

# Advice from Other Leaders

*As a new Leader, you are probably full of questions! Who better to ask than an experienced Leader?!*

*When asked what was most important for a new Leader to know, Girl Scout Leaders responded:*

- "Most importantly, remember that girls should be planning what they do, not adults. The leader is the facilitator. Yes, facilitating takes longer, but the outcome is that the girls in the troop will have true ownership over what they do and will be more enthusiastic about staying in it."
- "Attend all leaders meetings and take notes. Talk to an experienced leader about Girl Scouting. I found that when I started out as a Daisy Girl Scout leader, I was lost. I read a lot of material about the program and listened to anyone willing to offer advice. I love Girl Scouting. This is my fourth year as a leader."
- "Relax; have fun. Set reasonable objectives for the year. If they don't work out, that's OK. Plans can change, and the girls need to learn how to adapt to change."



- "Engage the girls in actively planning events and activities. We were planning a party for the Manners Try-It, and I told the girls they could invite whoever they wanted (expecting their family or friends). They voted to invite their pets! It was our most successful event of the year. You wouldn't believe how much time (and love) went into the invitations and planning. And, of course, the event was so much fun for everyone. It also led to a great service project and field trip at the local humane society—all because the leaders let the girls decide."

- "Be a friend to the girls; listen to them; sing with them; join in the games. The girls have more fun when the leader participates instead of just supervising. The other advice I would give is BE ORGANIZED. It makes your life so much easier. Have a great year!"

- "Use local resources, such as departments of natural resources, animal shelters, and women's centers. Enlist volunteer parents to help plan meetings. Don't be afraid to ask for help."
- "Just remember that little girls love to have fun. Try to incorporate fun activities when girls are earning Try-Its and learning how to be great young ladies. Their minds are open books — just fill them with good and positive things, and you will all have a great year."



- “The best advice I can give to a new leader is to DELEGATE. You do not have to do everything yourself. Believe it or not, almost all of your parents will help in some way. Let the parents know what you need them to do and expect them to do it. Let them know that without their portion of the planning, the "activity will not be accomplished. When they know that everyone is counting on them, nine times out of ten they will come through. Just in case a plan fails, have a backup plan (I have found that something totally opposite of what was planned works best) because even the best of plans are interrupted by life. Being a leader is actually really fun, so just remember that. Don't worry about the little things; those will take care of themselves. Your job is to ensure that the girls are safe, having fun, and hopefully learning something along the way. Oh, and remember to laugh — that's important too!"



### **The Top 10 Things to Remember as a New Leader:**

1. The Girl Scout Promise and Law is the heart of the Girl Scout movement.
2. Program Standards and guidelines put in action help girls grow strong.
3. Safety-Wise is your best overall resource, followed by your leader's guide.
4. Training will make you a better leader.
5. There is a formal and informal network of people who can help you. Ask.
6. Lead, don't push. Facilitate, don't do it all.
7. Work in partnership with girls to plan and make decisions.
8. Be a friend.
9. Be a role model.
10. Have fun.