



Celebrate Gold

Joy Goehring

Greenwood, MO



The Joy of Scouting: Flag Retirement Boxes for the Community

Joy Goehring was a girl member for 13 years in Troop 1320 in Service Unit 650. She is currently a sophomore at Fort Hays State University studying Business Marketing and Graphic Design.

Joy's project identified a need in the community to appropriately retire American flags. She previously noticed that residents were unsure how to retire a flag and often threw them away or left them to collect dust on a shelf. Joy built and installed two secure drop boxes for community members to leave their flags for a proper retirement ceremony at the Greenwood, Missouri City Hall and at Lee's Summit West High School by the JROTC Wing. Additionally, to ensure there were community members available to retire the flags, Joy held an ice cream social where she taught younger Girl Scout troops how to hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

After just a few days, one drop box already had five flags inside to retire. Joy's project not only provides a needed resource for people to retire flags, but also continues a meaningful Girl Scout tradition of holding Flag Retirement Ceremonies with other troops in her community.



Because of Girl Scouts...I am Joy. Girl Scouts has played an instrumental role in shaping my vision for life, filling me with values such as empathy, problem-solving, self-empowerment, tenacity, and teamwork. GS gave me a sense of belonging in a new school and a group of sisters who remained my friends through high school. It broadened my horizons, sparking curiosity to help me find my passions and embrace the endless possibilities that lie ahead. It gave me a deeper appreciation for nature and made me a leader through empathy, kindness, and service. As I continue my journey, I will carry the lessons and values of Girl Scouts in everything I do; I'm grateful for the foundation Scouting has provided in shaping the person I am today.