

Woodstock Girl Scouts plant sunflowers for Ukraine

By Wanzhen Jun
Standard Correspondent

On Tuesday evening, 16 Woodstock Girl Scouts gathered with their leaders Mary Lawrence, Kristina Waters, and Jane Warren, to learn about the history of East End Park and plant sunflowers. The sunflower is Ukraine's national flower, and the scouts were able to learn more about global events while beautifying the park. The scouts decided to honor Ukraine as part of their badge work on world peace-keeping and world thinking.

According to Warren, the girl scouts participated in a learning session to be more educated about Ukraine and the conflict happening there. The scouts drew pictures and wrote cards for Ukrainian people, and their work can be seen at the Norman Williams Public Library. Waters said, "We chose Ukraine as our country of focus because it is very timely. We learned about the geography of Ukraine and ways we can promote world peace both globally and locally."



Woodstock Scout leader Jane Warren and Girl Scout Julia Flaster plant a sunflower seedling together at East End Park on Tuesday evening.

The girl scouts' age ranges from kindergarten to fourth grade. Waters said, "We have to be sensitive about presenting these topics. We asked them to think about questions like 'What if you

had something and someone else came and took it away from you?' which the girls connected with." Warren added, "We also made aid kits which we sent to the New Jersey distribution cen-

ter. In each of those kits, the girls drew a card to encourage the soldiers." Before coming to the park, the scouts took care of the sunflower seedlings at home. "The ones I took

didn't survive, but it is also part of learning how to grow things for the scouts," Warren said. Warren had bought sunflower seeds for the scouts who didn't have seedlings to plant.

Most scouts had never planted anything from seed before. Scout Kallie Allen said, "I think I got a purple one. It only had three petals when my cat ate it." There are also scouts like Josie and Julia Flaster, who have

a green thumb and showed up with 12-inch seedlings. "I watered them every other day and put them on the windowsill," Josie said. Junior Scout Sutton Petersen helped carry the water can and walked up and down the road to ensure every plant had enough water. "I missed the session when they talked about Ukraine, but I wanted to help plant the sunflowers. I am excited to come back and see them grow up," Petersen said.

Joby Thompson, one of the founding members of

East End Park, came and told the scouts about how the park was transformed from a dumpsite. The scout leaders also thanked the people who worked at the park garden for helping them dig holes for the sunflower plants. "We want to be able to show support for Ukrainian

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— Junior Scout Sutton Petersen

people, and this is also a great example of different groups in the community collaborating," Warren said. Thompson added, "This is wonderful. We love to see people use the park."

The scouts' work didn't stop at planting flowers and promoting world peace. After covering the seeds and seedlings with garden soil, the scouts walked to the food shelf to donate cookies.

The Woodstock Girl Scout troop will also be participating in the upcoming Memorial Day Parade on Saturday.

Woodstock Elementary School's Auden Rubin earns top artist prize

Woodstock Elementary School student Auden Rubin earned the top prize for his tree drawing and essay in the Grade 1 division of the Growing Works of Art contest, sponsored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program. The essay by Rubin is as follows:

The Forest Trees

I was in forest kindergarten and we put out buckets on sap trees to make maple syrup. A few weeks later we got out all the buckets and boiled the syrup. We had syrup tea and we got to bring home a little bottle of syrup. We made pancakes outside in the forest. We used syrup on top of it. It was delicious.

One time, we went to a river where there were hundreds of pine trees surrounding. We followed the river and went into great, rocky and foresty places. One person in my class fell into the water and got soaked. Well, we all pretty much did get soaked. We didn't have our shoes on or our socks, so we were allowed to go in the river. I didn't want

to have my shoes or socks off. The stream was a long stream. We finally went back. It was so fun.

When I made my picture, I started with a brown little spot on a page to make these pine trees with a little owl in the night. I started to use a green paint and filled around the brown trunk. When that was done, I made nighttime with dark blue sky around. I drew an owl on a tree trunk with pencil. I colored it with the pastels. I did yellow eyes with black spots in the middle for the eyes. I colored the rest in gently black to make gray. I colored the beak the most so it would look right.

I colored the rest of the tree trunk green for leaves. I started to make yellow spots as the stars. They needed more light so I blended them in. I did a circle with white pastel for the moon. I switched to paint and painted it in silver.

"Pause for Applause" is a recurring series in which the Standard highlights the accomplishments of residents or native sons and daughters of Windsor County who are making a difference.

PAUSE FOR *Applause*



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