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**Girl Scout Troop Earns Silver Award with Garden Project at Ranch View Middle School**

Highlands, Colo. -- Girl Scouts Troop 3505, a group of four Cadettes in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, earned their Silver Award by creating and completing a community garden at Ranch View Middle School on June 29, 2017.  The Silver Award is the highest award at the Cadette level.

For the troop of four girls: Elise Cary, 14; Emily Lucker, 14; Abby Ulrich, 14; and Madison Weitzel, 14; the project was more than a year and a half in the planning, and it will make a lasting contribution to the middle school where they attended and the community of Highlands Ranch. The girls are now freshman students at nearby ThunderRidge High School.

The project included budgeting and raising funds to revamp the space; working with a local nursery to design a garden layout; providing 20 xeriscape plants for the garden site; working with Douglas County schools and Girl Scouts of Colorado to obtain the appropriate approvals to work at the site; and providing and completing all the labor to install the new garden.  These tasks included weeding, tilling, planting, and mulching the outdoor garden space.

The girls created the space in hopes that it can be used as an outdoor classroom and community space for Ranch View.  In addition, the four girls have continued to work with a teacher sponsor, Ann Rhinehart, at Ranch View Middle School to create a garden club to sustain it into the future.

Highlands Garden Center, 8080 S. Holly St., in Centennial, helped the girls plan the design.  Holter Landscaping & Construction in Highlands Ranch donated mulch for the garden.

For more information on the project, contact Girl Scout Troop 3505 Leaders Danica Lucker at 303-791-0835, or Carolee Weitzel at 303-470-3978; or Tanner Fitch, principal at Ranch View Middle School, 303-387-2300.

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