

Girl Scout donates Girl Scout Cookies to Benton Police Department

“She can do the same things as anyone else, just a little different,” says Zoë P.’s grandmother, Melinda Kelly. Due to Zoë’s prematurity at birth, she has struggled with speech and walking, along with other milestones. Thanks to physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and the support of her family, she defeated the odds and has since reached her full potential. Zoë recently celebrated her 12th birthday and truly lives life to the fullest.

Zoë will soon become a Cadette in Troop 6806 and is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities including soccer, volleyball and swimming. Although she is speech impaired and has difficulty communicating at times, she loves Girl Scouts and has become more independent throughout her time and experiences with her troop. Zoë’s troop leader, D’Ann Butner, says that Zoë is a bright star in her troop and loves going to the Humane Society to help with the dogs. One of her favorite activities is cooking, and every Tuesday she wears her Girl Scout apron and makes tacos for her family’s “Taco Tuesday” night.



Captain Russell, Zoë, Zoë’s brother Nathaniel Sweat and Chief Lane

Girl Scout donates Girl Scout Cookies, continued

When Zoë celebrated her 12th birthday a few weeks ago, she spent her birthday money a little differently than most teens would. Instead of spending it all on herself, she used it to buy and donate cookies to the Benton Police Department. Zoë loves giving, and her grandmother, Melinda, says that she is always doing something to help other people. When Zoë heard in a troop meeting that donating cookies was an option, she immediately came up with a plan to do so. For three weeks, Zoë mapped out her master plan, which included choosing the cookie flavors and the number of boxes to be donated, buying the cookies and writing a poem for the police officers. The day Zoë delivered the cookies and poem to the station, she had the opportunity to meet Captain Russell and Chief Lane, who insisted they get a photo with her. When word got out that Girl Scout cookies were in the building, officers started running through the hallways and shouting "YES!" with excitement. Needless to say, everyone was blown away by Zoë's gracious donation of 12 boxes of cookies and her poem was just "icing" on the cookies. The Benton Police Department has held a special place in Zoë's heart ever since she visited the station a few years ago, and she believes they deserve a treat because they put their lives on the line for us every day.

