**TODAY'S NEWS**

Scouts Return Safely

Eight Boy Scouts missing overnight with their troop in the mountains of North Carolina returned home today. The Scout and his fellow scouts were on a weekend camping trip when they got off the trail Sunday and became lost in the woods. The group, at their wits end, was days without food, without shelter, and without supplies. Isn’t That Cute?

The votes are in, and the winner of the election was... well, let’s just say that the candidates were not what one might expect.

**Keeping the Bears in Mind**

Nine-year-old Amanda Wiele of Alexandria loves panda bears. "I just really wanted to save them," she said. A year ago she invented the board game Pandarama, which she sells for $10. The money she earns — more than $250 so far — goes to the Giant Panda Conservation Fund at the National Zoo.

"I just sort of got the idea because (pandas) are endangered, and not many people are helping them," said Amanda, pictured in the blue shirt in the photo above left.

Gwendolyn Collins asked her friends not to buy gifts for her eighth birthday this summer but to donate to the World Wildlife Fund instead. She raised $375. Gwyneth, who lives in Alexandria, worries about how global warming is affecting polar bears. "I really love those animals," she said. "Instead of buying gifts, I’d rather help save them." Amanda, pictured in the red shirt in the photo above right, said: "This is 100 days old. Mom and Dad held him for the first time and noticed that he was a panda."

**Different Ways to Make a Difference**

You might think you have to be grown up to make a difference in the world. After all, you’re just a kid. But many kids are able to help people, animals and the planet. And they do it in very different ways. KidsPost's Moira E. McClaughlin shares a few inspiring stories.

**A Juggling Act for Two**

Evan and Eric Dritz live to juggle. The brothers can juggle beanbags, balls, rings, bowling pins — even broccoli! (They hope to juggle torches someday.)

How can juggling help anyone?

"Everyone enjoys seeing me juggle," said Evan, 15. One day while the boys were waiting for their mom at a diabetes support group, they started juggling to pass the time. Pretty soon a crowd of kids with diabetes gathered to watch. Now the boys entertain sick kids and the older people often tell stories after their shows. "It makes us feel good," said 12-year-old Eric.

**Environmental Friends**

Leah Moskin-Pierret and Abigail Burman started an organization called Branching Out (www.branchingout.org) as a Sunday school project. "We wanted to do something that involved kids and help the environment," said Leah, 13, shown at right.

This growing group raises money for the National Arbor Day Foundation, organizes tree plantings and educates kids and adults about conservation.

"For the most part, kids don’t do much to help the world because they don’t have a chance to," said Leah. "We want to educate kids — about the problems.

**SCOUTS RETURN SAFELY**

Scout leader Tim Feltis of Michigan City, Indiana, said late last night when he and his scouts came into Chicago, they agreed that they were lost for sure. "We don’t know what we’ll do."

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