



The Skillman Foundation Presents

YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

Girl Scouts Taking Action to Make the World a Better Place

Girls who join Girl Scouts have lots of ways to have fun. They also have lots of ways to serve the community. All year long, Girl Scouts work in their troops or by themselves or to help make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts are active in the community in many ways—from helping the environment to helping kids in need to helping animals to raising money for charity.

Girl Scouts also learn about the diversity and heritage of their communities through events such as the Festival of Cultures and Communities that will be hosted by the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan later this year.

Here are some examples of how Girl Scouts help make their communities better:

Helping the Environment

Girl Scouts work in their own neighborhoods, planting trees and flowers to improve the environment. They also get together with others for big projects like “Rouge Rescue” (cleaning up the parks along the Rouge River) and Earth Day events.

Helping Kids in Need

Girl Scouts do everything they can for kids in need. They make gifts for sick children and help create blankets and quilts for babies who are in the hospital. The girls also help out at food banks, packing boxes or preparing meal packages for hungry families. Some troops even bake bread!



Helping Furry Friends

Animals in shelters waiting to find homes get special attention from Girl Scouts. The scouts create toys and bake treats for dogs and cats, and make “kitty forts” that help cats feel cozy inside their cages.

Helping Raise Money

Wherever there’s a race or a walk to raise funds for a charity, there are usually Girl Scouts involved. Troops make signs and banners, hand out water and snacks and clap and cheer to keep everyone going.

“Have a Heart, Lend a Hand”

One of the biggest events of the year for local Girl Scouts is called “Have a Heart, Lend a Hand.” It’s organized by girls for girls! The older Girl Scouts work with charities to find out what they need, then help younger girls create craft items that the charities can use. The younger girls “pay” to participate by

donating cans or boxes of food. For the most recent event, young scouts gave more than 2,000 food items! The crafts they made were donated to senior citizen centers, veterans and military service organizations, children’s hospitals and animal shelters. And to help “give back” to the Earth, each girl went home with a baby evergreen tree to plant.

Festival of Cultures & Communities

Girl Scouts in all troops that make up the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan will be getting together for this event. It’s theme is “A Journey in the Footsteps of Our Sisters,” and it will give girls an opportunity to learn about the history, culture and heritage of their own community and the communities of other troops. Troops will participate as presenters or as visitors. Troops that present displays will each showcase a culture, country or local institution connected to their community.

Never Too Young to Help

Any girl who is old enough to go to school can join Girl Scouts, and every Girl Scout must promise “to help people at all times.” Girl Scouts can earn special badges for their service projects, and can work toward earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the Silver Award and the Gold Award.

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

www.gssem.org
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THINK ABOUT SERVING OTHERS

Every Girl Scout promises “to help people at all times,” and troops in Southeastern Michigan organize community service activities that help the environment, kids in need, senior citizens, animals and a variety of other groups and individuals. With family or friends, talk about ways students and families can help others in the community, as the Girl Scouts do. Then brainstorm a project you or your family would like to do to help others. Contact the Girl Scouts or another community group to see how you might put your ideas to work.



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