



FOR DINNER last Monday, Terese Vontz (above) poured Hannah Jones a soda while Melody Koerperich watched during a Girl Scout pizza party. Around Christmas, the girls (below) got together and made decorations. Emma Anderson (bottom) paraded through the Oberlin Elementary gym dressed as a cookie during this year's cookie-sale kick-off.

Girl Scouts enjoy projects, art work and camping

Camping, community service, play, art projects and much more draw kids to the Girl Scouts.

Oberlin has troops at six levels of Girl Scouting, including Daisies (kindergarten through first grade), Brownies (second and third graders), Juniors (fourth and fifth graders), Cadets (sixth to eighth grades), Seniors (ninth to 10th grades) and Ambassadors (11th and 10th grades).

Becky Ayers, membership services manager for the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, said girls can join anytime, but the membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

It costs \$12 to join, she said, but no girl is turned away. Financial help is available for those who can't afford the fee.

Girls don't have to join a troop, said Mrs. Ayers. They can join through different pathways. For instance, they can just do camps or events, do just the troop activities, or everything.

In Oberlin, the Girl Scouts participate in lock-ins, or sleep-overs, community service, making decorations for the nursing homes, planting flowers, an Earth Day "birthday party" at Sappa Park, cookie sales and more.

While the troops don't have regular meetings in the summer, she said, the girls have swimming parties and all kinds of camps.

The mission of the Girl Scouts is to build "girls of courage, character and confidence." Through Girl Scouts, said Mrs. Ayers, girls can

learn more about themselves, the community and the world around them and help make it a better place.

Girl Scouts, she added, is going through a change and will have a fresh image coming out in July.

Mrs. Ayers said the Girl Scouts are running an "early-bird special" on memberships. If a girl rejoins by June 30, she will get \$1 off the membership fee and an Early Bird patch. New members will also pay \$1 less.

Anyone who wants to join or has a question should call Mrs. Ayers at (785) 259-6743.



GRACIE VONTZ took a drink of her soda during a Girl Scout pizza party last Monday night.

