

Girl Scouts celebrate important milestone

Fort Collins is fortunate to have a strong foundation of community service. The selfless efforts of many clubs and organizations have created a long-standing tradition of service. These great organizations enrich countless lives in our community: the young child desiring a role model, the student in need of tutoring, a single parent trying to make ends meet, or a patient at the hospital. The power of volunteering has brightened many lives and will continue to do so as this tradition is carried on.

There is one organization in particular that I would like to recognize for passing on the values of volunteering. The Girl Scouts - Mountain Prairie Council is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and it's a wonderful milestone for that organization and for our region.

Girl Scouts is an integral element of the American tradition that supports our young women. It is an organization dedicated to helping girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, participating Scout members devel-

op qualities that will serve them all their lives — leadership, strong values and confidence.

More than 150,000 girls have been in Girl Scouting in this North-eastern Colorado council, with the help of thousands of adult volunteers. Currently, more than 6,000 young girls are involved in a diverse array of activities.

In addition to selling those well-known and well-loved cookies, these youngsters also conduct science experiments, learn to repair cars, enjoy sports, perform community service activities and learn about careers in engineering and medicine. Our young women are being prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow in any field they choose to pursue.

While these events clearly benefit the Girl Scouts involved, the community also thrives as a result of their efforts. Girl Scouts visit



**Ray
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Soapbox

nursing homes, plant trees, collect food and books, just to name a few. And let's be honest, we do all enjoy those cookies!

Mountain Prairie Council has been helping girls and communities grow strong for the past 50 years. On June 1, the Girl Scouts-Mountain Prairie Council will celebrate its 50 years at Island Grove Park in Greeley.

Called "The Golden Roundup," the public is invited to attend this event that will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts from the 8-1/2 counties the Council serves will conduct demonstrations, offer interactive activities for the entire family and present displays showing the many aspects of today's Girl Scout program. The activities will take place in one of the exhibit buildings as well as outdoors. This is a very special opportunity.

I look forward to seeing this program continue its success. Congratulations, Girl Scouts - Mountain Prairie Council, on 50 great years! For more information about the Golden Roundup, call 493-1844 or (888) 801-1269.

Ray Martinez is mayor of Fort Collins.