

TOP TEN PIECES OF ADVICE FROM SEASONED LEADERS

10. There is not just one way of doing things. Your way is just fine. There are no Girl Scout police. You don't need to be a great outdoorswoman or a life-long Girl Scout to be an effective Girl Scout Leader. (But if you know somebody like that, don't be afraid to use their expertise to help you along the way!)
9. Being a Girl Scout Leader is not a competitive sport. If you hear of something neat that another troop is doing, the appropriate response is not to feel inferior. Instead, think of all the great things your troop is doing, and file away that other troop's great idea in case you want to borrow it for your troop someday.
8. Network. One part of the Girl Scout Law is to use resources wisely. Don't re-invent the wheel! Talk to other leaders, as well as people involved in other youth organizations, and get ideas. **Don't hesitate to call team members for advice.**
7. Work with other troops at your age level to plan or host an event, or invite a troop one level up from yours to attend a meeting and help you meet the requirements to bridge to the next level. Maybe your troop would like to attend a meeting for younger girls to help them meet their bridging requirements.
6. Remember that all those Girl Scout rules and regulations are there to help and protect you, not to restrict you. Those rules, along with a little common sense, will help keep your girls safe and you out of trouble.
5. Step away from the girls! Get the girls to be as self-sufficient as possible by letting them work out and work on things themselves. Don't expect perfection. Don't automatically jump in and fix everything. This takes a lot longer, but in the end it will all be worth it.
4. Take the training courses available to you. It's hard to commit to yet another night out, but you'll get some great ideas and meet some really great people who are just as overwhelmed and confused about all this as you are!
3. Attend the monthly leader meetings. Same reasoning as 4 above, except you'll also meet some experienced leaders, who may still be overwhelmed and confused, but have also learned a few things through trial and error and will be happy to share their experiences with you.
2. Delegate. Let the parents in your troop know that everyone should have a part in the troop. You are not a babysitting service. There are lots of jobs to be done, large and small, to fit every time schedule. (See 100 Ways Parents Can Help)
1. HAVE FUN! Being a Girl Scout Leader is one of the best things you'll ever do for yourself, your daughter if you have one, and all those other girls in the troop. It's not brain surgery or rocket science, but it's just as worthwhile and just as important.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!