



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 7, 2008

GIRLS SCOUTS EARN MERIT BADGE FROM DISTRICT VISIT

INDIO, CA, AUGUST 2008: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) welcomed Girl Scouts from Troop 799 on Tuesday, July 29, to learn firsthand how mosquitoes and other vectors exist within our community. They are the vanguard of Girl Scouts and Brownies who will be participating in a new program whereby they earn a merit badge and certificate in mosquito control.

The Scouts attended a 40-minute presentation given by the District's Community Educator focusing on vectors, their biology and habitats, the diseases they transmit, and the methods used by the District to help control vector populations. They learned how they can help prevent mosquito breeding by performing some simple procedures around their homes and the importance of reporting neglected swimming pools to the District.

After the presentation, Scouts viewed mosquito eggs, larvae, and pupae through microscopes in the District's lab. They examined collections of unusual insects

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from around the world and the Valley, plus live exhibits, including scorpions and lizards. Participants also learned about mosquito traps and other mosquito control equipment and observed mosquitofish and tadpole shrimp production in the Bio-Control facility—two important ways to control mosquito populations biologically without pesticides.

A high point of the Girl Scouts' tour was participation in a “hands-on” activity where they each made their own dipper. The girls were then able to dip for mosquito larvae and pupae to see how quickly they can wiggle and tumble to safety. To earn their merit badges, Brownies will construct mosquito replicas and learn about insect anatomy during the process.

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, or to report neglected pools or standing water. Service requests can also be submitted online at www.cvmvcd.org . For more information on flies, District services and programs, or to book an informational presentation or tour for your group, please visit our website at www.cvmvcd.org

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