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Perris Girl Scouts Earn Top Honor

The City of Perris stepped up recently to help a trio of Perris Valley Girl Scouts achieve a top honor while beautifying the Monument Park community in the City's south end.

The Girl Scouts Cadets—Priscila Concebida, 12, Katelynn Juarez, 13, and Mecaila Loya, 13, planted two sycamore trees Jan. 30 to earn their Silver Award honor. The award is the second highest individual honor the Girl Scouts bestow.

For the three, the tree-planting on the north side of Monument Ranch Park was a chance to enhance the open space while creating a legacy that will last for decades by the trees that will cool the area and provide shade to future generations of Perris residents.

Priscila and her mother, Veronica Huerta, were so grateful to the City that they publicly thanked Park Services Manager Greg Zoll, who coordinated the project and helped obtain the trees and Public Works employees Hector Ledesma, Isauro Castillo and Jaime Salazar, who assisted in the planting. The Scouts appeared at the Feb. 9 Perris City Council meeting to express their thanks for municipal assistance.

"The City of Perris was indispensable in making this project possible and we are grateful for their assistance," said Veronica Huerta, the mother of Priscila and a leader in Troop 1114, which includes Girl Scouts from Perris, Menifee and throughout the Perris Valley. "We're super-excited to lend a hand."

Criteria for the Silver Award include identifying a need, creating a plan to address the need, working with appropriate partners to form a solution and completing the project.

Priscila called planting the trees a "pretty cool" way to spend part of a Saturday morning. The Bell Mountain Middle School student enjoys studying history and hopes to become a teacher.

"We got to help the community and do what' right," Priscila said. "We wanted to help others. That's what being a Girl Scout is all about."

Priscila said she hopes to tackle another civic project to earn her Gold Award, the highest bestowed by the Girl Scouts. She's still developing that project.

Her mom said she has no doubt the Priscila earn that merit.

"I'm very proud of her," Veronica Huerta said. "She's my inspiration."



Katelynn Juarez, Priscila Concebida and Mecaila Loya stand by a tree they planted Jan. 30 at Monument Ranch Park to earn their Silver Award from the Girl Scouts.

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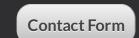
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