

Connect

Volunteer E-Newsletter For Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

In This Issue

August 2009

[Adult Learning Opportunities](#)

[Preview of New Journey](#)

[Video](#)

[It's Coming!](#)

[Older Girl News](#)

[FOS Training Dates](#)

[Great Deals in the Shop](#)

[It's Your Chance](#)

Volunteer Services News

Leadership Essentials

It won't be long before school starts and your troops will meet again. This is a great time to get your adult learning classes out of the way if you have not taken Leadership Essentials. There are many classes scheduled for the month of August and beyond. Sign up online or give me a call at 316-684-6531 or email me at gdurall@kansasgirlscouts.org.

Building a Girl-Led Troop

Okay, you already took Leadership Essentials and you are asking yourself how to put all of those great theories to work. Building a Girl-Led Troop has many answers and inspires great ideas. Let us come to your service unit meeting or just to your community to give this class. We can make it last as long as you have time – ½ hour to 1 hour. It is worth your time! Give me a call at the information above to schedule your class.

It's Your Planet – Love It!

Last month I tried to share information with you from Girl Scouts of the USA about the new Journey *It's Your Planet – Love it!* Since the link did not work I wanted you to see it, so here is the exciting information.....



IN THIS ISSUE

Summertime Reflection

Journeys Make Your Lives Bigger

Forget the Stress

Plan for the Year Ahead

Keep it Girl-Led

A Journey Success Story

Girl Scout Journey Update *Summer Planning Guide*

Whether you've recently taken the plunge to become a Girl Scout volunteer or have been working with girls for years, you know what works and what doesn't. You know what your group of girls likes and what they don't. You know their strengths and weaknesses, you know your own, and you know how to balance them.

You are...

An expert on your group of girls

A role model

A Girl Scout volunteer

Summertime Reflection

Right now it's summer. It's time to enjoy the weather, let the sun dance on your skin, let the cool breeze blow the cobwebs from your thoughts. It is time to relax, remember, and refresh. Why not use some of this time to start planning for how you might work the journeys into your next Girl Scout year?

Think back on your past year. What successes did you have? As you worked with girls, do you remember the look on their faces when you helped them discover a new experience, or supported them as they took the plunge and tried something new—and then discovered that they were good at it? From that moment, each girl developed a new passion, strove to prove her excellence, and was introduced to people who could help her explore, grow, and develop. Together, you embarked on a journey. Your memories are wonderful; theirs are life-changing. And there are so many more life-changing memories in the works!

Journeys Make Your Lives Bigger

Life is a journey, particularly for girls. On every journey, you start somewhere, perhaps with an invitation, a picture that inspires you, or words in a book. You make a decision to go somewhere new. And on the way, you might try foreign foods, visit new places, hear new ideas that spark your imagination, forge new friendships, and take home beautiful memories and perhaps a few keepsakes. Most importantly, you come home a little wiser...and your world is a little bigger.

Those same elements are part of each Girl Scout journey. The journey books take you and girls on new adventures, where you will discover, connect, and take action to make a difference in the world. Journey books are designed to take girls to new places, all under the umbrella of a particular theme, but it is your expertise, experience, and imagination that bring the books to life and make the journey unique for your girls.

Forget the Stress

Each journey adult guide has been created specifically for you, providing information that helps you facilitate discussions and activities with girls. Included in each adult guide are explanations of journey themes, sample sessions, tips for encouraging girls to choose and complete activities, and ideas for Take Action projects. Journey books give purpose and structure to the year as you and the girls define goals and choose activities related to a central theme. They also describe how to make sure the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is girl-led. Girls define their own goals and the activities they want to pursue, while you guide them and lend your expertise.

Plan for the Year Ahead

To get started, first draw up a simple calendar and plot out what your year might look like:

January

February

March

April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

Then consider the following questions:

- How many meetings will you have each month? When do you plan to break for holidays or other events?
- How many weeks should be set aside for camp or travel?
- How many weeks do you need to allocate for the Girl Scout Cookie Program?
- At the beginning of the year, how will you introduce the journeys and related books to the girls and their parents? Is there a kickoff event that can help bring the journey theme to life for the girls—what's a good day for this?
- Are there guest speakers you can introduce to the girls who will open up new opportunities for them?
- If you've worked with this group before, what are their preferences? Badge work? Field trips? Special events? Can these also be tied to the journey theme? Make sure to include these activities in your calendar as a starting point. Girls will fill in the details as they guide their own journey.

Once you've established a loose framework, the girls will be ready to lead their own exploration.

