

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

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Cub scouts assist Fort Hood for their recycling service project

By Christine Luciano

What are your kids doing this summer?

You will usually find kids cooling down in the swimming pool, riding a roller coaster at an amusement park or on a vacation adventure with their family. But four Cub Scouts from Pack 451 decided to do something different this summer and help out their community.

The four Cub Scouts from Florence formed a system to take recyclables out of a trailer filled with newspapers, cans, cardboard, and plastics. For a month the Scouts recycled materials from their homes and within their community for their service project.



Eight-year old Ryan Earp picks up a cardboard box and passes it down to another cub scout to be placed in a recycling bin.

“We recycled soda cans, bottles, and pop tart boxes,” said 8-year old Cub Scout Wyatt Hill.

The recycling service project was just one of a number of projects the Scouts did to earn their conservation award patch.

The Scouts had completed other conservation related projects like gardening, feeding birds, building bird houses, learning about fish and water safety. One of the criteria for the conservation award patch was a community service project.

“About a month ago the Scouts came up with the idea to do a recycling project,” said Scout parent Betheny Nelson. “And we are just so proud of how well our Cub Scouts have done.”

“This service project gives them an idea of what’s wasted and how materials can be reused and recycled,” said parent Jason Earp.

Although, the city of Florence doesn’t have a recycling program, that didn’t stop the Scouts from their service project. Residents can take their recyclables to Fort Hood, Killeen, or

Georgetown's recycling centers. The Scouts decided to take the materials they collected to Fort Hood and tour the post's recycling center.

Recycling Assistant Manager Rufus Walker took the Scouts and their parents on a tour of the recycling center explained how materials are recycled.

"Sixty percent of what people call trash can actually be recycled," said Walker. "Fort Hood accepts all kinds of recyclables and sends the materials off to make new products."

The Scouts watched the process of how cardboard, paper, and cans are sorted and separated, then shredded and put into bails.

"It's important to recycle things like paper because we can lose trees," said 10-year old Cub Scout Clayton Fullingim.

"The key is to start teaching kids to recycle," Walker said. "If we can get more kids involved like these Cub Scouts, then they will grow up with recycling."

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