

# volunteerconnections

## Bridging An Important Transition from [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org)



Bridging is an important transition in a Girl Scout's life. It's a defining moment when a girl becomes aware of her achievements and is ready for new adventures and responsibilities. Celebrating this change should be fun, personalized, and memorable for everyone involved. And most of all, it should be designed by the girls in true partnership with adults. Bridging ceremonies usually take place at the beginning or end of the Girl Scout year and can have three parts:

- Opening: guests are welcomed and the tone is set
- Main Section: the ceremony is explained and the girls celebrate moving from one level to the next
- Closing: girls can participate in friendship circles and thank their guests

Each of the ceremony's parts offers plenty of room for the girls' creativity and individuality. And whether the ceremony includes an actual bridge or a symbolic one, or if it includes props like candles, flowers, or flags, it should always focus on paying tribute to the girls as they move forward.

For printable bridging certificates and a customizable bridging ceremony program cover, visit the "Resources" page of the GSMH website.

## NEW! Online Calendar

The GSMH website now includes a calendar of programs, trainings, special events, fundraisers, Girl Scout holidays, and more! Visit GSMH's "Events" page at [www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/pages/events.php](http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/pages/events.php) to view it. You can still search for *Go! Guide* program events by age level, location, and keywords using the Program Search tool: [www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/pages/programsearch.php](http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/pages/programsearch.php).

## WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?



*Cranes hand-folded by members of GSMH. Photo by Anne Hyde.*

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland recently shipped more than 3,000 paper cranes to Girl Scout sisters in Japan as a symbol of friendship in the aftermath of recent natural disasters. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

### May Service Center & Shop Hours

Monday – Friday	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Closed (except Springfield)	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
CLOSED (Memorial Day)	Monday, May 30
Shops open Saturday, May 7	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

## 100th Anniversary Committees – Call for volunteers



In preparation for the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting, Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland is developing subcommittees of staff and volunteers! Through these committees, plans will be developed and implemented regarding council-wide celebrations, alumnae engagement, community service projects, and raising the visibility of Girl Scouting. Volunteer committees include:

Alumnae	Regional Camporees
Local Program Activities	Fundraiser Gala
Council Celebration	Historical Exhibit

If you are interested in participating in a committee, please email [asullivan@girlscoutsmoheartland.org](mailto:asullivan@girlscoutsmoheartland.org) or [bscott@girlscoutsmoheartland.org](mailto:bscott@girlscoutsmoheartland.org).

## Adult Trainings

The registration deadline for all trainings is 10 days prior to the scheduled date. If it is past the 10-day deadline, please contact the adult development department at 877-312-4764 x1513 to see if there is room in the session and to confirm that it has not been cancelled. Sessions with fewer than the minimum number of participants may be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation, only those registered will be notified. This information will also be available on the council cancellation line at 877-312-4764 x1181.

## Upcoming Trainings

### Basic Outdoor Skills (\$6)

Sat., May 14, 2011	Rogersville, MO	9 am - 1 pm
Sat., May 21, 2011	Sedalia, MO	9 am - 1 pm

*\*Correction: Page 22 of the Volunteer Magazine lists Saturday, May 22, 2011 as the date for the Basic Outdoor Skills training in Sedalia, MO. Please note that it is still going to be held on Saturday, but the correct date is May 21.*

### Basic Troop Camping (\$15) (Pre-Req.: Basic Outdoor Skills)

Tues., May 10 (pre-camp 6 pm - 9 pm)	Pittsburg, KS
9 am Sat., May 14 – 4 pm Sun., May 15	Pittsburg, KS
Tues., May 24 (pre-camp 6 pm - 9 pm)	Grove, OK
9 am Sat., June 4 – 4 pm Sun., June 5	Grove, OK

## Service Team Manager Trainings

Service Team Manager trainings will be held in June for new and returning service team managers. There is no fee for the training, but participants must register by Monday, May 23 (complete a training registration form, available online or in the *Volunteer Magazine*).

