

We Are 'Only' Leaders

We are not experts. We're your next door neighbors. We're not perfect---we're just parents like you. We don't have anymore spare time or energy than you do...we all work full time and juggle our families and our schedules and try to keep it together as best we can. The only difference between us is that we believe in what Girl Scouting has to offer. So much that we contribute our time, our miles and our talents to help our daughters and your daughters grow in scouting.

We complete authorization forms, budgets and registrations and fill our homes with boxes of paperwork that you will never see. We are required to take 13-14 hours of training our first year as well as attend Service Unit meetings every month so that we can meet our greatest challenge--providing a variety of programs which meet the needs and interest of 8..10..12...very individual little girls. We try to involve parents who want us to understand that they don't have the time to drive on outings or help at meetings.

We rejoice at the generosity of others. Sometimes we find ourselves going in too many different directions. We run out of steam. Memory lapses. Communication lines break down. Time slips by. But that does not mean we don't care. So many evenings we spend on the phone seeking advice and support from other leaders when disappointments or problems occur. "How do I keep my girls attention?" "What are your ideas for a ceremony?" "How do you work with girls in three different grades?"

Our dining room tables are covered with pre-cut and sorted craft supplies for each and every girl in the troop--a couple of whom won't show up and don't think to call and let us know. Sometimes we feel unappreciated. Yet these same little girls can fill us with pride at their determination and accomplishments. Their smiles light a room, and when they say "thank you", it makes it all worth it. We help these girls build relationships. Some struggle more than others.

Consideration, fairness and kindness toward all is encouraged by The Promise and Law of the Girl Scout Movement; and sometimes, we too, must learn these lessons over and over again with the girls. But...we are willing to keep learning. Please be patient if we appear distracted or frustrated or overwhelmed at times. Forgive us if we are not the kind of Girl Scout leader you would be if you had the time. Instead, provide us with encouragement or offer your help. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We are, after all, only mentors...role models...leaders...Volunteers who have taken an oath to give these girls the most precious gift we have to offer ...the gift of time.