



Local girl gives, instead of receives on her birthday

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KSBY NEWS

A young Arroyo Grande girl celebrated her 9th birthday Sunday, and instead of asking for toys or clothes, she made a different request of her guests. It's a request her mother says, isn't surprising.

"This year I asked her if she wanted to do it again, I said, do you want just a regular party where you go bowling with your friends or anything like that or do you want to do this again?" said Kristen Lewis. "And she chose this."

It's no ordinary party, for one extraordinary kid.

"Pacific wildlife care is coming and I have all my friends with me and we're going to have a really great party," said birthday girl McKaila Lewis.

McKaila turned nine Sunday, and to celebrate, she wanted to share her special day with others.

"I just donate money because I don't really care about the presents. I'd rather donate the money so other people can use it to help."

In fact, McKaila has asked people to bring donations to her birthday party for the last three years.



McKaila Lewis and friends listening to wildlife educators' Kathy Duncan and Jeri Roberts from Pacific Wildlife Care.

"One year I donated to woods, and this year I'm donating to Pacific Wildlife Care," she said.

The animal rescue group says it couldn't be more thrilled McKaila has decided to share her special day, so in return, the group decided to share its animals at her party.

"I just think that's an outstanding thing, especially for someone her age to set an example like that," said Pacific Wildlife Care's Jeri Roberts. "I'm honored to be here, truly."

"They say I've done a good job by helping them," said McKaila.

But will she do it again for her tenth birthday? "I'm sure I will. It makes me feel really nice," she said.

McKaila wouldn't have it any other way.

The first year she asked for donations in place of gifts, McKaila raised around \$100. Last year, she raised about \$150. This year, she nearly quadrupled that record, bring in \$553 to benefit Pacific Wildlife Care.