

Wilmette Girl Scouts—News of the Troops

Iceland Provides Girl Scouts With Their Thrift Idea

What does thrift mean to a girl in her teens?

From January 17 to 23, when the National Thrift committee makes its annual demonstration of devotion to this neglected virtue, some three hundred thousand Girl Scouts, cooperating heartily in the celebrations, will try to give the answer to that question.

To most adults thrift suggests rather a negative quality, implying conservation rather than creation of resources. But the Girl Scouts, with the vigor of their age (never over eighteen), prefer to remember the Icelandic origin of the word, which means vigorous purposeful growth.

Girls Work and Earn

Very pat, then, from the Girl Scout standpoint comes rule number one of the ten suggested by the National Thrift committee for a happy and successful life. Work and earn! Every girl must work during school and study hours, but earning is a different matter. Yet Girl Scouts, particularly nowadays when parents have little to contribute to troop chests, must find ways of filling their own treasuries.

There are cookies to be made and sold. The spring flower garden can be profitable as well as beautiful. A fair or bazaar can be fun in itself and a source of the wherewithal for more fun, possibly in camp, later. Patchwork quilts, made out of mother's rag-bag contents, have been known to produce cash many a time. Bayberry candles which cost almost nothing to make, bring in a useful penny.

Splitting That Penny

Then, when the honest penny has been turned, comes the matter of splitting it six different ways, perhaps, and all good. That requires study, rule number two of the Thrift committee, in order to plan a proper budget, the keeping of which is rule three. Every Girl Scout automatically obeys rule four when she takes her second-class test and opens a bank account with a quarter, at least.

Rules five, six, seven and eight are not for Girl Scouts. They learn what life insurance means; how to run their own homes; what making a will entails and why one should invest in securities. But not until later probably will they own the insurance and the home and the securities and have something to make a will about.

Each Troop Pays Cash

Rule number nine they obey at all times, for no troop ever gets in debt. It does not buy until it has the money to pay the bill. As for rule number ten—community service is part of the regular Girl Scout program. The first essential of community service nowadays is a willingness to share with one's neighbor. Even if you have not the money, you always have energy, good will, time and thought to give. Thrift is as necessary in using these human resources as in dispensing the material ones of goods and cash. The Girl Scouts are thrifty in that sense, too. They give generously of themselves. Good earners, good spenders—one must be both, in order to be a good Girl Scout.

FIRST-AID COURSE

A Red Cross course in first aid will be given by Mrs. H. J. Dernehl after February 1. All leaders desiring such a course for their girls are asked to notify the office.

Wilmette Troop News

The middle of January finds the Wilmette troops recovered from holiday ennui, and launched into a vigorous program of scouting. Those who are not second class scouts have pledged themselves to become so during 1933, and so a good part of the troop meeting is being used to master the second class requirements.

Troop 1

The meeting of Troop 1, Thursday, January 12, proved to be a very interesting and helpful one. Practically the entire evening was spent with a game pertaining to Citizen merit badge. It was conducted by Lieut. Martha Pennington. The girls were divided into groups and each given her instructions. The first group laid, with the help of long paper strips, a map of the main streets of Wilmette. Papers were then given to another group and cut out to represent the principal buildings of the business section. The remaining groups had to make up short sketches which brought in many of the requirements of the Citizen badge. This was done with the use of tiny dolls for pedestrians, small automobiles to illustrate traffic regulations, and the like. The girls endeavored to show the wrong way and then to explain the right way to be good citizens. A number of those present intend passing their badge shortly.

We closed the meeting around the campfire singing some of our "old favorites." We mid each other good night with the usual and yet ever beautiful "Taps."—Isabel Haskin, scribe, Troop 1.

Troop 5

At our meeting Tuesday we had a "color ceremony" after which we had uniform inspection. We are all trying very hard to be in "perfect uniform" every Tuesday. We played a game after forming two teams and placing a handkerchief on a stool midway between the two opposing groups. Our captain called a number, and each of the two scouts having the number tried to get the handkerchief and get back to her side before being tagged. That side got a point if the scout could answer a question put in the Morse code. We all reviewed the Girl Scout laws in our patrol corners. After studying signalling, first-aid, and nature, we had our "good-night circle" and were dismissed.—Jeanne Stark, Troop 5.

Troop 21

Compass is the second-class requirement that Troop 21 is working on; after learning how to box the compass, the troop played games that would impress upon their memory the relative position of N'NE and S'SW. Two new songs were added to their singing repertoire before closing the meeting.

Troop 23

Troop 23's last meeting was a Mother-Scout card party—and ask those who attended if it was successful! A group of scouts from Troop 24 attended, and played bunco. Prizes were won by Sally Adams and Rosemary Klein. Mrs. Mintz donated a Pyrex bean dish for the troop to offer as a prize; this coveted trophy was won by Mrs. McDaniels, while another award went to Mrs. Lerch.

