

Partnering with Your Council Support System

Your Volunteer Support Manager is responsible for supporting adult and youth members in assigned communities of the council's jurisdiction. They work together with Service Unit Managers (SUMs) and other members of your service unit team.

How to develop a partnership with your Volunteer Support Manager:

1: Build Trust

One person may develop trust by just having a friendly conversation, while another person may need more time to build trust. As a SUM, you should bring a positive attitude, leadership knowledge, skills, and experience to enhance our partnership. (We promise to do the same!)

2: Set Goals and Expectations

Goal setting is helpful in determining realistic responsibilities for both partners. What do you expect from us? What do we expect from you? It's important we have a clear understanding on both sides so we can support each other in achieving our goals for the service unit. You will meet periodically with your Volunteer Support Manager to establish goals, touch base on progress, and establish a working relationship.

3: Communicate Openly and Frequently

A successful partnership has open and frequent communication. Communication can be in the form of telephone calls, email, or appointments for in-person visits, or video chats. It is important to communicate regularly. Developing clear expectations and standards for communication will keep you updated about council information and help us support you in your role.

- Make sure you discuss any conflicts and/or issues facing the service unit.
- Identify areas for growth with your Volunteer Support Manager.
- Identify needs for additional support with your Volunteer Support Manager.
- Share the service unit's successes with Girl Scouts of Western Washington via [Facebook](#) (@GirlScoutsWW) or our online [Share Your Story form](#).