

# Girl Scouts go green at camp

Participants learn about green living and giving back

By Brigitta Burks  
Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD TWP. — Girl Scouts from Hamilton, Fairfield, and Fairfield and West Chester townships gathered this week at Camp Timber Hill to learn about green living, sing songs and play games.

More than 290 girls ages 2 to 18 took part in archery, went “creeking” and made bird feeders from used shoes as part of the environmentally themed camp. The camp also included 55 program aides, young women who helped run activities, and a small unit of boys who were sons of the volunteers.

The camp’s theme of “Making the World a Better Place” was partly inspired from the Girl Scout goal of building women leaders with courage, confidence and character who strive to improve the world, said camp coordinator Patti McDonald.

Improving the environment was another goal of the camp, added tor Beth Wright.

The Girl Scouts will receive a Leave No Trace badge on Friday, June 20, after they prove they can “reduce, reuse, recycle,” a camp mantra.

Some environmentally-friendly activities included teaching the girls how to make no-impact camp fires with aluminum foil and separating recyclables after lunch, McDonald said.

“I love this stuff. It’s like giving back,” Wright’s daughter, Amber, a program aide and an eighth-grader



Madelyn Howe converts an old tennis shoe into a bird feeder during Girl Scout camp Wednesday, June 18, at Camp Timber Hill. Staff photo by Nick Daggy

at Fairfield Middle School, said.

Becoming a program aide is the goal of many of the girls at camp, McDonald said.

“I have to tell the girls, ‘You have to wait your turn,’ ” she said.

Telling older girls what to do can be difficult for program aides, but working with the younger girls is easier, said e Stephanie Dykes, a sophomore at Fairfield High School.

“I let the pixies (2- to 5-year-olds) use chalk on my back and face. They’re so cute, I just let them,” Dykes said.

Many of the younger girls have

taken the recycling message to heart.

“If there was no recycling, the world would not be very nice, kind of like it is now,” said Sydney Schultheiss, a fifth-grader at Sacred Heart.

Although green living won’t be the theme next year, the Girl Scouts will continue to recycle next year, McDonald said. Fliers for the camp, which costs \$45-\$65 depending on age, should be sent to Girl Scout troops next March, she said.

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