

Suburban Life

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Scouting

Troop uses cookie sale profits for camping and more camping

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

MONEY THE GIRL Scouts earned through their cookie sales in March has been counted and distributed netting \$800 to members of Troop 3273.

Some troops agonize for months on what they will do with that money, others have the money spent long before they get it. For the third, fourth- and fifth-grade scouts who attend Highmeadow Common Campus, it was no contest. The money will be spent on camping until it runs out.

The girls' first trip was to Camp Narrin, which was free for all 20 of them. Next on the agenda is an overnight at Cranbrook for workshops that will help them earn a science badge; then a session of platform tent camping in a camp near Pinckney; and after that a canoe trip for all of the members' families.

All of this won't be free — going to Camp Narrin was a celebration of the money we earned. That \$800

sounds like a lot, but it isn't when it's divided by 20. It's easy to go through if you don't budget carefully," said Pat Host, who has been leader of the troop since her daughter Amanda, now a Junior Scout, became a Brownie.

Host's troop is highly visible, with the members' vests heavily covered with earned badges, designating them as an extremely active troop. During their time at Camp Narrin last month the girls worked on several badges simultaneously.

"We can do this because we have five consultants, trained by the council, that I can call on for help. We're in extremely good shape that way. We can do intensive skill-learning work out in the wilds, cook outdoors, learn new songs, clean the latrines, lay trails and combine it with a lot of outdoor fun. I don't know anyone that has as many trained consultants as we do," she said, "and added to that we have an unusually high percentage of parent participation."

HOST WORKS with two assistants, Leah Berger and Amy Kern. "We are always over-pro-

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grammed, no matter what we are doing. We just don't have time to kill and we don't, even though it's sometimes a push to keep five steps ahead of the girls," she said.

Troop 3273 is now a combination of several troops so the three leaders work with the scouts getting them started on any number of different badges, updating some of their skills, plan the fun things, and take a continuous round of votes on what the members want to do with their time and money, and in what way they want to give service.

This is because the Girl Scouts run their own troop with brainstorming, nominations, and many times secret-ballot voting.

In less than a year's time members of Troop 3273 stapled 2,000 "Just Say No" ribbons to flyers that were delivered with the Farmington Observer. They served as tour guides and served in the tea room for Heritage House's pre-Christmas event. They trimmed thousands of Campbell Soup labels that were collected to trade in for computer software to be used by Highmeadow. They adopted a family to give presents and food through the Salvation Army. They packed 60 bag lunches for the homeless who stayed in a shelter provided by Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

"We were out our 'treasury' with the giving," Host said. "The cookie money will help keep us solvent for the rest of the year."

AN ITEM OF pride for Host is that Troop 3273 designed the Girl Scouts' Tenderfoot Wide Game patch.

"We call it a game patch because to earn it you must have acquired skills that are no longer required," she said. "So it's an old traditional badge. We designed it for sentiment. These are for sale to anyone in our neighborhood," she said of the Girl Scout Neighborhood that includes 28 troops.

"We also designed the Thinking Day patch that is earned by scouts who participated in this year's Thinking Day," she said of the annual event that is a commitment by the scouts to peace and international friendship.

Host is already thinking of next year.

"We'll be taking trips to Holland or to Mackinac Island or maybe both. The girls are talking about it now," she said.

Host comes by her troop-leader position quite naturally. Her mother was the leader of her troop when she was a girl. She can be reached at 471-6865.

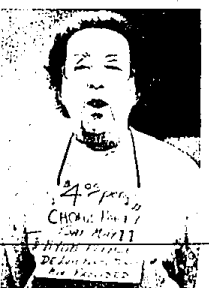
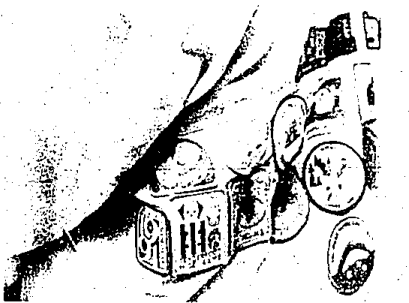


Pat Host's jacket is very Girl Scout unofficial, but it's her favorite, emblazoned with patches that bring back good memories of her participation in a host of varied Girl Scout activities.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 3273 gathered around a camp fire from left Sarah Haeu-ler, Kristin Horner, Tricia Land, Kristen Oles-

son, Collette Burcar, Kim Domke, Anne Nagan, Amanda Host, Emily Schultze, Michelle Bowman, Meghan Fay and Kim Hickey.



Lu Davis, Farmington Community Chorus member in charge of hospitality, finds a way to make her announcement as easy as possible, and save her voice for singing.

Chorus sings 'Hit Me With a Hot Note'

Members of Farmington Community Chorus are on the countdown now with last-minute details and dress rehearsals leading to showtime for their 11th spring concert called "Hit Me With a Hot Note."

Curtain is 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 10-11, in Farmington High School, 32000 Shawansee, when the 70 voices perform for two hours taking their audiences back to the sounds of the Big Bands, Tin Pan Alley and to Broadway for a salute to America's most beloved songwriters.

The nostalgia comes from composers George Gershwin, Fats Waller, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin and Leonard Bernstein.

The Perfect Blend, a select group of 16 voices, performs. No Farmington Community Chorus concert would be complete without a few comic numbers. Solos, duets and small ensembles round out the play-bill.



Dr. Harry Langsford is guest conductor for the spring concert.

Guest conductor for the concert is Dr. Harry M. Langsford, a Farmington Hills resident and the former director of Wayne State University's award-winning Men's Glee Club and Chamber Singers. Langsford will conduct the chorus' presentation of Randall Thompson's "Choose Something Like a Star."

Director of the chorus is Steve SeGraves. Accompanist is Susan Garr.

The chorus has another full schedule for the spring and summer. After the May concert, it will perform its traditional mini-show for the adult students whose education was interrupted at an early age, and who will get their high school diplomas in June.

In July, the chorus will perform on center stage for patrons of the Founders Festival and at an outdoor concert scheduled on the grounds of The Community Center.

In August the full chorus will be giving a free concert in Heritage



Steve SeGraves is director of the chorus and Kathy Hall is accompanist. Both studied under Dr. Harry Langsford when the professor of music was director of Wayne State University's award-winning Men's Glee Club and Chamber Singers.

Tickets for the annual spring concert are \$5 or \$4 for senior adults and students. Children 10 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available from all chorus members, in Park City of Farmington Hills, Department of Special Services, 31555 11 Mile Road, during 10 p.m. - 9 p.m. hours or at the door.



Farmington Community Chorus members practice every Tuesday year-round and have a year-round schedule of performances.