

## Sustainable Sandhills Helps Daisy Troop 942 Earn Petals



Daisy Troop 942 with Heather Brown

On January 16th, thirteen Daisies and their parents joined with Sustainable Sandhills Development Director, Heather Brown, to earn their “Use Resources Wisely” Petal.

Karen Sikes, Daisy Troop 942 Leader, asked Brown to facilitate the program to teach the Daisies about how and why they need to take care of the earth. Brown involved the girls, all between the ages of six and eight, in a program demonstrating how the misuse of our natural resources damages the earth. To do so she brought in a large yoga ball and asked the girls to participate in a series of exercises.

First, they place printed pictures of the earth’s natural resources, such as water, wind, food, and insects on it. Emma Sikes, a Daisy who was involved in the program, said that she really liked putting all of the pretty things on Mother Earth. “The idea of this part of exercise was to show the Daisies just a few of the gifts given to us by Mother Earth,” said Brown.”

Brown then asked the girls to place pictures of trash and pollution on the earth as well as soda bottles and other recyclables. “There was a physical and verbal change in the girl’s attitudes,” said Karen. “Most of the girls responded by saying, ‘Yuck, I don’t want to touch the trash or put it on the earth.’ Once they were able to convince the girls to put the photos on the earth, many were hesitant to put the trash pictures directly on top of the pretty pictures. But Brown insisted, wanting to show them what littering and wasting of natural resources really does to the earth.

Once the Daisies finished ‘trashing’ Mother Earth, Brown talked to them about the gifts that Mother Earth has given us and why we need to respect them and take care of the earth. She then asked them to help her clean-up Mother Earth by removing all of the trash and pollution from the ball. This was one of the most rewarding parts of the exercise for the girls involved.



The Daisies ‘trashing’ Mother Earth

“What the girls realized during the clean-up,” said Karen, “was that in our world even if someone else messes up the earth by polluting and littering it is still our responsibility to help clean it up.”

According to Karen, her daughter Emma has really taken this message to heart and has been teaching her little brother about taking care of the earth. “She reminds him constantly about taking shorter showers and describes to him about how pollutants hurt the earth,” said Karen.

“What many of us don’t realize,” Karen said, “is that our kids really do pay attention to even the smallest things that we do.”



Brown describing the exercise to the Daisies

One prime example is the use of reusable versus plastic grocery bags. Before leaving Brown discussed the use of plastic grocery bags and how they hurt the environment. She was pleased to find that many children already knew that it was better to use reusable canvas bags at the grocery store than plastic bags. Brown gave each of the girls in attendance a reusable bag from Harris Teeter, but only after they made a deal with her. She asked each of the Daisies to promise they would remind their parents to use the bag every time they went to the grocery store. “I even got a few pinkie promises,” she said.

“Many of the children were already knowledgeable about environmental issues,” said Brown, “they knew about littering and what to do if you saw litter--pick it up!”

When asked about what she learned from Brown’s presentation, Emma Sikes said, “I learned that we have to take care of Mother Earth!” A simple reminder that each of us should take to heart.

If your organization is interested in hosting a presentation by Sustainable Sandhills, or you are interested in helping us with community outreach efforts like this one, please contact Heather Brown at [brownh@ctc.com](mailto:brownh@ctc.com) or 910-639-7024.

## **Sustainable Sandhills - Awareness and Education Program**

*Bringing information about sustainability to the communities of the Sandhills & Middle Cape Fear region.*

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