June 6	Cape Girardeau (Grace UMC)	6 pm – 9 pm
June 10	Jefferson City Service Center	6 pm – 9 pm
June 11	Springfield Service Center	10 am – 2 pm

*Please note that the June 7 training previously scheduled for Dexter, Missouri has been cancelled.*

## SAVE THE DATE! Fall Regional Meetings for Volunteers

Saturday, August 6th	Springfield, MO
Saturday, August 13th	Jefferson City, MO
Saturday, September 10th	Poplar Bluff, MO

## BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland Board of Directors met March 25 in Lake Ozark, Missouri. Actions taken by the Board included:

- approval of March 31, 2012 as the date for the Council's 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting;
- approval of Certified Financial Planner Dennis Heim of Heim, Young & Associates financial planning firm in Springfield, Mo., to serve on the Finance Committee;
- approval of Wende Pruden of Sikeston, Mo., a community volunteer with professional experience in facilities management and construction and volunteer experience in Girl Scouting, to serve on the Property Committee;
- ratification of the Executive Committee's motion to approve Paula Baker, chief clinical officer at Freeman Health Center in Joplin, Mo.; and Nancy Ayers, community volunteer in Cape Girardeau, Mo., former Girl Scout troop leader, and retired long-time staff member for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service; as nominees for director-at-large for the FY2011 slate of nominees.

The Board reviewed the status of the Strategic Learning process, received training on "Building Blocks for High Performing Boards" from Board member Susan Vaughn (Jefferson City, Mo.) and heard a legislative update from Board member Vicki Myers (Jefferson City). Board member Libby Mobley (Kennett, Mo.), Board Development Committee chair, thanked outgoing Board members Jean Bollinger (Cape Girardeau) and Valerie Richardson (Poplar Bluff) for their service.

Board Chair Tina Stillwell (Springfield, Mo.) reported on Girl Scouts of the USA's National Strategy Refresh and the results of the National Girl Scout Council Board Governance survey. Council CEO Jennifer M. Orban said girl membership is up over the same time a year ago. GSMH currently has 12,600 girl members and 4,300 adult members. Retail sales are up slightly, and online sales are up significantly.

The next Board meeting will take place June 17.

### Board of Directors Committee and Task Group Chairs

Executive Committee – Tina Stillwell  
 President's Team – Tina Stillwell  
 Board Development Committee – Valerie Richardson  
 Resource Development Committee – Lindsey Godfrey  
 Property Committee – Marla Moody  
 Finance Committee – Heidi Chick  
 Adult Recognition – To Be Appointed  
 DeLappe Trust Advisory Committee – To Be Appointed  
 Annual Meeting Committee – To Be Appointed  
 100th Anniversary Task Group – Mary Daly, Brigitte Scott, and Angie Robinson Sullivan  
 Policy Review Task Group – Don Claycomb

# programpathways

## Upcoming Programs

Registration deadlines are usually two weeks before a program. Please refer to the *GO! Guide* for details.

Age levels are denoted by initial after each program title (D=Daisy; B=Brownie; J=Junior; C=Cadette; S=Senior; A=Ambassador).

### Pioneer Weekend (All)

5/20-5/22 Joplin, MO

### All Tied Up (BJC)

5/21 Fredricktown, MO

### Fun on the Farm (B)

5/21 Springfield, MO

### Goin' Places (BJ)

5/21 Bloomfield, MO

### Tower Time (CSA)

5/21 Rogersville, MO

### Cowgirl Roundup (CSA)

5/27-5/28 Patterson, MO

### Outdoor Explorers (J)

5/28 Sedalia, MO

### Masters of Disaster Series (BJC)

6/6-6/11 Rogersville, Jefferson City, or Joplin, MO  
6/13-6/17 Dexter, MO

### Program Aide Troop Camping (CSA)

6/10-6/12 Rogersville, MO

### Troop Camping (DBJ)

6/10-6/11 Rogersville, MO

### Learning Letterboxing (B)

6/11 Hallsville, MO

### Beginning Letterboxing (D)

6/11 Hallsville, MO

### Dancing Duo Sock Hop (DBJ)

6/17 Joplin, Jefferson City, or Poplar Bluff, MO

### A Day with My Favorite Guy (All)

6/18 Patterson, MO

### Skinny Improv Workshop (All)

6/18 Springfield, MO

### Spunky Spelunkers (DB)

6/18 Sulphur Springs, AR

## The Girl Scout National Program Portfolio

### ...What does it include?

As you probably already know, there are currently three Girl Scout Journey books available for each program age level. Add to that the new *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, available for girls in each grade level this fall. The thematic leadership experience of the Journeys along with the skill building badges makes for a well-rounded program portfolio for girls! Look for more detailed information coming out soon!