Keep it Girl-Led

You've plotted out a framework for your year, but come fall, it'll be time to ask the girls what they think. Remember: You want girls to lead!

Before your group even opens journey books, ask the girls what the journey and related theme mean to them. Maybe the theme ignites a discussion (or even debate!) that helps the girls chart their course for the year. Use this information to help the girls plan a journey kickoff event for themselves and their families.

In your discussions, probe to find out what the girls are most interested in accomplishing over the year. Maybe one or more girls had a particular adventure over the summer that they can expand on as a group? Ask, too, how they'd like to incorporate these interests into their year.

For example, suppose girls are intrigued by the theme of the journey book or by a related theme that's a presence in their lives. This is your chance to encourage girls to dig deeper. Can they organize and plan a field trip or longer travel opportunity to find out more? Is there an event in another pathway that meshes with this topic or area of interest? Can the girls locate and communicate with an expert in the field via e-mail? Can they invite a local guest speaker to answer specific questions or demonstrate particular skills? And which badges can the group choose to work on that will deepen their skills in this particular area?

None of this will happen overnight, but by asking gentle questions, showing interest in their answers, and helping them take the next steps in their exploration, the girls will lead their own journeys as leaders of their communities—and the world!

A JOURNEY SUCCESS STORY

Alicia is the troop volunteer for a group of Brownie Girl Scouts in Huntington Beach, California. Her troop has been working with the Brownie Quest book.

"When I first received the Brownie Quest book, I wasn't quite sure how to incorporate it into

our established troop meeting protocol. We had very little time to figure it all out, so I decided to just go with the flow and figure it out as we went along. That was the beginning of our journey. The girls had no problems thinking of what to do. They just needed some guidance in shaping those ideas so that their projects and activities were attainable.

"To prepare for our first meeting, I read through the adult guide and Brownie Quest book. I decided to follow one of the sample sessions from the adult guide. At our first meeting, I spoke to the group about the journey theme, the Brownie Quest book, and some of the activities that we could do as a group. The girls loved the idea of the map and finding three hidden keys. Over the course of ten months, we had fifteen meetings and eighteen events/field trips. Of the fifteen meetings, nine were spent working on quest activities. The girls also voted to work on several Try-Its, so I wanted to make sure that they were earning those, too. Although the Brownie Quest ended up as our foundation for the year, we were also able to earn thirteen Try-Its—many of which were related to our quest.

"At the beginning of our troop year, we learned about ELF, and each girl completed her Family Star. The girls learned about cooperation, composed a Team Agreement, and made Family Activity Ideas jars (reusing nut cans). The girls filled in a Circle Map and read stories from the Brownie Quest book. We decided to write our own stories about helping others in our community, which inspired our Take Action project. The girls voted that helping animals was their area of interest and decided to raise money to purchase items for a local animal shelter. They also created a community recycling program to turn trash into cash!

"Along their journey, each girl discovered, connected, took action, and learned essential leadership skills. They might not understand or appreciate the details of their journey now, but this experience will shape them and prepare them for their next leadership opportunity.

"My role as the adult was similar to my previous experiences in Girl Scouting. I provided a structure in which the girls actively participated in Girl Scouting (not playing on the playground) and engaged them in activities that developed skills, interests, and abilities. The journey books broke down the planning and implementation process of a Take Action project. The outline made it easy for the troop to create a project that they planned from beginning to end. Volunteers still need to research, prepare materials, and plan out meeting strategies, but the adult guides are helpful tools and can be adapted to fit the needs of individual troops."

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[Back to the top](#)

Membership Services News

14 Women

Girl Scouts of the USA has partnered with The Creative Coalition (a nonprofit organization that educates and mobilizes leaders in the arts and entertainment communities), to bring copies of the powerful documentary, *14 Women*, to every Girl Scout council nationwide.

This is an exciting new way to demonstrate leadership values to your troops. The film takes an in-depth look inside the lives of the fourteen women U.S. Senators in the 109th Congress. Our women Senators possess the leadership values girls look for in their role models, and *14 Women* provides girls a unique opportunity to see what they can achieve when embracing leadership positions and as such, will be a great film for girls to watch while pursuing the ***Ms. President Patch***.

GSUSA developed this participation patch for girls of all ages to celebrate past women who have paved the way for girls to enter public service and educates girls on what women leaders are currently achieving in politics with the support of The White House Project, a nonprofit organization that aims to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors of public service.

If you are interested in watching this video please contact the council office at 316-684-6531.

