

The Community Page



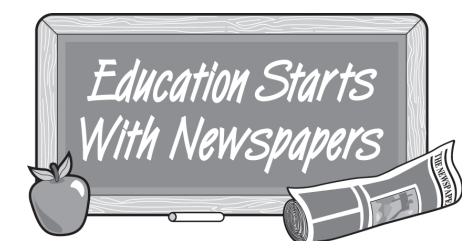
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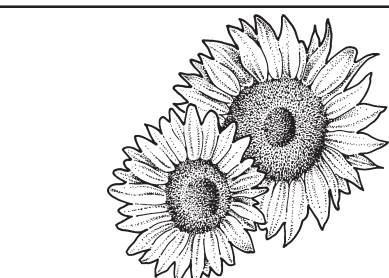


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Camp Kirwin, located near Kirwin and Stockton, Kan., is a favorite camping area of Goodland Girl Scouts. Adreinne West, Amanda Amthor, Hannah West, Jessica Swager and (front) Shawnie Butts and Madelyn Robinson sharpened their canoeing skills.

Girl Scouts started in 1912

By Eric Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News
Girl Scouts first met 90 years ago next week, March 12, 1912. Eighteen girls gathered in Savannah, Ga., with founder Juliette Gordon Low.

Girl Scout Week, observed this year as March 10-16, commemorates the 90th anniversary of the founding of the program in the United States.

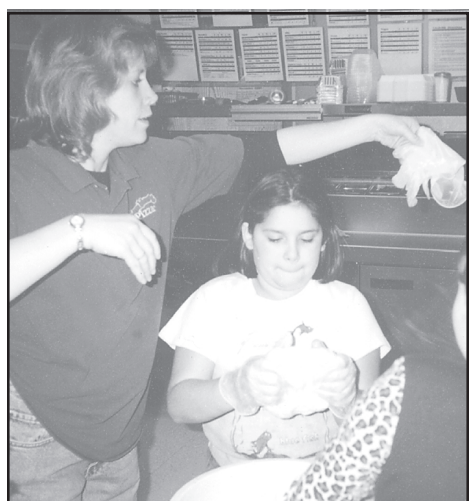
"Juliette Gordon Low wanted every girl to learn new skills and have new experiences. When she began planning the first Girl Scout troop meeting she said, 'I have something for all the girls of Savannah and all of America,'" said Linda Mills, executive director of the Girl Scouts' Sunflower Council. "Ninety years later, we're still offering opportunities to help girls grow strong."

In the early years, the girls made their own uniforms of middy blouses and long skirts out of blue Indigo cotton.

They earned badges in electrical work, farming, telegraphy, sports and engineering, in addition to the more "lady-like" endeavors of the era.

Girl Scouts volunteered their services during World War I by working in hospitals, staffing railroad station canteens, and collecting peach pits for use in gas masks. The first official sale of commercially baked Girl Scout cookies took place in 1936.

By 1938, girls were organized into Brownie, Intermediate and Senior age levels. Organization programs in the '60s and '70s focused on overcoming prejudice and building friendships with people of all ages, reli-



Goodland Mayor Tom Rohr officially proclaimed the week of March 10-16 as Girl Scouts 90th Anniversary Week in the City of Goodland. Witnessing the proclamation (from left) were local scouts: Jessica Bauman, Jordan Stasser, Heather West, Paige Seeger, Holly Kibel, Julica Bonsall, Annabelle Oss, Amanda Amthor, Jackie Armstrong, Sidney Dirks and Audrey Titus. Michelle Cooper, owner of Goodland's Gambino's Pizza, (below) assists Venessa Perez in shaping pizza dough.

gions, classes and races.

By the early '70s, the organization launched Eco-Action, a nationwide environmental education and improvement program.

Emphasis on personal fitness, science, technology and the arts, increased. In 1984, a new Daisy Girl Scout age level for 5-year-olds was established, and Girl Scouts adopted both new uniforms and a contemporary logo.

By the '90s, Girl Scouts reached the 3 million mark in its membership, establishing itself as the largest organization for girls, with over 300 councils nationwide. Today membership exceeds 3.7 million girls and adult leaders.

In the new millennium, the organization has established a research institute, received government funding to address violence against girls, and is addressing the "digital divide" with learning activities that encourage girls to go into science, math and technology fields.

"The 90th anniversary is not just a time to reflect on our accomplishments," said Mills, "but more importantly to move forward to make sure that every girl, everywhere can develop into tomorrow's leaders."

Girl Scouts nationwide have joined together to actively participate in environmental protection, anti-drug abuse education, lit-

eracy awareness, anti-violence initiatives, and after-school safety projects for latch-key kids.

Today, as when founded in 1912, Girl Scouts USA helps cultivate values, social conscience and self-esteem in young girls, while also teaching them critical life skills that will enable them to succeed as adults.

In Girl Scouting, girls discover the fun, friendship and the power of girls working together.

In this area, Jack Bullard is the Service Unit Manager for Goodland. Ruth Ontiveroz leads girls grades 7 to 12 (Cadets).

Lori Amthor and Jeannie Topf lead Junior groups.

Lori Titus leads second graders, and Tammy Mouchette leads the first graders, in Brownies.

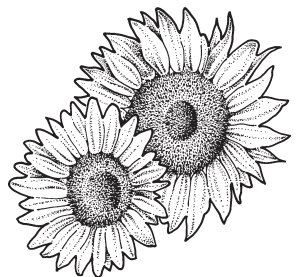
The Kindergarten group (Daisy) is led by Jessica Loya.

The service unit leaders meet every second Thursday of the month in the Scout room of the First United Methodist Church education building.

This month, Girl Scouts are finishing up their annual cookie drive.

Preparations for the annual banquet are in the making for April.

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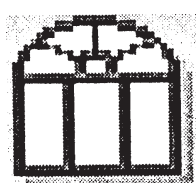


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