



Growing Through Service



"Growing Through Service" consists of an initial bar which represents a garden plot where seeds of kindness are planted. Each project may be represented by a flower added to the garden. The service project bar and flowers may be purchased at the Vernon Hills Regional Service Center Girl Scout shop.

Service is an inherent part of the Girl Scout Program. Service is deeply rooted in the four program goals:

- ↔ Developing self-potential ↔ Developing values
- ↔ Relating to others ↔ Contributing to society

Each service project provides opportunities for girls to become more aware of themselves and how one individual can impact the community. Children learn by doing. While participating in service activities, girls reach out and see the needs of others. They learn commitment and tolerance.

Service activities help girls develop a sense of concern and social responsibility. By helping fill the needs of others, girls widen their view of their role in the world. Many times service projects provide the first opportunity for giving away a special craft project to make someone else happy. This simple act is living the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Through service activities girls practice active citizenship. "You are a citizen of the world, your country, your state, and your community. As a citizen, you have rights and responsibilities. When you do a service project, you are acting as a responsible citizen." (***Junior Girl Scout Handbook***)

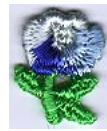
While doing service, girls learn to interact and communicate with others who may be unlike themselves. Through this affirmative living girls will "grown up thinking of their own lives in positive terms and are more likely to value the lives of others as well." There is probably no more important task parents (and the rest of the village) face than raising children not only to tolerate but to respect the differences among people and to recognize the rewards that come from serving others.

(It Takes A Village, Hillary Clinton)

Return completed form when purchasing "Growing Through Service" bar and/or flowers, or mail to:

**Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
Vernon Hills Regional Service Center
650 N. Lakeview Parkway, P.O. Box 8116
Vernon Hills, IL 60061-8116**

Attn.: *Growing Through Service*



Growth and Progression

Not all service projects should be repeated year after year. Providing service to the same organization over a period of time allows a relationship to develop between girls and the recipients. It also supports progression. As girls increase their skills, projects may be longer and more complex. Group discussion before, during, and after a project is very important.



International Dimensions of Girl Scouting

As international barriers come down, our world is becoming much more accessible. Refer to newspapers, magazines, TV, and the Internet for global needs. Discuss the need with the girls and plan a project that could help members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) or family/community at large who have suffered from a disaster.



Understand and Respect Others

Service should include understanding, respect, and inclusion of other cultures, ages, religions, and socioeconomic groups. Providing service needs to be a positive experience for both the giver and the receiver. Model open, positive, inclusive behavior. Keep discussion open while planning a project. There may be negative feelings or prejudices that need to be addressed as a part of planning. Use the Girl Scouts of the USA resource *Valuing Differences* for program ideas.

Understanding people with varying abilities comes from experience and exposure. Pre-project activities can prepare and teach girls about specific limitations. Use the Girl Scouts of the USA resource *Focus On Ability* for program ideas. Other resources are available through your VISTA.



**Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago
and Northwest Indiana**

Growing Through Service **Service Project Report Form**

Troop # _____ VISTA #/Community Name _____

Leader's Name _____

Leader's Phone # _____ # of girls _____

Girl Scout age level (circle one)

Daisy Brownie Junior Cadette Senior Ambassador

1. Describe the service project.
2. In what ways did the girls participate in the planning of the service project?
3. What impact do the girls believe the service project had on the group/community?
4. How did the girls grow by being involved in and carrying out the service project?