

SAVE THE BIRDS!
ROBYN WILKINSON

Local Girl Scout Troop 3012 wants to see nature thrive. So, to start locally, the Junior Girl Scouts -- 5th grade students at Curie and Hawthorne Elementary schools -- have been working very hard to earn their Bronze Award by helping the birds in Rose Canyon. They got hooked up with Debby Knight and Gretchen Nell, from Friends of Rose Canyon, working with a grant for volunteer resources from SDG&E and worked out the details.

The girls decided to put up bird houses in the canyon, and then plant native plants for the birds to eat. "Replacing lost habitats makes sense, since we have destroyed lots of their natural habitats." says a man that lives on the edge of the canyon. Our Girl Scouts agree that it is the least we can do to make up for the trees we have cut down and loss of bird habitat.

To make the nest boxes, the girls got in contact with Richard Griebe, who has made bird boxes for other areas of San Diego. The California Audubon and the California Bluebird Recovery Program, with help from the San Diego Audubon donated money for the supplies, and the girls set out to build some boxes! They posted 12 boxes in three areas of the canyon, and also planted many native plants. Recon Nursery in Imperial Beach donated the plants. There is a special thanks to the Fortier/Goldstein, Frederich and McLaughlin/Kjellman families for allowing the troop to plant on their property.

The girls will spend three months monitoring the boxes and supplying data to the state program. Look for the brightly decorated bird boxes along the trail, but be quiet! There may be bird babies sleeping. Let nature thrive!