After the bunco and bridge games, the scouts served cup cakes and tea and coffee to their guests. Troop 23 wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those mothers and scouts who helped make the card party a success—and especially do the girls thank Mrs. Clohisey, who is chairman of their troop committee, and without whom there would have been no party. Due to the success of the party, the scouts were able to procure the material for their uniforms this week; they are holding a sewing bee at their regular meeting time, Friday evening, at which time mothers and scouts will cut and baste the uniforms; each scout mother is requested to come, bringing daughter, scissors, needle, thimble and white thread. The scouts promise to furnish them enough work to keep them busy for the evening!

Troop 24

Troop 24 is working on signalling, learning a few letters of the Morse code each week; various sorts of games keep this requirement from being a drudgery. At the last meeting, Miss Ortseifen promised the girls a surprise but mysteriously informed them that they must wait until dark before she could disclose it. Jane Ethel Newman, the scribe for the troop tells us: "It was the best surprise imaginable—a movie. The show was about a cobra and a mongoose. The mongoose scented the cobra and would come very close to it. The cobra would attack, but the mongoose knew just how far the cobra could reach and would duck back in time. At last the mongoose's chance came; he grabbed the cobra's neck and broke it. When the movie was over, Miss Ortseifen told us to write the story of the 'Mongoose and the Cobra' and bring it to the next meeting where she would run the film again so we could see how accurate we had been."

Leaders Still Have 1st-Aid Opportunity

The first-class training course opened Monday, January 16, and will continue for six consecutive Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 o'clock. Any leaders desiring to take this course but who were unable to attend last Monday may still join the group. It is requested that those who were not present on Monday know their personal measurements as they appear on page 102 of the Girl Scout Handbook. Leaders wishing to obtain this training but who are unable to attend a day-time session are asked to get in touch with the director who will arrange for a special evening group if so desired.

Training to Start Feb. 6 for Committee Members

Training for committee members will begin on Monday afternoon, February 6, and will be conducted from 1 to 2:30 o'clock in the Girl Scout room of the Methodist church. This group will not meet for four consecutive meetings as previously announced, but will have two meetings in February, the sixth and thirteenth, and two later. All leaders are urged to get in touch with their committee members concerning this informal training group.

Brownie Packs Find New Year Full of Wonder

Life for the Brownies like a story book. Brownies actually live in a delightful world of the imagination, and while they are living their dreams do many things to make other people happy.

While looking forward to the day when they will be old enough to become Girl Scouts, the Brownies do not idly dream, but fill their meetings with wholesome magic of songs, stories, and the fashioning of useful articles. The following news items afford a glimpse of Brownie meetings:

Tiger Bell Pack

The Brownies of Tiger Bell pack are already thinking about Valentine day, and as a handicraft project are making Valentine book-marks. At a recent meeting, Brown Owl read the Brownies stories while they were working—one called "Valentines" and another called "Rootabaga Stories." There followed a powwow in which the Brownies learned the song, "John Brown's Baby."

Tinker Bell Pack

The Tinker Bell Brownies had their new-year meeting on Monday, January 9. First we had a powwow and played a game. Then each sixland represented a season of the year and dramatized the activities during that season. In our sixland we learned that each season would make a treasure book (scrapbook) of all the pictures, stories and poems during that season. We played a clock game; while Brown Owl told a story a short Brownie and a tall brownie represented the hands of a clock and showed the time she mentioned. All the other brownies acted out the rest of the story. After that we learned a new-year song and sang some old songs. Then we had a magic tunnel and hurried home.

Pack 2

Seventeen happy "Brownies" and "Tweenies" gathered at their meeting place in the Methodist church on Wednesday. They were all very eager to greet their new "Brown Owl" but she was not in sight. However, they started on a search for her throughout the many magic caves in the building and finally found someone dressed in brown. They knew it must be the "Brown Owl," for she had a "Brownie smile." Sure enough, they had guessed right and were very happy Brownies as they ushered Mrs. Fred Schroeder, Jr., back into their room. Of course, they were all very anxious to sing their songs for her, and she was certain before long that she had a grand group of Elves, Fairies, Sprites and Gnomes.

Another search started and pictures of Brownies were found everywhere in the room. Then each Brownie put in the eyes, nose and mouth, and cut the picture out and put her own name on the stump on which the little Brownie was sitting. Besides learning a new song and playing a game, each Brownie listened attentively to a lovely story which "Brown Owl" told them. The "Magic Tunnel" started them all on their way home as they bid "good-night."

LEADERS MEET SOON

The Leaders' association meets Tuesday evening, January 24, at 7:30 o'clock. This association, under the able leadership of Mrs. L. P. Denoyer, is of great benefit to all Brownie and Girl Scout leaders.