

Dear Parents,

My name is Helen Vickers and I currently run a Junior Girl Scout Troop in the Zekeriyakoy area. I want to tell you a bit about the Girl Scouts program and possibly gain some more interest for our troop.



For those who have never heard about Girl Scouts, it's a huge girl based organization that has 2 million girls and 800,000 adult volunteers all over the world. The idea behind Girl Scouts is to empower and encourage young girls to change the world. Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. It uses real life skills such as enterprise (selling cookies) community service and team work just to name a few to earn and collect badges.

Here in Istanbul the Girl Scout community has three main bases: MEF/ Istinye, Zekeriyakoy and the Asian side with over 50 girls involved. It has been active for only 3 years and each year it is growing. We are affiliated with the USA Overseas girl scouts.

I have been responsible for setting up the **Junior Girl Scout** troop here in the Zekeriyakoy area. We have 5 enthusiastic girls attending meetings and event but would like to add a few more willing members to our troop. The juniors meet every second Thursday between 4:30-6:00 in the social room of the Pelikan Park compound.

If you have a daughter in either Year 5 or 6 (ages 9-11) who like to come along to a meeting to see what we do please contact **Helen Vickers** on **h.vickers@bisistanbul.org** or **0573 687 8005**.

At the moment we don't have enough numbers to make a Brownie Troop; Years 2-4 (6-8 years old) but if there is enough interest we can try set one up. We would also need someone to lead this troop.

However in the area there is a **Daisy Troop** (Year 1 and 2) who hold there meetings near Kilyos. If you are interested please contact Cindy at cindybagcioglu@yahoo.com.

Also for the older students there is a small **Cadette troop** (Years 7,8 and9) who meet in the Koc university housing compound.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the girl scout organization as an adult volunteer or for your daughter. You can use the general email address Usagsoistanbul@yahoo.com



The yearly fee for Girl Scouts is \$150 and that covers materials, uniform, badges, a trip and an end of year camp in May.

I truly enjoy my time with the girls and it's a pleasure to be able to facilitate and guide them into strong confident young women who have the skills and knowledge to make the world a better place.

I will leave you with a quote from the CEO of Girl Scouts:

"Being honest and fair, courageous and strong, using resources wisely, respecting yourself and others, and making the world a better place...these are values that our staff and our volunteers on a national and a local level continually teach, model, and reinforce"

I look forward to hearing from you

Helen Vickers

EYFS 2 Reception Class Teacher