

Scouts enjoy cookie kickoff

All nighter gets girls ready for annual fund raiser

There were a lot of squeals and bouncing but not much sleep during an all-night Girl Scout "cookie kickoff" from 6:30 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Saturday.

The Scouts, leaders and volunteers gathered at the Golden Age Center to plan their annual sales campaign and have a little fun.

Sarah Howland, Junior and Cadet leader, said 34 scouts in Daisies, kindergarten and first grade; Brownies, second and third grade; Juniors, fourth and fifth; and Cadettes, six through eighth, took part in the fun and games.

And fun there was, coloring and playing and enjoying Wii games and a movie. But, there was also work. Girls helped prepare pizza for supper and worked on their goals for cookie sales.

There also was some learning, as hair stylist Mary Long of Shear Creations talked to the girls about hair and skin care. School nurse Jo Mason discussed nutrition.

The big focus of the night was cookies, however. Each girl set of goal for how many boxes she could sell.

The Scouts have seven varieties this year, from the ever-popular Thin Mints, Caramel Delights and Peanut Butter Patties, to the old standbys of Peanut Butter Sandwiches and Shortbread, to choices like Lemonades, Thanks-A-Lot and Shout Outs. All sell for \$3.50 a box.

Leaders helping with the all nighter included Mrs. Howland, Daisy leader Kurt Anderson, Brownie leader Joni Marshall and high school leader Leslie Plotts, although no high school girls were able to attend. Other volunteers included Becky Tate and Deb Inman.

Becky Ayers, the area recruitment leader, and Terese Vontz, service unit manager, helped out also.

By Saturday morning, the girls had their order forms and were ready to go out selling — or just go home and take a nap.

"The older ones stayed up pretty much the whole night," Mrs. Howland said.

Sales will go on through Sunday, March 11, she said, and the cookies should arrive between Feb. 28 and March 11.

For those who don't get an order in, however, the girls will have a booth at Raye's Grocery sometime in late February or early March.

Mrs. Howland said that for those who want to help out but don't want or need cookies, the Scouts suggest a program they call "cookie sharing." You can buy cookies for the food pantry or to give to troops overseas or to charities.

The Scouts always need volunteers, she said. Anyone who can help should call Mrs Ayers at (785) 259-6743.



PUTTING ON THE SAUCE for mini pizzas kept Cassidy Gillespie busy on Friday night.



RAVYN VAN VLEET (above) was hard at work coloring while McKenna Fortin (right) got something out of her overnight bag during the Girl Scout "cookie kickoff."



PLAYING ON THE FLOOR, Calista Isbell (above front right) and Jacie Fortin (front left) rocked back and forth while Lily Marine (back right) and Celianna Shobe did the same. Back in the kitchen, Alana Raile (right) checked out a spoon she was using to spread pizza sauce.



Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes