

LOCAL ACHIEVERS

Medfield Girl Scouts receive Gold Award

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts is proud to announce Medfield Girl Scouts Emily Cadman, Maya Kiel, Nicole Pflueger, Eleanor Pope, Erin Robartes, Siouxa Roode and Megan Sano received their Girl Scout Gold Award pins at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Marlborough. The event was attended by family, friends and Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts CEO Ruth N. Bramson and Board President Peggy Stevens.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve. The Gold Award is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community whether local or global, creates change, and is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project—it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills. Only about five percent of all Girl Scouts earn this award each year.

Emily Cadman and **Nicole Pflueger** worked together on their "Love of Language" project. Cadman and Pflueger created a Foreign Language club to help immerse elementary school aged children in French and Spanish. The club focused not only on the language but also on the similarities in culture as well as

the differences to give the children a worldly perspective. Each time the group met, a new lesson plan was created and implemented, such as fun hands-on games and activities. They also put together a binder with the activities so that volunteers can carry on the club in the future.

Maya Kiel's "Temple Etz Chaim Library Project" addressed the lack of special activities outside the classroom at Temple Etz Chaim due to budget cuts. Kiel and volunteers created a schedule for visiting classes every Sunday from December to May for three hours each week. During the class, a book would be read and Kiel would allow the children to check out a book if they desired. She created a system for checking out books as well as a book inventory for the lending library. Maya held two book drives and attended the weekly young adult religious school classes to hand out flyers to advertise for a Teen Advisory Board for the temple. Kiel got three dedicated members who will be responsible for keeping the library going each year as well as the Advisory Board.

Eleanor Pope's "Growing for Gold" project addressed the issue of sustainable agriculture and lack of support at the Victory garden

in Medfield. Together with the help of volunteers, Pope cultivated a relationship between the Medfield high school, the Wheelock Elementary School, the community and the environment. She collaborated with volunteers from her high school to ensure that Growing for Gold permanently added volunteer opportunities at the Victory garden on a weekly basis. Pope also set out to educate the public on the health and economical advantages and benefits of growing, buying, and eating locally, which will ultimately help reduce Medfield's carbon food-print.

Erin Robartes' "Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area Project" brought awareness to the area by constructing a sign to mark the property. Robartes consulted designers before creating and installing the sign. Robartes also organized guided hikes through the land and researched historical aspects, sending this information to the local newspaper to attract hikers and then guide them, with the help of volunteers, through the area. Lastly, she worked to put the information online via the Friends of Medfield Forest and Trails website to continue providing the community with this information.

Siouxa Roode's "Nursing



Home Garden Club” project focused on bringing a fun and stimulating activity to the residents of a local nursing home. Over the course of several weeks, Roode and volunteers worked with residents to plant seeds and proper watering procedures. Roode also created raised planting beds in order to make the project accessible to wheelchair-bound residents. Together, they transplanted the flowers, herbs, and veggies that had begun to grow

into the raised beds. In addition to the gardening experience, Roode was able to spend quality time with the elderly and they traded stories while making new memories. The garden now exists for the residents to continually use and tend to giving them a rewarding activity to look forward to each planting season.

Megan Sano’s “Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area: Beautification, Identification, and Awareness” project worked to make the Saw

Mill Conservation land more user friendly by clearing trails, cutting back trees and performing general landscaping to the area. Sano also designed a pamphlet that included a map and the geography of the land, along with the Girl Scout history of the land. The trails were marked and mapped, and she created a sign in box that was installed at the site. The map and trails will be maintained by the town.