

Short and Snappy – Be Inspiring



Objective

To provide tips and insight on how to be a more inspiring leader.

Length

15-20 minutes

Materials Needed

Pencils and paper (if desired for reflection activity), positive attitudes

Information to Share (spend 5-10 minutes on this section)

How can I become a more inspiring leader? Here are ten steps you can take to be inspiring:

1. **Ignite your enthusiasm** – be passionate about what your product (the Girl Scout program) means to your customers (girls). What do you think the Girl Scout program means to girls?
2. **Navigate a course of action** – have a vision for what you are doing. What is your vision for your troop?
3. **Sell the benefit** – do the girls understand what Girl Scouts is doing for them? How can you show them? Use stories and real-life examples to “paint a picture” that expresses the purpose and meaning behind what you do.
4. **Invite participation** – what does this mean in Girl Scouts? It means GIRL-LED. This is the key to achieving our long-term Girl Scout outcome – to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.
5. **Reinforce optimism and be encouraging** – in other words, be positive all the time! The girls will feel it from you and use that positivity to boost their leadership and innovation.
6. **Face challenges through open and effective communication** – that means active listening on the receiving end of communication. You never know in what way the girls are going to need your support – whether facing challenges in their troop or in their personal life. Be a good listener and communicate effectively to provide them with the support they need.
7. **Win trust** – show the girls you care about them by being interested in their lives. If a girl acts out, calmly use the Girl Scout Law as a way to help her modify her behavior.
8. **Be authentic** – put simply, be yourself. The girls will relate to you if you use your own strengths and are honest and open about your weaknesses. If you’re funny, make them laugh. If you’re not a camper, bring another volunteer on board to help and show the girls how important it is to step out of your comfort zone, take risks, and try challenging new things.
9. **Earn respect** – walk the talk. In Girl Scouts, it’s simple – live by the Girl Scout Law and the girls will follow.
10. **Make a big deal out of accomplishments** – praise the girls when they reach their goals. Girl Scouts has special ceremonies that are used to honor girl achievements and make them feel special. Use these time-honored traditions to show them your pride in their success.

Activity (spend 10 minutes on this section)

1. Break into small groups to discuss the following questions:
 - a. What do you think the Girl Scout program means to girls?
 - b. What is your vision for your troop?
 - c. What is the girls' vision for their troop?
 - d. What are some examples you could use to "paint a picture" that shows girls the meaning of Girl Scouts?
 - e. Do you feel like your troop is Girl-Led? If not, what could you change to make it that way? If so, what are you doing that achieves it?
 - f. Think of your two greatest strengths and your two toughest weaknesses in the context of working with girls in Girl Scouts. How can you use each of these to be authentic, and inspire the girls?
 - g. What do you do to honor girls and their accomplishments?
2. Come back together and have each of the small groups share some of their reflections.