## The Journey of her choice

### Exploring Leadership

*A focused adventure with  
prestigious awards*

**It's Your World- Change It!**

**It's Your Planet - Love It!**

**It's Your Story - Tell It!\***



## The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting

### Building Skills

*A fresh update of  
beloved traditions*

**Badges**

**Handbook**

**Cookie Program**

# WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?



Girls at the veteran's home. Photo from Karen Hann.

Girl Scout Troop 50336 recently spent the day doing service projects. They went to three nursing homes to visit residents and deliver Girl Scout Cookies - and stayed longer to play ball with residents at the Veteran's Home. Then, they delivered homemade cat toys to the two local pet shelters that needed supplies. Giving back was fun, too! "The girls really enjoyed themselves," wrote troop leader Karen Hann.

## Stay in the Know!

If you haven't already signed up for volunteer e-blasts, please visit [www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/signup](http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/signup) to do so! Starting in August, we will be e-mailing a bi-weekly Volunteer Connections newsletter to our distribution list. It will replace the current PDF version of Volunteer Connections and the semi-monthly e-blasts.

## item of the month at the gsmh retail shops

### Girl Scout Cookie Tote & Flip Flops

Perfect for summer!

**NEW DISCOUNT!**  
**\$5.90**

Was \$6.95. While supplies last.  
Sizes vary by location.



## PROPERTY UPDATE

The council Property Committee met on April 13. Agenda items included the introduction of new member Wende Pruden (Sikeston), ADA compliance at all council properties, results of the annual challenge course inspection at Latonka Program Center and discussion of the plan for council service centers. The property decision communication plan was reviewed and approved by the committee.

## monthly checklist: may

- Re-register your troop before the June 15 Early Bird deadline!
- Go to <http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org/signup> to sign up for e-mail newsletters.
- Remind your girls about the camp registration deadline (May 13)!

## Staff Spotlight: Human Resources

While you might not see them out and about at Girl Scout events, the Human Resources (HR) staff in GSMH are hard at work behind the scenes to ensure that staff are hired, trained, and supported - so that girls, families, and volunteers have the training and support that they need as well!

This is one of the busiest times of year for Director **Joan Gibson**, as she works to get camp staff hired. But with nearly 21 years as a Girl Scout professional - including positions in program and membership - she's up for the challenge! She helps to ensure that staff are trained and supported so that they can do their parts to help girls and volunteers. Having experienced great things as a girl member, Joan says, "I wanted to work for Girl Scouts to be able to give other girls a chance to grow and fly, too."



HR/Benefits Coordinator **Judy Reynolds** says that she is busiest at the start of the membership year, when the 64 full-time staff members enroll in benefits plans. Judy is also the go-to person for the non-member insurance policies that are required at Girl Scout events and activities. Her favorite things about working here? Good friends, and the "satisfaction of working for an organization that is empowering girls."

## quick contacts

If you have questions or comments about the content of this newsletter, please let us know!

Photos and Stories	Anne Hyde x1131
Product Program	Mary Beth Schwenck x1346
Program Pathways	Karen Lawrence x1329
Retail Shop	Kaye Kissee x1138
Volunteer Trainings	Shirley Stevens x1513
Other Questions	<a href="mailto:gscouts@girlscoutsmoheartland.org">gscouts@girlscoutsmoheartland.org</a>

Building girls of  
courage, confidence,  
and character,  
who make the world  
a better place.

**Girl Scouts of the  
Missouri Heartland, Inc.**  
**877-312-4764**

[gscouts@girlscoutsmoheartland.org](mailto:gscouts@girlscoutsmoheartland.org)  
[www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org](http://www.girlscoutsmoheartland.org)





# great year-end gifts!

## NEW! journeys keepsakes

for *It's Your Story - Tell It!*



## get ready for camp!

The Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland retail shops have everything girls need to get ready for camp! Stop by soon!



pictured (not to scale):  
Left: tie-dye hoodie, camper hat, mess kit, water bottle;  
Above: fun patches; Right: coin purse, clear cinch sack

### 2011 Girl Scout Camp T-Shirts

#### NEW THIS YEAR!

Camp t-shirts will not be issued with camp registrations; they will be available for purchase at camp trading posts and GSMH retail shops.

