

Library Foundation & Girl Scouts Team Up to Bring Smiles to Children Through Books

Seven Girl Scouts build library for kids to enjoy

When it came time to complete their Bronze Award, Girl Scouts in Troop 937 knew they wanted to help other children in their community.

The troop, 5th graders and one 6th grader from St. Peters, partnered with the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation program Ready to Read. The troop built a bookshelf and activity table mini library, complete with books, puzzles and games, and plan to donate it to the Crider Center for Mental Health in early December.

Troop leader Donna Jones said the troop used money earned through the Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Programs to pay for the project. "The girls spent the last year and a half planning the award project. They happily collected books and educational toys to stock the mini library."

The girls will refresh the collection by adding new books and toys a few times a year.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest national award a Girl Scout Junior, girls in fourth and fifth grades, may earn. It is a group-earned award and requires each girl to complete a minimum of 20 hours on a Bronze Award Take Action Project. Girls focus on something they care about that they would like to improve within their Girl Scout or local community.

The troop coordinated efforts with Karen Englert, Extension Services Specialist at the St. Charles City-County Library Foundation. "These girls have worked so hard saving and collecting items for this project," she said. "We specifically paired them with the pediatric mental health location, which is a great need in our community. The idea of kids helping kids is so powerful, especially for Girl Scouts."

"It feels good to do community service and be recognized for our hard work," Girl Scout Peyton Jones said.

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