

# PRESS RELEASE



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11 October 2007

*For Release on Receipt*

**KENDALLVILLE** -- Testing the waters, so to speak, is the point for Girl Scouts. Girls from Troop 816 have taken this a step further by taking part in annual World Water Monitoring Day studies to learn more about local water resources while taking part in a global water quality monitoring effort.

Troop leader Karen Engle teamed up with Jennifer Terlosky, environmental specialist, to teach the basics of water testing to the troop that meets at Bixler Lake here at the Kendallville Public Library. They have managed to get their feet wet in environmental science by checking for oxygen, acidity, turbidity (clarity) and temperature. Engle noted that the girls were interested to learn that their results varied the second time they took measurements, probably because the testing followed a rain.

Girls Scouts nationally have taken part in World Water Monitoring Day as part of Linking Girls to the Land program, a partnership between Girl Scouts, the Elliott Wildlife Values Project and federal natural resources agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership encourages Girl Scouts to work with agencies to become leaders of national and local projects focused on environmental education, outdoor skills, community service careers and more.

By participating in the monitoring, says Wanda Gall, Girl Scouts “**Discover** and explore their local water resources. They develop scientific monitoring skills that enable them to investigate the health of local water sources and think critically about how it impacts them.” Gall who is Indiana Lakeland Council’s staff representative in Noble County adds that Girl Scouts can **connect** with others interested in water quality through [www.epa.gov/linkinggirls](http://www.epa.gov/linkinggirls). “Then they can **take**

**action** by sharing their results and experiences locally via the worldwide database. Girls also inspire awareness about water quality monitoring and positively impact the health of the rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water resources”

Indiana Lakeland Council serves girls and adults in Noble, Whitley, Kosciusko and Elkhart counties. To learn more about Girl Scouting see [www.indianalakeland.org](http://www.indianalakeland.org) or contact Gall toll free at 866.223.7740.