

Dear Members of City Council:

We are Junior Girl Scout Troop 8209 made up of 5th grade girls from various public schools throughout the city. First we would like to thank you for inviting us to present our Bronze Award Project to you. We have worked very hard on this project and are very excited to share it with you. To give you a bit of background, the Bronze Award is the highest honor a Junior can achieve and is earned when Girl Scout junior 's team up to make a difference in their community. This enables them to learn important leadership skills, discover new passions, and watch how seemingly small actions make a big difference.

Our troop came up with the idea for a "Little Beach Toybox." Originally we planned to call this the "Little Beach Toy Library" but decided to change the name to the "Little Beach Toybox." This is similar to the "Little Libraries" that are installed around town, but instead of books the toybox contains beach toys. The idea behind the toybox is that people who come to the beach can take toys out of the toybox to play with when they are there, then rinse and return them to the toybox when they leave. We will have signs on the Little Beach Toybox explaining this to beachgoers, that they are free to take a toy to play with during their time at the beach and to rinse and return to the toybox when they are done. Our troop has constructed this model so you can see how this will work. We have materials to make two more Little Beach Toyboxes to place at the beach. We will cover all the cost and labor of making and stocking the Little Beach Toybox if you allow us to install it.

We think the best place for the little beach toy box would be at Red Arrow Beach. This beach is used by people who live in Manitowoc as well as those who are visiting. When people go to the beach they already have to carry their towels and coolers so why not free up their hands from having to bring their own toys? Our troop will stock the toybox with beach toys and plan to have a toy drive within our schools to have back up toys available for when these toys are no longer usable. We will take turns checking on the toyboxes on a weekly basis and will remove any unusable toys and restock with new toys. Our troop will take turns monitoring the toyboxes with one girl from our troop being responsible to stop and check on the toyboxes every week. The girl who is checking on them will send a picture of the toyboxes to our troop leader during this checkup. That girl will also alert the troop leader if anything needs to be fixed to keep these toyboxes safe for everyone to use.

Our Little Beach Toybox is very sturdy and would best be installed by using heavy duty zip ties to attach to a post. We think one toybox could be attached at the beginning of the board walk heading from the parking lot to the beach and the others onto posts closer to the beach. Our troop would cover the cost of putting up these posts. By using zip ties, this also means that we can remove these Little Beach Toyboxes at the end of summer. This will keep them from getting damaged during the off season. We plan to install the Little Beach Toyboxes during the week of Memorial Day and remove them during the week of Labor Day. We will also have a set schedule to monitor and maintain the Little Beach Toybox during this time. We hope you are as excited about this project as we are!

Again, thank you so much for your time and consideration. I personally want to thank you for allowing the troop to come in person to present this project. This is such a valuable lesson and lived experience that shows them firsthand how powerful their ideas and voices are. We look forward to hearing your feedback and answering any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Juniors: Adalynn, Aislyn, Aryana, Jayden, Lilly D, Lily R, Peyton, Sofia, and Suzy

Leaders: Brittany and Sarah

Girl Scout Troop 8209

Girl Scouts of Manitou Council