining in young girls and decided to take it upon herself to teach girls how to sew. She collected sewing machines and books, recruited fashion professionals as guest speakers, and traveled around East Sacramento, downtown and midtown teaching Girl Scouts how to sew.
- A service unit held a penny drive event to raise money for Haiti disaster relief during World Thinking Day – a day when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides think about their sisters around the world and help raise funds to support girls and young women so they can realize their full potential. The girls were able to raise more than \$200 in pennies, educate the community about Haiti's need for help, and learn about countries all over the world.
- Local volunteers recently received the Creek Steward Award for their efforts to clean up the river and remove invasive plants during Creek Week.

The Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards are the highest awards in Girl Scouts and are presented to girls after a "Take Action Project" is completed. Take Action Projects must be measurable, sustainable and make a lasting difference in the community. Fifty-five Girl Scouts within the local Girl Scout council, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California, earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, which doubled from last year's number of recipients. They will be presented with the



award at the Recognition of Excellence Ceremony on May 16 at the Doubletree hotel in Sacramento, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Three girls from the GSHCC council recently won the Soroptimists' Violet Richardson Award for projects addressing community issues such as childhood obesity, educating seniors on modern technology and countless hours of community service.

About Girl Scouts

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts is still the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. The local council, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California is headquartered in Sacramento and serves nearly 29,000 girls in 18 counties* in Central California. For more information, visit www.girlscoutshcc.org.

* Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

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