

## Topic: New Leader

### What is a Short and Snappy?

- A short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit meeting for volunteers to share at the troop level.
- Any Service Unit team member, volunteer, or learning facilitator may guide a Short and Snappy.
- Ideas for presentation: One person can facilitate to a group, or small groups can present an assigned section to the room.

### What It Means to Be A New Leader

Welcome to Girl Scouts and the great adventure of being a Girl Scout troop leader! Thanks to you, girls will learn to listen to their hearts, think on their feet, and learn to raise their voices for what they believe in! And just as you'll help your girls shine their brightest, we want to help you to shine in your new role. It all starts with you, the troop leader! Thanks to volunteers like you, generations of girls have learned to be leaders in their own lives and in the world. Have no doubt: You, and nearly one million other volunteers like you, are helping girls make a lasting impact on the world. THANK YOU for being a volunteer!

### Lead Your Troop to Success

Leadership is teaching girls that they can do and be anything they want in life. As a troop leader, you get to help the girls understand that they are decision-makers and that they should own and be proud of their decisions! This [New Leader Guide](#) will help you feel confident in coaching your troop.

To be a troop leader is to see yourself as a coach for your girls, not a teacher with a planned lesson. Leadership is encouraging girls to build their skills and take on more troop responsibilities as they grow. No matter their ages, give them age-appropriate responsibilities and hands-on activities to help them grow their confidence. And as they become more confident, they'll be ready for whatever new challenges come their way. And most importantly, being a troop leader means modeling the [Girl Scout Law](#) for your girls. As a troop leader, you join the world-wide Girl Scout mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place!

## Troop Leader Training Path and gsLearn

After you complete your volunteer registration steps, you'll receive an email prompting you to log into myGS and access your training there.

The [New Leader Onboarding Map](#) is another great resource that can help you prepare as a new leader. It breaks down the learning paths provided by GSUSA and GSofSI into sections that are easy to tackle and work through during your troop year. The first three learning paths are ones that will be helpful to complete before your first troop meeting. The first learning path is a 'Welcome to Girl Scouts' and it introduces you to Girl Scouts, [being a troop leader](#), and what girls do. The second learning path is 'Logistics and Resources' and it will give you advice on how to run [a troop meeting](#). The third and final learning path will walk you through understanding troop finances and [budgeting for new adventures](#). This learning path also explores the importance of safety and provides you with information on how to keep your troop safe when taking those adventures.

## It Takes A Village

Being a new troop leader can seem overwhelming at times but remember: you are not alone in this Girl Scout journey! You have a large community of support you can lean on and utilize whenever you need it. At a council level, you can always reach out to your community engagement manager and the adult education team for support. At your troop level, you can work with your co-leader to help lead your troop.

You can also reach out to the caregivers in your troop and invite them to help in the troop. Encourage them to become registered troop helpers so they can help at troop events and meetings. The [Family Engagement](#) outline is a great resource to help break down the different roles and ways caregivers can help in the troop. If you have a caregiver that knows a lot about a certain badge your troop wants to earn, invite that caregiver to come to the meeting and help teach the girls. Another great way to get caregivers involved is during cookie season! Ask caregivers to help run cookie booths, or better yet, become the cookie manager for the troop! Read more about how to engage families and help them have the family experience [here](#)!

## How do I use this at a Troop Level?

The idea is that you can take this information and use it to plan for your troop meetings and feel more prepared to lead your new troop! It's completely normal to feel anxious and nervous about leading a group of girls and being a driving force in their Girl Scout experience. With some [tips and tricks](#), some preparation, and being flexible to fit your troop needs, you can set the tone for a fun troop meeting where girls feel welcome and