



Michelle Gager

Smithville, MO



Making the World a Brighter Place

Michelle Gager has been a Girl Scout for 13 years as a member of Troop 32 in Service Unit 601. She is currently a senior at Smithville High School.

Michelle's Gold Award project addressed the need for warming and lighting supplies for the homeless population in Kansas City, and a lack of education about general needs of this community. She discovered that an item that was lacking for distribution to the homeless population was something to help keep them warm and provide light. Michelle created more than 1,000 candles from cat food cans and donated wax and then gave them to Uplift, an organization focused on not only providing essentials to homeless individuals, but also providing compassion. Michelle also educated students at her high school about the needs of homeless individuals and how they could better support these community members with a feature in their yearbook.

Michelle worked with Uplift, Kitty Cat Connection, Savers, Hillcrest and Smithville High School to gather materials, create the candles and educate teens. Thanks to Michelle's work, she was able to provide Uplift with the candle supply they needed to provide warmth and light to homeless individuals this winter. In addition, by educating her peers, she hopes to continue combatting the issue by raising awareness and getting more people involved in making a difference. She has also recruited the Interact Club at her school to continue making candles as a service project in the future. While challenges arose with materials, she was able to find creative solutions thanks to her experience as a Girl Scout.

Because of Girl Scouts... I have been able to have experiences that I would not have had otherwise. I have been able to go to summer camps, rappel, rock climb, horseback ride and camp with other girls. I believe one of the most important things Girl Scouts has done for me is it has shaped me into a more confident person. I have had a lot of different leadership experiences that have shaped me into the woman I am today.

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