

# Success Stories

When Girl Scout Cadette Troop 44738 found out that children were turned away from school in Linton Park, Jamaica, because they didn't have shoes, they decided to do an area-wide shoe drive. They eventually collected over 450 pairs of shoes; they had also collected books and some toys.

Meanwhile, Girl Scout Senior Troop 44290 was busy joining efforts by planning and earning money for their own trip to Jamaica to deliver all of the collected donations to the children themselves.

When they arrived, they were shocked. The children attended a four-room school for all students in the 1st-9th grades and only had five teachers for 250 students. The kids really enjoyed having their own books, but the troop, soon realized that some of the children couldn't read their books.

They soon modified the reading-themed games, songs, and crafts that they had planned and decided to break the kids into groups based on reading levels. They were amazed by how much the kids improved in their short week there.

Kate, a member of Troop 44738, said of the experience, "I never imagined that I would be going to a foreign country with my Girl Scouts. It was an amazing experience and I learned that taking risks can truly end up making a difference."



Girl Scout Brownie Troop 42310 (pictured above) collected more than 1,000 books for children in their hometown. They even had the opportunity to distribute the books themselves, helping each child choose the perfect book to meet their interests.



Next steps:

Read *"Take the Lead"* each month to receive more information!

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio 2008-2009

COUNCIL-WIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



**Girl Scouts.**

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio  
[www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org](http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org)



Questions? Please contact your regional program services department.



## WHAT IS OUR COUNCIL-WIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT?

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is excited to announce the 2008-2009 council-wide community service project.

### Goal:

- 100% troop participation in a service learning project.

### Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Will Provide:

- Monthly support materials and information, such as project examples, related badge work, links to the Girl Scout Journeys and suggested community organizations that your troop could work with through "Take the Lead".

**Theme:** It's Your World-Change It!

**Topics:** Your troop can choose between the following two topics:

1. Learning Centers (libraries, schools, after school programs, tutoring etc.)
2. Healthy Living (healthy lifestyles, education, diet, exercise, etc.)

They may also choose to incorporate both topics into their community service project.



"Leadership is knowing what you believe and putting it into action."

-Meaghan, 14,  
Girl Scout  
Cadette, Ohio

## WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM VOLUNTEERISM?

Service learning is different from volunteerism in that it combines community service with education to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

### Service Learning:

- Promotes learning through active participation in service experiences.
- Provides structured time for girls to reflect by thinking, discussing and/or writing about their service experience.
- Provides an opportunity for students to use skills and knowledge in real-life situations.
- Extends learning beyond the troop experience and into the community.
- Fosters a sense of caring for others.



### Some important attributes of our council-wide service project are:

- Addressing a genuine community need
- Community partnership
- Thorough preparation
- Girls have a voice
- Time for structured reflection



## HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

### Step 1: Choose a topic:

- Work with your girls to help them understand the two different topics.
- Discuss with your troop which topic they would like to pursue. You may want to have the girls do a little research on both to help make their decision.

### Step 2: Learn about the topic.

- Do related badge work.
- Conduct research on the internet, library, and around your community.

**Step 3:** Select a community organization for your troop to form a partnership with. Find out what their wants and needs are.

**Step 4:** Implement your community service project. It is up to your troop what your service project looks like. Their service can happen all in one day or be continuous throughout the year.

**Step 5:** Reflect and evaluate. This is a very important step in the process.

- What did the service mean to them?
- How did they impact their community?
- How can they take their service further?
- Was it successful?