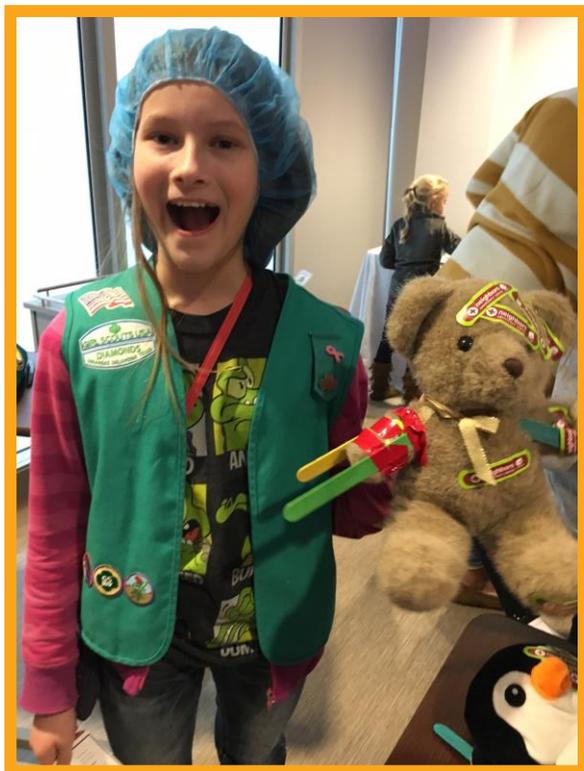


Texarkana girl makes the most out of her Girl Scout experience

Even though Erica Z. and her mom, Regina, didn't know much about Girl Scouts two years ago, it didn't stop them from registering for every Girl Scout event in the Texarkana area to get the full experience. Erica is now on her way to becoming a Cadette in Troop 2211 and has earned 17 badges over the last two years. Not only has she found success in Girl Scouts, but she excels in the classroom at school as well. Erica is a straight-A student, part of the gifted and talented program, and has won a trophy every year so far for earning the most Accelerated Reading (AR) points in her grade.

During Erica's first year as a Girl Scout, she was in EPIC Troop 2214, and last year, a couple of moms stepped up to lead the troop now known as Troop 2211. She loves that her mom, Regina, helps co-lead her troop and has enjoyed their time spent together at events including Scout-O-Rama, Scouting U, and much more. When Regina was asked about Erica's favorite Girl Scout activities, she didn't hesitate to say, "She loves doing anything outdoors including camping, hiking, horseback riding, and canoeing. She also cares a lot about the community, environment, and animals." Erica's dream is to attend Girl Scout camp next summer, so she is starting swimming lessons this summer in hopes to put her new skills to the test at camp.



Erica at Teddy Bear ER program



Erica's drawing of a dragon

Texarkana girl makes the most, continued

One big life lesson Erica has learned through her Girl Scout experience so far is good communications skills by selling cookies. “I learned how to talk to people on a professional level, and patience,” says Erica. “I love to talk to people, and when I sold cookies, I had to be patient and listen more.” This year, she sold 573 boxes and hopes to sell even more next cookie season. From learning life-long skills by selling Girl Scout cookies to stepping outside her comfort zone at events, Erica has truly made the most of her Girl Scout experience so far and looks forward to continuing adding to her badge collection.



Erica with her friends at Scout-O-Rama