

Leader-Daughter Survival Skills

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Leader Enrichment Topic



How do you balance being a Girl Scout leader and having your own daughter(s) in your troop? You have some challenges with having your daughter in your troop as well as many opportunities to strengthen your mother-daughter bond and watch her grow into a strong young woman. Working with other leaders, do the activities below to discover ways to make the Leader-Daughter relationship a powerful and positive one.

Leader-Daughter Survival Strategies*

Let the assistant leader be in charge of your daughter and you are in charge of her daughter.
Have your daughter call you what the other girls are calling you. “Ms. H” or a camp name could be used instead of “Mom.”
Try to give your daughter the same amount attention as other girls.
Don’t make your daughter set up or clean up for meetings. Use some of the other girls that are there early to set up. Use kaper chart for clean up so everyone helps before meeting is over.
Don’t let your daughter know all of the surprises that will take place in the troop meeting. Let her be surprised as the other girls will be.
Don’t have your daughter make the project before the meeting even if you want to know how long it will take or need a sample. Samples make the girls want to do it all the same way so it is best to just give guidelines to allow for creativity.
Don’t discuss problems in the troop in front of your daughter (including on the phone).
Remember that Girl-Adult Planning helps solve some problems. The girls make decisions together. Some daughters think they should make all decisions.
Have a “do-it, did-it” can with names on craft sticks so you can randomly pick a girl to help with something. You won’t favor or ignore your daughter this way.
Don’t personalize daughter’s behavior. She may be trying to get a rise out of you (she knows all the buttons to push!).
Testing limits (like refusing to do something) is expected. Pull daughter aside and explain choices.
Disagreements often arise over privacy and space: if meeting in own home, designate areas off-limits. Don’t make your daughter share her things if she doesn’t want to.
Spend time alone with your daughter outside of Girl Scouting. This will help her share you with the troop more if this is not the only time she has you to herself. Let her know she is special—outside of meetings.

**These tips apply not only at troop meetings but field trips and overnights as well.*