

Beginning to Make a Change

By: Troop 8365 & the Director of Communications



To us, being a Girl Scout means to help people and make a change. We are already starting to do that.

We are Girl Scout Juniors, and this year, we've already done a lot. We made posters and announced to our school that we would be collecting canned food to donate to Making Spirits Bright in Sheboygan. We collected over 10 grocery bags full of canned goods that we went and donated ourselves, and then saw the lights together. We made boxes for collecting pennies and were able to make a \$75 donation to the Humane Society in Sheboygan. Every year, we spend a day cleaning up a beach. We went on a fall hike and enjoyed being outdoors. We worked on earning our jewelry badge and learned to make jewelry. We just completed our Get Moving Journey, and now we are going to earn our Bronze Award!

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is one of Girl Scouts Highest Awards. Girl Scout Juniors spend time exploring their community and choosing a project that tackles an issue or problem and works to address or solve it.

It can be hard to narrow it down to one idea. After we completed our journey and explored our community, we had a lot of ideas and were passionate about a lot of issues. We were interested in animals, helping the elderly, collecting hats and mittens for those in need, creating a little free library or pantry, food waste, garbage and clean up, anti-smoking, don't drink and drive, standing up against bullying, and global warming and pollution. We also brainstormed different things we could do to spread

the word and work on our project. We wanted to make posters to raise awareness. We thought about hosting a bake sale to raise money, and use our cookie sale proceeds as well. We thought we could write speeches and say our speeches at school or at other events to help raise awareness. We even thought about creating one big event for our issue (kind of like a carnival) that would have activities for all ages, color your own posters and more.

We knew we needed to narrow our ideas down and choose one thing to focus on so we could make the most impact. To be fair to everyone in our troop, we voted on the ideas. And that's when the topic for our Bronze Award was decided. We will be doing something with animals for our Bronze Award.

For some of us in the troop, animals are our favorite thing in life. They are cute and people love them. That's one of the reasons we wanted to help animals. But we also want to help animals because there are a lot of stray animals. Some animals are abused. Animals are left in broken down houses or people move and leave their animals behind to starve. These animals end up in shelters. We want to help the animals in shelters because they don't always get enough time with people.

"The animals in shelters are lonely and need love," says Kaitlyn.

We would love to be able to take some animals home from the shelter and foster them, so everyone in our troop would have a chance. We would repeat this until all the animals felt what it's like to have a family. This might not be possible, but it is one idea we had to help give animals the love they need and a home.

We have already visited the humane society this year. Our next step to earning our Bronze Award will be to have a representative from the humane society come to our next troop meeting so we can talk about options for helping. We can't wait to show you what we accomplish!

Like we said earlier, being a Girl Scout means to help people and make a change. We're ready to do that! But being a Girl Scout also means a lot more. It means to be loyal. It means to have fun. It means to become better people and make better people. It means to help make the world and your community a better place. It means to be there for others. It means to be a leader. It means to do what's right, to tell the truth, to be fair, to be kind, and to be hardworking.

"My opinion about being a Girl Scout is that I am very lucky," says Grace.