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## Manners matter: Girl Scouts learn at Riverview

By DON SERGENT [dsergent@bgdailynews.com](mailto:dsergent@bgdailynews.com) Apr 21, 2018



Riverview at Hobson Grove volunteer Nancy Baird pours tea for Emma Jagers, who shares a table with fellow Girl Scouts Shelby Hudson (center) and Emma Sackett (left) during Saturday's tea etiquette event.

Photos by DON SERGENT/dsergent@hodaynews.com

Members of Girl Scout Troop 313 were sitting up straight and keeping their elbows off the table Saturday as they enjoyed a tea party at Bowling Green's historic Riverview at Hobson Grove.

But they weren't sticking out their pinky fingers.

"Don't put out your pinky finger," answered Claudia Johnson, a seventh-grader at Edmonson County Middle School, when asked what she had learned. "I thought you were supposed to."

That's an often-misconstrued faux pas, explained Riverview volunteer and tea etiquette instructor Georgeanna McKenzie, who teamed with volunteer Nancy Baird to help the Girl Scouts learn proper etiquette for an afternoon tea.

Appropriately held at a venue built in the 19th century when afternoon tea was more the norm, the event was geared toward helping the Edmonson County troop prepare for its inaugural Girl Scout Afternoon Tea Party scheduled May 5 at the Chalybeate Fire Department community building.

"We decided as a troop that manners are still very important," said Melissa Johnson, one of the adult leaders of Troop 313. "It's important in our society, and if we want to have a tea party we want to use proper etiquette."

The lessons seemed to resonate with the nine girls, who ranged from grades one through eight.

"I think it was a very educational process," said sixth-grader Emma Sackett. "This teaches us to eat properly, and we also learned some history and how things have changed over the years."

The girls politely munched on finger sandwiches, fruit and desserts while McKenzie and Baird served them tea in fine china.

“I think it helps them learn to be more comfortable in social situations and be ladylike when they need to be,” said Vanessa Ulm, another adult leader of the troop.



Baird, retired after 35 years of working at the Western Kentucky University library, said Saturday’s event combined etiquette and history lessons as the girls also took a tour of the Italianate-style home built from 1857 through 1872 and restored as a tourist attraction in 1972.

“You can talk about history, but touring a home like this is one way of making it come alive,” explained Baird. “It’s also a great place to teach etiquette, which is still important.

“Part of the reason for manners is to make people feel good. Manners make others feel more at home, more comfortable.”

McKenzie also pointed out that Saturday’s event was a good trial run for the Manners Camp to be held at Riverview on June 12-15. The camp, for youngsters aged 7-10, costs \$125 and includes a graduation meal.

Those interested in registering for the Manners Camp can call Riverview at 270-843-5565.

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