

Talk to Her Before the Troop Year Begins

Explaining your role as a troop leader is especially important for younger girls, according to several of our volunteer experts. If you know you'll be leading your daughter's troop in the fall, make time before the school year begins to talk about expectations.

Although you might not need to touch base as frequently with your older girl, your younger girl may find more frequent check-ins reassuring.

Lay Down the (Girl Scout) Law

The Girl Scout Law—to be honest, fair, and responsible for what we say and do—is not only paramount to who we are as Girl Scouts but also levels the playing field; everyone from troop leaders to troop members follow the Girl Scout Law. When you reinforce that everyone in the troop, including you, follows the Girl Scout Law, your girl is more likely to view you as a fair, equitable leader.

Need a regular reminder for your troop? Have your girls make a decorative poster featuring the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and bring it to every troop meeting.

Team Up with Your Co-Leaders

Working with co-leaders, troop supporters, and parents, is one of the best strategies for managing your role as a parent and at Girl Scouts! Don't be afraid to delegate tasks, take turns running the program, or asking for help.

You will find that many hands lighten the work and will enhance everyone's Girl Scout experience.

Hold the Girls Accountable

It's part of what being girl-led is all about! Your daughter might bristle when *you* call her out for breaking the rules, but she may be more likely to straighten out when her peers hold her accountable.

Assigning troop tasks fairly is another method troop leaders use to hold girls accountable to one another.

Remember Your Role Outside of Troop Meetings

Just as you'd want your daughter to be fair to her fellow Girl Scout sisters, remember that you should play fair outside of troop meetings. As a busy troop leader, planning and preparing for meetings and events is a big challenge and time commitment. It can be hard not to over involve your own Girl Scout in the process when she is home and easily available but it's not fair to expect her to help more than her sister Girl Scouts.

Being a troop leader and parent is definitely a delicate balancing act, but it's one that's important for your daughter to see; she'll appreciate the efforts that go into both roles even more!