

Conservation of Missouri Bats

Kyla Vazquez has been a Girl Scout for 11 years and is in Troop 830 in Service Unit 646. She is currently a senior at Blue Springs High School.



Kyla Vazquez

Blue Springs, Missouri



Kyla's Gold Award project addressed the issue of bat habitat loss and poor reputation as a creature to fear by the public. For her project, she built bat houses at the Lakeside Nature Center in her community as well as an informational poster about the ecological importance of this animal. To educate the public, in addition to the poster she made available at the Center, she presented to families on Earth Day, helping the community understand the four types of bats in the Kansas City area and the issues they face.

Kyla worked with the Lakeside Nature Center to come up with a plan to improve living conditions for bats in the area and to educate the public. While she faced some obstacles with communication, she found that doing something as an individual can make a big impact on the community. She learned what others were doing to help combat "White Nose Syndrome," a major issue for bats throughout the country, and how her project helped the local population. In addition to improving the lives of bats and educating the public, she learned time management skills and how to communicate with a wide audience. Her project will sustain through the Lakeside Nature Center that will maintain the bat houses and keep the poster and materials available for future visitors.

Because of Girl Scouts... I was able to travel internationally for the first time.