

## 11 Things That Make a Successful Leader

1. **Share responsibility with the girls.** By giving responsibility to the girls, you will help them grow and will reduce the number of tasks that you do.
2. **Attend monthly service unit leader meetings.** You will get great ideas from other leaders, learn about great craft projects, great trip suggestions, and get tips on dealing with troop, girl, and parent issues. You will be able to include your troop in events that happen in your area as well as important council news, events and updates.
3. **Hold a parent's meeting, every year.** It is extremely important to have the support and help of the girls' parents. So many leaders make the mistake of taking on too much without asking for help. Make a list of things that you will need parents to do and have them sign up in the beginning of the year. If you do not require parent participation in the beginning, you will have a difficult time getting help when you need it later on.
4. **Evaluate activities.** It is so important for the girls to plan activities with you and learn what works and what doesn't. There is so much to be learned through all of the years in Girl Scouting. Failing to evaluate will cause girls to lose interest and eventually stop participating in Girl Scouts.
5. **Visit the council website and council and service unit Facebook pages.** You can receive daily updates on news, events, and changes whenever you log on. The address is [www.gsqcf.org](http://www.gsqcf.org). You will also be able to share your thoughts as online surveys are posted.
6. **Participate in the Fall Product Sale and Cookie Program.** Participating in product sales will help your troop to earn funds and keep dues costs down. Girls can earn patches for participating, and the money earned will definitely help to fund the activities that you and the girls plan to do for the year. Funds earned from the cookie sale will carry over the summer and provide the funds needed to get the next year started.
7. **Read your eNewsletter.** This is one way the council communicates with leaders. You will find out about important council events and news, and will be connected with more opportunities and regional updates.
8. **Attend service unit and council programs.** Girls can earn recognitions, meet other Girl Scouts and have fun!... and you don't have to do any of the work involved with supplies. Girls can attend programs together as a troop, or you can ask the parents to drive their daughters individually.
9. **Increase your knowledge.** The council offers different types of training so that leaders can guide girls through new experiences. Don't let the girls experience be hindered by adult limitations!
10. **Meet your membership staff support.** Each service unit has a staff person assigned to support the service unit and its members. The Girl Scout membership staff is available for any questions or concerns you may have. They can provide answers and insight whenever you need.
11. **Smile.** Remember that you are making a difference in the lives of many girls. Girl Scouting promotes many values and creates experiences, but there may be one girl who comes back to each meeting just to be in the good company of her friends and caring adults like you.