

Project teaches girls about native land

FISHERS » Katelyn Connor said making a Chinese pagoda out of gingerbread with her Girl Scout troop stimulated her imagination and taught her more about her native land.

“It’s very special to me to bring memories and thoughts of where I was born,” said Katelyn, 8, a third-grader at Shamrock Springs Elementary in Westfield. “We put our own feelings into it. It’s so special.”

She’s a member of Girl Scout Troop 42. Split into Daisies, Brownies and Junior Scouts, the troop has about 60 girls. Two are from Vietnam; the rest were born in China; and all were adopted by Indiana families.

Katelyn came to the United States when she was 14 months old. She and her sister Grace, 6, also from China, joined the troop when it started three years ago. “We all come from Asia, and we all have a lot of things in common,” Katelyn said.

The troop’s gingerbread creation earned the girls a certificate of creativity and \$25 in the annual Gingerbread Village at Conner Prairie living-history museum in Fishers.

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