



Grace Cote

Overland Park, Kansas



Project BOOK (Books Open Opportunities for Knowledge)

Grace Cote has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and is an individual Girl Scout in Service Unit 674. She is currently a senior at Blue Valley North High School.

For her Gold Award Project, Grace addressed the issue of illiteracy in the United States. Grace was disheartened when she learned that 20% of all American adults are illiterate. With this disheartening statistic, Grace was inspired to support literacy with children. She worked with Operation Breakthrough by creating 100 take-home bags for the children they serve all in Kansas City's urban core. Each book bag included a book and corresponding activities for the students to complete with their parents, in the hopes that children will foster a love of reading that can be maintained throughout their lives. In order to create bags that would be effective, Grace met with various educators, conducted research and spent time at the schools the bags would be distributed to.

Grace's work will be sustained beyond her involvement through the teachers and administration at Operation Breakthrough, who have agreed to continue cycling the bags through elementary classrooms in years to come. She also created a digital folder with each activity so that the activities can be easily reprinted by teachers. Grace learned more about her community on a local, national and global scale. She learned why this issue has persisted, and how individuals can approach them to create a brighter future for the next generation.

Because of Girl Scouts, I am a confident leader who gives back to her community.