99-Year-Old Beverly Snedecor Fulfills Birthday Wish to Become a Girl Scout

by Tricia Higgins, Director of Marketing and Communications Girl Scouts Of Southern Illinois
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HONORARY
Millie
Sophia
SIUE



GLEN CARBON – At Stillwater Senior Living in Edwardsville, IL, dreams really do come true.

As her 99th birthday approached, resident Beverly Snedecor had a wish – to be a Girl Scout. When Activities Director Cathy Watkins learned this, she was determined to make it happen. Beverly had never been a Girl Scout as a child, but Cathy had. Cathy even went on to be a troop leader for her daughter's troop, and eventually her granddaughter's troop. Knowing the difference Girl Scouts can make in a person's life, Cathy set out to make Beverly's birthday wish a reality.

Cathy sought out a Girl Scout troop in the community and met Holly Picker, whose daughter Iris, is in Troop 830. Holly connected with Troop Leader Jessi Bahr, and the troop got to work. As luck would have it, Troop 830 was very familiar with the Stillwater community. They've spent time there before, playing bingo with the residents and taking them Girl Scout cookies. When they had the opportunity to make Beverly's birthday wish come true, they jumped at the chance.

Beverly's birthday celebration kicked off with a bridging ceremony at Stillwater – a Girl Scout tradition that honors a significant milestone. She was also presented with a Girl Scout sash that featured badges and patches she "earned" from her years as a second grade and music teacher. The party continued the next day – Beverly's official birthday – when Troop 830 came to visit.

Donned in her new Girl Scout sash, Beverly celebrated her birthday with Troop 830. Troop Members Aurora, Iris, Millie, Everly, and Leia presented Beverly with a

certificate signed by members of the troop, along with birthday cards, gifts, and Girl Scout cookies. They taught Beverly the Girl Scout Promise and Law and even shared another Girl Scout tradition – the friendship squeeze.

Being named an honorary member of Troop 830 has been very meaningful for Beverly. “It made me feel young, honored, and proud,” said Beverly. And her time as a Girl Scout isn’t over! The troop plans to stay in touch. They already have decided to celebrate the holidays with Beverly and hold their December meeting with her at Stillwater.

When girls participate in Girl Scouts, they step into their power and build confidence, values, and skills they carry throughout their lives. Beverly recognizes these benefits and encourages girls to get involved in Girl Scouts. She says, “It is a pathway to a good life. It will be enjoyable throughout all your years and make your life more full. You will make lifelong friends.”

Well said, Beverly, and welcome to Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois!

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois serves nearly 5,900 girls and engages over 3,250 adults in 40 counties in Southern Illinois. **Call 800-345-6858 or email customercare@gsofsi.org**. Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois is a not-for-profit organization supported by United Ways, businesses and individual donors throughout the region.


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