



Holly Jones
(850) 386-2131
hjones@gscfp.org

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Girl Scout earns Gold Award that benefits the Leon County Humane Society

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Girl Scout Ambassador, Celia Garthwait, hosted an open house on July 6, 2011 for her Gold Award project at the Leon County Humane Society. The Gold Award is the highest award one can earn in Girl Scouting. Garthwait’s project was to renovate the cat habitat at Leon County Humane Society.

“Girl Scouting has provided me with many wonderful opportunities to be a leader by good example, directing and teaching,” said Garthwait. “For me, much of the leadership has involved community service. I have learned how to identify needs, come up with a solution, and implement it, either by myself, or by advising others.”

Over a period of 6 days Garthwait spend 72 hours renovating the cat room. She and several volunteers cleaned every inch of the room, including the ceiling, windows, and cat cages; replaced the door; added new flooring, a storage cabinet, shelves, and seating. She also added cat scratchers and other cat friendly items. Garthwait has been a volunteer at LCHS for the past six years, and has been wishing for this project to take form.

A Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador (grades 9-12) can earn her Gold Award by identifying an area of interest where she can give back to the community. Girls must submit a written proposal and meet with the Gold Award Committee, before starting a project. Most Girl Scouts spend

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over 100 hours of service planning and executing their projects. The GSCFP Gold Award committee is made up of past Gold Awardees and longtime Girl Scout volunteers.

“I am incredibly proud to say that they (the cats) loved it and that one could actually see (positive) changes in their demeanor,” said Garthwait. “I am so excited that the project was such a success! It’s a dream come true for me!”

Garthwait just started her freshman year at The University of Florida.

The Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle invites girls from kindergarten to twelfth grade, to join the adventure and empower themselves through courage, confidence and character, to make the world a better place. Currently, the council serves 6, 024 girls and 1,980 volunteers across 19 counties of the Florida Panhandle. To volunteer or join Girl Scouts, contact the local council office at 1-888-271-8778 or visit www.gscfp.org. Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle is a United Way Agency.

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Panama City Service Center

1515 St. Andrews Blvd, Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 873-3999 (888) 271-8778
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Pensacola Service Center

4585 Isabella Ingram Dr, Pensacola, FL 32504
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Tallahassee Service Center

250 Pinewood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303
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