

# LIVE UNITED

United Way  
of the New River Valley



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## TROOP 877'S STORY

This past year, seven Junior Girl Scouts from Radford Troop 877 created "Discovery Packs" for the Radford Public Library. They noticed that nature-themed backpacks were popular in the past but frequently unavailable, so they worked with the Radford Public Library, State Forest Rangers, and local vendors to choose themes and develop a new backpack series for the library. These Discovery Packs ranged through multiple topics, including cooking, astronomy, horses, dragons, birds, bugs and butterflies, and rocks.

The scouts also wanted to expand their project to include items in the backpacks that were already in use at the library. Catherine Fae, the children's librarian, met with them and suggested items that could be included.

The scouts asked for a wish list of items that the troop could donate to round out the nature-themed backpacks, also deciding that it would be helpful to include a list of library materials related to the backpack themes. On their own, each girl researched, selected a variety of educational and interactive items for each backpack, contacted businesses and organizations, and requested donations

.However, their project did not end there; Girl Scouts are always planning and thinking of the future, as evidenced by their motto – Be Prepared. The troop considered their project's sustainability, and they plan to check in with the library on a regular basis to inventory the packs and replenish or replace items as needed. Troop 877 reflected that they learned key leadership skills and feel proud knowing that they contributed to furthering other kids' knowledge about a variety of topics.

At United Way of the New River Valley, we strengthen families and youth in our community. That's why we support agencies like the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council. Every year, Girl Scouts are changing girls' lives, their communities, and the world. Every troop member is encouraged to participate in various projects that enrich not only their lives, but also the lives of others.



**Donations like yours help the Girls Scouts of Virginia Skyline and other United Way partner agencies do meaningful, life-changing work around the New River Valley.**