

# Connect!

Volunteer e-Newsletter  
Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland – Bluestem Region

In This Issue *October 1, 2009*

[Busy As Volunteer Bees](#)

[Getting Girls is Never the Problem](#)

[Carol's Corner](#)

[Friendly & Helpful Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Volunteer Services

### Busy as Volunteer Bees

We're all scrambling right now, aren't we? Back to school; football; soccer; parent meetings – and then on top of that we have our responsibilities as Girl Scouts. I appreciate how busy everyone is and so let me thank you again for continuing to be a part of Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland. What you are doing for the girls in the Bluestem region of GSKH is important and worthwhile.

**There are a few things we can do to make this crazy time of year go pretty smoothly as it pertains to potential new volunteers:**

- Encourage new volunteers to apply online rather than the paper form. It's quicker and far more efficient, not to mention greener!
- If you know someone who says they've filled out an online app, please send their name to your SU manager so she can compile a list for me. I can cross reference what you have with what I have and in so doing, make sure everyone is accounted for & approved.
- If you don't have a SU manager, perhaps you might volunteer to be the human resources contact for your area. It only takes a minimal amount of time and it really helps speed up the process. You'll help me by interviewing new volunteers.

I'm looking for service units & troops who will allow me to come film them doing things like:

- Having a meeting
- Singing GS songs
- Having a ceremony
- Using the Journeys

I'm putting together video trainings on a You Tube channel for our area, and I can really use your help. Don't be shy – email me today!

*Sher Holloway*

Volunteer/Membership Services Manager

[Back to top](#)

## Membership Services

### **“Getting Girls is Never the Problem”**

I hear that statement from you all at least once a week or more. You have girls who want to be in scouting, but you are having difficulty getting volunteers to lead them. I know exactly what you mean as I have the same problem. I get phone calls & emails a lot from parents who are upset their girls do not have a troop – but who absolutely won't hear of volunteering. It's frustrating, at best.

If we were in sales, and you were salespeople, I'd tell you to approach your “warm market” to make the sale. Even though we're not selling a product, we are selling Girl Scouting – and current volunteers are our very best salespeople. Your friends, relatives, co-workers, fellow church goers – these are the people who are in your warm market. They know you're in Girl Scouting and whether you realize it or not, you've already been recruiting them. One recent study found *“The vast majority of people who had not volunteered at all in their communities in the past year said that the reason they had not was that they were not asked and did not know about the opportunities.”*

Ask, ask, ask! Ask one on one and be specific about what you need. *“Mary, I could use someone to help me with my troop paperwork every other Thursday for an hour. Are you*

available?” You may be surprised at the answers you get!

***Remember: A closed mouth is never fed!***

[Back to top](#)

## Program Services & Product Sales

### Carol's Corner

*Carol is away on vacation as I write, and so I am going to have to admit something to you all I'd really rather not. Before she left, she said these words to me, “**Sher, please put this in the newsletter.**” Unfortunately I must have been playing with something shiny, because I cannot for the love of cookies, remember what she said.*

*I've looked through all my Carol emails – I've sat squinting really hard and rubbing my chin – I've even tried to contact her telepathically to see if she'd pick up on it and send me a telepathic message in return. So far I've got nothing. The good news for you is that she'll be back on Monday so she can tell you then. The bad news for me is that if she finds out I forgot even after she specifically told me, I'm going to be in deep trouble.*

*If we could all secretly agree that we'll just tell Carol that Sher did exactly what she was supposed to do, and didn't forget what it was she was supposed to remember, I know that I for one would be very happy. I was shooting for Bluestem Region employee of the month in October and this little incident could mean she'll get it – again.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sher*

*PS: Thank goodness she didn't leave me in charge of feeding her dog.*

For questions regarding an existing program or to suggest an idea for a program, please contact [Carol Wehmeyer](#).

[Back to top](#)

## Helpful Web Resources

*“... friendly and helpful,”*

What are your FAVORITE web resources? [Send me an email](#) and share with other volunteers!

I love the idea of service units & troops having their own website to share info! Whether you want to share your calendar of events with parents or communicate with other service unit members, it's so easy now to create a website and there are LOTS of free places to start. I've even heard that some troop leaders are finding the best way to communicate with parents is on Facebook. That's terrific!

Here are some links that might help get your creative juices flowing – and by the way, Web Manager would be an excellent new volunteer position in every service unit!

[http://members.tripod.com/bri\\_rose/ceremonies.html](http://members.tripod.com/bri_rose/ceremonies.html) - This is a simple homemade site that shows how one lady shares great info with others in Girl Scouting.

<http://gstroop134.org/> - A troop website is a great way to share pictures with parents, grandparents and extended family.

<http://www.twittermoms.com/group/girlscoutleadermoms> - If you Twitter, you might want to consider joining this group as they share LOTS of great GS ideas online.

[http://www.girlscouts.org/internet\\_safety\\_pledge.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/internet_safety_pledge.asp) - The Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge

***If you utilize the web in your work as a Girl Scout volunteer, would you let me know? I'd love to share your ideas with other leaders!***

The NEW Girl Scout blog - <http://blog.girlscouts.org>

Science: It's a Girl Thing on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Science-Its-A-Girl-Thing/58561950834> Some great, FREE, resources.



[Back to top](#)

Contact Us

## Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

[Carol Wehmeier](#) – Program Services/Product Sales Manager

[Sher Holloway](#) – Volunteer/Membership Services Manager

What's on your mind? If you have a question, comment, or idea you'd like to see covered in *Connect*, send an email to [sholloway@kansasgirlscouts.org](mailto:sholloway@kansasgirlscouts.org).

**So that you'll always be sure to receive *Connect*, add [sholloway@kansasgirlscouts.org](mailto:sholloway@kansasgirlscouts.org) to your email address book.**

Are you on Facebook? Carol and I would love it if you'd send us a friend request. It's a great way to get to know each other better. [Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland now has a group on Facebook!](#) I love it because it opens volunteers and staff up to talking with and sharing with volunteers from other regions in our Council. That means new & exciting ideas and of course, lots of new friends.

[Friend Sher on Facebook](#)

[Friend Carol on Facebook](#)

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**[Back to top](#)**