

Letting Girls Lead 9 -12

As the troop leader for a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout troop you (or your predecessors) have been empowering girls since Kindergarten to find their personal leadership style. The girls in the troop have been gradually taking on more responsibility over the years. The girls have become the voice for the troop...generating ideas, implementing them and making the world a better place.

Girl-Led

Girl-led is one of the three processes in the Girl Scout leadership experience. Ideally girls have been gradually stepping into leadership roles and responsibilities since they first joined Girl Scouts. The girl members of the troop now do the largest portion of the goal setting and planning and the adult leaders are still there to mentor and to cheer them on – but they don't take over. Girls own the goals, the vision and operation of the troop. Letting Girls take the Lead happens more smoothly when there is a good troop government system in use.

Girl Led for Seniors

- Guide and act as a resource for girls as they plan complex projects.
- Encourage girls to question or investigate things they normally take for granted.
- Encourage girls to take what excites them and share it with younger girls, peers, and family in a way that allows them to educate and inspire.
- Engage the girls in scheduling how often, when and where to meet. Have them drive most of the planning, organizing and implementation of their projects.
- Encourage them to add on trips and other activities that spark their imaginations.
- Help them identify topics that matter to them.

Girls need time to talk between actions so they capture what our experiences have taught us and keep growing. Girls not only benefit from working in teams, but from speaking openly and often about how our teamwork is going and how we use relationship strategies purposefully to achieve the best results in teamwork and in life.

Girl Led for Ambassadors

- Encourage girls to identify challenges in their communities and the world. Let girls choose their project or topics.
- Assist girls in developing connections with individuals and organizations on national and international levels.
- Assist girls in finding resources they need to plan for future careers.
- Let girls research policy making processes.

- Let girls decide how they want to schedule and conduct meetings.
- Let girls decide how they want to team up to work on a project.
- Let girls call, interview and email potential project partners. Girls may reach for technology to do the communication. Let them try it their way – but be ready to encourage some old-fashioned communication methods such as land line phones and face to face meetings.

Girl Scout Ambassadors will be counting on you to be their biggest advocate. We'll want varying degrees of direction and advice. Support us and cheer us on – take pride as we mature into active, conscientious, advocates and adults. As girls move through the steps consider “fading facilitation” a process in which your role decreases as the girls move deeper into their projects. The more we do, the more confident we become and the less active you are. Your success is actually measured by how much you let go!

Girl Adult Planning

When teen girls are planning a project or activity they will be doing most of the effort but the adult may still need to coach thru:

- Tasks that will need to happen. As the advisor you will want to assist girls in thinking thru the scale and scope of their projects and guide them toward realistic decisions based on their time and resources.
- Readiness level of girls for those tasks
- Could the task be broken down into smaller steps to help the girls be successful?
- Tasks essential to group safety

Let Them Fly!

In short, do nothing for us that we can do for ourselves. We may experience some trial and error but we can do it. You have a prime front row seat to seeing tomorrow's leaders in action. Investment in the Girl

Led progression is paying off. At these grade levels you may be very surprised at the amazing things the girls in your troop can do when allowed to fly with their own wings.