

# Local

## Cookie peddlers discover new badges, leaders

By JENNIFER WAYMAN  
Battalion Reporter  
Girl Scouts have come a long

way. They still peddle cookies, but now they have opportunity to earn new proficiency badges such

as Ms. Fix-it. They're also led not only by mothers, but by college students.

Wednesday nights at 9:30 in 140 MSC and are open to anyone interested in becoming a member, Collins said. Dues are \$5 per year.

Mike Swanson, a sophomore finance major who joined Aggie Scouts last December, said it was through Aggie Scouts that he became a leader for a local troop.

"I like helping people and it was something I've never done before, so I decided to give it a shot," Swanson said.

He said the leaders teach the Brownies — scouts in the 1st through 3rd grades — scout songs, the Brownie promise and basic camping skills. Swanson said he enjoys leading the troop because the girls are excited about what they are doing.

"I guess the most exciting thing is watching their faces when they learn a new song or make something for their parents," he said.

Aside from student troop leaders, the Girl Scouts as a national organization also have made changes, Arnold said.

The organization, known for traditional cookie sales, camping trips and badges for such skills as cooking and childcare, now offers badges for such things as Ms. Fix-it, group sports, aerospace and business.

Arnold said the purpose of Girl Scouts, sometimes called an informal education program, is to help young women reach four basic



Staff photo by Brian La

Tristen Kellner is inducted into the student working as a troop leader for the Girl Scouts by Glenda Laza, a Texas A&M Brownies.

goals — to develop a sense of self, to increase skills in relating with others, to develop values and to contribute to society.

"It's a broad-based organization — it's not just earning badges and learning to be a better outdoor camper," she said.

The high school girls, Arnold

said, complete activities that teach them group dynamics, income budgeting and career planning. They are able to earn badges for their activities, but not all troops choose to earn badges.

"Sure, the badges are there if they want to earn them, but it's

what they do that's important, she said.

Arnold said local troops are in need of leaders. One new Brownie troop has been formed, but it has no leaders, she said. Anyone interested in leadership may contact Arnold at 822-3467.

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## Drug abuse seminar to be held Saturday

By CATHY ANDERSON  
Battalion Reporter

A seminar about the severity of drug abuse among teenagers in Brazos County will be held Saturday at Bryan High School.

The seminar, which starts at 8 a.m., is sponsored by the Brazos Residents against Drug Abuse.

BRADA is an organization established to inform the public about severe drug abuse problems in the community.

Dr. Gilberto Trevino, BRADA president, said abuse is a severe problem with Brazos County youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

The day-long seminar will fea-

ture Bruce White, a minister from Nashville, who will discuss the role of the clergy in the family where drug abuse is a problem.

In the afternoon the participants will break up into groups and discuss drug abuse in their particular situations, Trevino said.

One goal of the seminar is to teach doctors what medical signs to look for in drug dependent children, Trevino said.

A panel appointed by the College Station Independent School District performed an investigation and proved there is a severe drug problem with College Station youth, Trevino said.

Interviews with users, former

users, teachers, psychologists, law enforcement officials and parents support this conclusion, Trevino said.

BRADA tries to steer people with drug-related problems to appropriate channels, whether it is a minister, psychologist or law enforcement agency, he said.

BRADA opposes sending children to prison for drug related problems, Trevino said. Once a child goes through the judicial system, he will carry a stigma for the rest of his life.

"Drug-dependent children are long in hospitals, not in prison," Trevino said.

The average parent doesn't know enough about drugs to determine if their child is a user, Trevino said, and no child is going to admit to using drugs.

"I look upon these kids who are hooked on drugs as emotional cripples," Trevino said.

"They are never going to be able to cope with life alone as long as they are dependent on drugs."

For further information concerning the seminar you can contact Dr. Trevino at 693-9336.

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