

Troop members earn badges, with Dinner By Design's help

By James Livesey
Staff Writer

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All the members of Girl Scout Troop 461 earned their "Let's Get Cooking" badges after paying a visit to Oak Creek's Dinner By Design store March 23.

The girls prepared dinners that they would later cook, with help from their parents, and present to their families.

Joy Anderson, general manager at Dinner By Design, said she and her staff enjoyed working with the Girl Scouts.

This business of food

"We love the opportunity to be able to help people learn new skills," Anderson said. "Working with the younger girls, getting them involved from the very get-go, I think, helps them as they grow older to really know about nutritious, healthy foods."

After they finished preparing their meals, the girls were treated to a tour of the kitchen by Anderson and her staff.

"Then we'll talk a little bit about food sanitation and preparation so they have a little bit more understanding of how to handle food properly," she said.

Jackie Luther, leader of Troop 461, said all of her Scouts - fourth- and fifth-graders from Oak Creek elementary schools, most of whom had been in Girl Scouts together since they were in kindergarten - found a way to support a local business as well as to learn about cooking.

"We decided to come here because it was a local business that just started, and our troop really wanted to support the Oak Creek area," Luther said. "Our girls were really interested in learning how to cook and help their families, so this is a nutritious way for them to learn how to do that."

Scouting ahead

Luther said earning badges as a group was the most effective way for the girls to progress through Scouting.

"We try to do it all at once," she said. "If the girls can't make an activity, they can earn it on their own, but we found that most girls like to earn it as a group. We've been pretty excited; all of our girls from our troop are here."

Luther said the girls had only basic cooking skills, and that they had to overcome their initial apprehension before preparing the meals.

"I think they had to overcome their fear of actually starting to grab the ingredients and use the tools," she said. "Also reading the instructions - it's a little more complicated for them because it's probably geared for adults. They seem to be handling it now. They were a little unsure at first."

Each girl got to pick the item she was going to make for her family.

"They each get to make a full dinner, which serves four to six people, and they're going to share their experiences at the next meeting," Luther said.

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Election 2007: Voters Guide

Oak Creek voters will go to the polls Tuesday, April 3 to elect School Board candidates and alderman. OakCreekNOW.com has complete coverage of the local elections, including [candidate profiles](#) and more. And on election night, visit OakCreekNOW.com for results of the key races.

On tap: [Four seek two seats on School Board](#)
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Coming Soon: 'Your Well Being'

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare and OakCreekNOW.com are teaming up to bring you a new online health column called "Your Well Being."

Saleem Aman, M.D., a board-certified physician in internal medicine at Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group in Oak Creek, will answer readers' general health questions each week.

[Click here](#) to email a question to Dr. Aman.



CNI ALL-SUBURBAN TEAM: Running makes honors team

Oak Creek High School's Stephanie Running has been named to the All-Suburban Team by the sports staff of Community Newspapers. Running, a sophomore center, led the Knights in just about every category and was a key reason that Oak Creek won the conference title with a 15-1 record.



- Profile: [Great expectations for Running](#)
- Player of the Year: [Greendale's Ashley Imperiale](#)
- Coach of the Year: [Greenfield's Jack Miller](#)
- All-Suburban Team: [Profiles of each player](#)



Marquette University salutes honor students

Marquette University congratulates those area students who made the honor rolls in the 2006-'07 school year.

OakCreekNOW.com will post honor rolls for area elementary, middle school and high schools throughout the school year to recognize the students for their achievements. [Go to honor rolls.](#)



Schools that are not listed here but would like to be should email their honor rolls to news@mycommunitynow.com.

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Luther said it was important for all the girls to learn about preparing and storing food in a sanitary manner.

"We wanted them to learn that so they could actually help at home and prevent any diseases," she said. "Some of them were surprised, like, 'What, we've got to put on this apron? What, we've got to wash our hands?'"

Chicken cacciatore cooking

Girl Scout Johanna Schmidt made slow-cooker chicken cacciatore during her visit to Dinner By Design.

"I'm having fun because I like pouring the stuff in it," she said. "I liked dumping the salad dressing in."

Johanna was a bit skeptical about whether the dish would taste good, however.

"I don't know, I've never had chicken cacciatore," she said. "I don't think it'll taste that good because I don't like some of the ingredients."

Johanna was particularly worried about the parsley, which she referred to as "the green, leafy stuff." She didn't think her brother Joe would want to taste the dish.

"He doesn't like chicken. He doesn't even like to try it," she said.

In the end, Johanna said she would give the chicken cacciatore a try, despite the parsley, and that she had fun making it.

Stephanie Bowden said she enjoyed being a Girl Scout because of the new experiences she has enjoyed as a Scout.

"We get to do a lot of stuff that we haven't done before," she said.

Stephanie was confident her dish would taste good, although she was put off by the texture of some of the ingredients.

"It was fun making it and getting to touch all the icky stuff - it was kind of runny and cold," she said.

Jenny Blunt was one of the parent volunteers who helped the Scouts prepare their meals. She said her daughter Lauren enjoyed being in the kitchen and that the trip to Dinner By Design had been a positive experience.

"I want Lauren to just have some fun and learn a little bit about cooking, a little bit about how to stay clean while you're cooking, and to just have a good time," Blunt said. "I think it's just been another extra for her. She's gotten to meet some good friends and have some good experiences through Girl Scouts."

Contact reporter James Livesey at (262) 317-8556 or jivesey@cninewsonline.com.

AT A GLANCE

WHO: Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area Inc.

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WEB SITE: www.girlscoutsmilwaukee.org

E-MAIL: gsma@girlscoutsmilwaukee.org

NOW sites being launched by Community Newspapers and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel?

NOW editors Mark Maley and Jeanne Wieland were recently interviewed by Jane Hampden, host of WUWM-FM's "AT 10" program.

[Listen to the interview](#)

AROUND TOWN

Our picks from the Community Calendar



Annual auction, raffle at community center

Date: March 31

Oak Creek Community Center will hold its 27th annual auction and super cash raffle at 6:30 p.m., 8580 S. Howell Ave. Free admission with purchase of a raffle ticket. Call (414) 768-5840.

Buddhist Practice session scheduled

Date: April 2

Family Life Center presents Buddhist Practice from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 5880 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek. Call (414) 483-2685, Ext. 225, or e-mail FLCenter@SaintStephenmil.org to register.

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