

Granite Supports Local Girl Scouts

In June, the Girls Scouts Heart of Central California Council teamed up with the Sacramento chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) for a two week summer camp, "Under Construction", at Camp Menzies outside of Angels Camp, California. Girl Scouts, 13-16 years old, learned the fundamentals of building construction as they erected a camp cabin. Granite was a major sponsor of this event through monetary and material donations.

Beth Yurek, Geological Engineer with the Construction Materials Group and Rebecca Brajkovich, formerly with Granite as an HCD estimator, volunteered their time to teach girls how to use power tools, learn plan layout, and to be cheerleaders as girls swung hammers and learned how to use a speed square. All tools were donated by Tomboy Tools and each girl left camp with her own tool belt and set of tools. This was the second year of this camp, with a few girls returning from last year because they had so much fun. These girls were great support and teachers for the new girls this year.

The camp also introduces girls to careers in construction, math, and science. Each volunteer is a current member of NAWIC and a working professional in the construction industry. Volunteers shared their educational background, work experiences, and encouraged girls to stay with math and science through high school and into college. Each girl was given a binder with scholarship opportunities and other information on construction careers.

Camp starts with a safety overview where girls make their own safety signs. Each day before construction begins, the girls conduct a "Take 5" to review the safety hazards of the tasks for the day. The highlight of the two week camp is the raising of the first wall of the camp cabin. As a motivator, the volunteers bet the girls that they couldn't get the first wall raised by the end of the first week. Not only did they get the first wall raised on day 4, but they got a second wall raised the following day! At the end of the first week of camp, an open house was held for the girls to show their families what they've been up to at camp and for parents to learn about careers in construction.

For more pictures and video on this great Girl Scout experience, check out the Sacramento NAWIC site at <http://www.nawicsacramento.org>

A special thanks to Randy Kremer, Jeff Light, Exploration Services Manager, and Chris Ferguson, Sacramento Valley Branch Human Resources Manager for their donations and support of this project. Girls Scouts and NAWIC thanks Granite as well!







