

Why bees are the epitome of *Girl Power!*



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Bees have been the secret superheroes of a healthy ecosystem for billions of years. Without them, our food sources would dwindle and many species of plants and animals would become extinct.

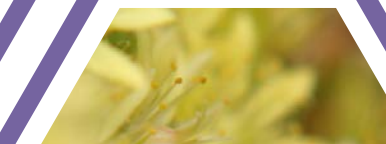
So how have these creatures survived since the beginning of time? Girl power!



The belief that girls can do anything and everything is at the heart of every bee hive in the world. The hive is headed by the Queen Bee but she actually has no authority to make decisions. The hive is in fact run, maintained and ruled by the thousands or millions of ordinary 'worker' girls.

Let's take a step back and look at some bee hive basics. The Queen Bee's sole job is to mate (only once in her lifetime) then spend the rest of her life laying 1,500-2,000 eggs a day. Seriously! She has no time for anything else.


ALL the other jobs are maintained by the worker bees - infertile female bees. These jobs include:

- Foragers who forage for pollen and nectar.
- Guard bees that sit at the entrance to the hive and bounce any unwanted guests out.
- Undertaker bees who literally throw dead bees out of the hive.
- Cleaner bees that make sure there's no comb out of place.
- Nurse bees that feed and tend the larvae.







The nurse bees can actually decide if they want a new Queen or not, it's all in the royal jelly. Bee democracy, perhaps?




Interestingly, as a worker bee ages, her jobs change - each role as important as the other in the hive.




Drones (the boys) are only fed and bred to leave the hive and mate with Queens from other colonies, to ensure the colony gene pool continues on. After successfully mating, a drone's sexual organs are actually ripped off and he dies. Think I'd rather be an undertaker bee.




So you see, these girls don't need any man to run a successful business, making some serious honey. They've got everything and everyone they need in the hive doing their respective roles.




I actually liken this female run and operated business to the rise of women in business. They don't always need a man doing the heavy lifting for them and don't shy away from the not-so-glamorous jobs that have to be done.



They often do their job without public applaud or recognition. They work together, supporting others to grow and learn, often simultaneously raising children. They just get the job done and can literally build an empire (colony) in a very short time. I think we have much to learn from these ladies.



Our Green Bee Magazine is a new hive, very aptly named, and made up of a group of women with varying experience, ages and talents coming together to build a successful empire. We hope that in the process, we're inspiring other young worker bees to grow and strive to build their own empires one day.



Although we've been conditioned to compete with others (especially as women), take a note from the bees and find ways to work with other business women, collaborate and share your strengths to all become a success.



Bees are amazing and you can **bee** too! ■