2010 Registration Forms

The new and updated registration forms are finally here! We have girl, adult and finance dues summaries here in the office. Come visit us!

[Back to the top](#)

Program Services News

Fall Road Map

Summer program is winding down, school is about to start and it is time to share the enthusiasm of fall programs. The Fall 2009 Road Map will be distributed at the area meetings in August and September. Each troop will receive two copies of the Road Map. Reservations for fall programs and adult learning opportunities will begin August 17. [At-A-Glance](#) will include the program code, capacity and reservation deadlines. There is a section in the Roadmap for council sponsored travel opportunities for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Cookie credits may be used for programs in the Fall Roadmap. Reservations for programs beyond November 15 must have a reservation prior to November 15 to apply cookie credits. Families will be able to view the Roadmap on our website at www.kansasgirlscouts.org in early August (families will not be receiving a copy in the mail).

Older Girl Congress

Older Girl Congress is a chance for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors to be involved in Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland at a higher level. Girls will learn about positions within the Congress, travel opportunities, product sales, and more. This is also a way for girls to share with us what they would like to see available for them. We will be holding Older Girl Congress meetings across the state beginning in September and October. There will be three congress meetings a year. For more information about Older Girl Congress check out the Fall 2009 Road Map.

Older Girl Awards

New updates for the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold award will be available the beginning of

September. Girls will not want to miss the Silver and Gold Orientations this fall to learn about the NEW requirements. For more information see the Fall 2009 Road Map.

[Back to the Top](#)

Product Sales

The Fall Opportunity Sale (FOS) is just around the corner. It's not too early to start discussing FOS with the girls. Here are a couple of websites that have lots of fun activities for troops and information about FOS: www.itsreadingtime.org and www.nutsforknowledge.com. Also, coming soon we'll have information about FOS posted on the GSKH website, www.kansasgirlscouts.org.

Don't miss the upcoming FOS Trainings. It's the place to learn what's new and how to have a great sale. **What's new?** New products, new finance procedures, and a new Recognition Opt-Out Program.

Wheatbelt Region's FOS Training

Monday, Aug. 31, 2009 (Area Meeting)

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Hutchinson Community College, Shears Technology Bldg.
1300 N Plum, Hutchinson

Wheatbelt Region's FOS Training

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009 (Area Meeting)

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Pratt Community College, Rm. 34 & 36
348 Northeast State Road 61, Pratt

Golden Plains Region's Service Unit FOS Training

Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Girl Scout Center
360 Lexington Rd., Wichita

[Back to the top](#)

New! In the Council Shop

SALE

SALE

SALE

Buy any two or more girl or teen apparel items and SAVE 20%!

This is the perfect time to stock up on all your favorites. Buy any two or more regularly priced apparel items for girls or teens as featured in the 2009 Girl Scout Catalog.

To take advantage of these great savings. Visit your Girl Scout Council Store today for instant savings at the register. The 20% savings begins August 1st, 2009 and continues through October 15th 2009.

Offer excludes official sashes, vests, and tunics. Selections vary by location and cannot be combined with any other offer. Not applicable to prior purchases.

**The Council Shop in all the regions will be closed
September 29th and September 30th, 2009, for inventory.**

[Back to the top](#)

News to Use and Ideas to Motivate

Commit to a Girl

The Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland's annual *Commit to a Girl* fundraising campaign is underway. You can commit to the Girl Scout in your life or to all Girl Scouts, but either way you are helping the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland in its journey of building girls of courage, confidence and character.

If every Girl Scout family gave a gift as small as \$5, we would raise more than \$50,000 for our Council! You can give in one of three ways:

- 1) Send a check to the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, ATTN: Fund Development, 360 Lexington, Wichita, KS 67218 (or you can drop off your donation at the nearest Girl Scout office). Remember to put "Commit to a Girl" in the memo line of your check.
- 2) You can call your local Girl Scout office and make a donation by Visa or MasterCard, or
- 3) You can pay on-line through our Web site at www.kansasgirlscouts.org (choose "donors" at the bar at the top of the home page) and click on "donate online now."

Please call Valarie Florio, Chief Development Officer, at 316-684-6531, ext. 529 if you have any questions about this fundraising campaign. **Thank you for your support and for committing to a Girl Scout in Kansas!**

[Back to the top](#)

About Us

Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

Headquarters

360 Lexington Rd., Wichita, 67218

316-684-6531 OR 888-472-3683

www.kansasgirlscouts.org

What would you like to see in future e-newsletters? Please share your thoughts and suggestions.

Send an e-mail to Ginger Durall at gdurall@kansasgirlscouts.org .