



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West St. Paul Brownie Girl Scout uses first aid training to save friend's life

(St. Paul, Minn.) Brownie Girl Scout Bree Osborne, eight years old, of West St. Paul, jumped to action the evening of Thursday, December 13, performing the abdominal thrust that she learned through Girl Scouting, saving the life of sister Girl Scout Anna Erickson who was choking and turning purple.

Osborne's quick thinking was a result of basic first aid training that she, along with the other members of Girl Scout Troop 50163, learned while working on their Safety Sense Try-It in 2006.

Brownie Try-Its are designed to encourage girls to attempt new things. The Safety Sense Try-It teaches girls about knowing where and how to find emergency assistance, fire safety practices, and basic first aid skills.

While out with friends enjoying a dinner at the Baker's Square in West St. Paul, the mood quickly turned fearsome when an ice cube became lodged in Anna's throat. Kristine Erickson, the Girl Scouts' Troop leader who provided their first aid training, was trying to make her way to her daughter, Anna, when Osborne reacted.

"I was so proud that Bree was so quick to remember these important first aid skills," said Erickson. "Her actions were both courageous and confident, for which I am greatly thankful," she added. A first aid instructor with the American Red Cross, she places emergency preparedness and first aid training high on her list of priorities for her Girl Scout troop.

When thanked by Erickson, Osborne's response was simple, "She was just choking and now she is not." Some day she will understand the magnitude of her actions.

Ensuring the health and safety of girls in Girl Scouting is a cornerstone of the Girl Scout Movement. This includes developing safety consciousness in both girls and adults, as well as training staff, volunteers, and girls to ensure proper supervision, planning to prevent accidents and incidents, and maintenance of program resources.

(more)

For more information about Girl Scouts, contact the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys at 651-227-8835 or 800-845-0787, or online at www.girlscoutsrv.org.

About Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys

In partnership with nearly 16,000 adult volunteers, the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys helps 49,000 girls each year—in all or portions of 49 counties in southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin—to discover new abilities, connect with new friends, and take action to improve their communities. Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent leadership development organization for girls, building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

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Editor's note: Photos and interviews available upon request.