

a girl scout donor's perspective – leadership is giving

As a young girl, Lisa Dahl wanted to continue participating in Girl Scouts, but no one was able or willing to give their time. Lisa, now mother to four daughters had to quit Girl Scouts after sixth grade. “I really liked Girl Scouts,” she explains. “I wanted to keep going, but there was no one to lead the troop.”

As an adult, Lisa reflected on her Girl Scout experience and where she learned important life lessons of being brave enough to try new things, persistent enough to accomplish her goals, and organized enough to plan and take on new projects.

“All the leadership skills that Girl Scouts gain and all their community service helps girls become women who will make important business and community decisions in the future,” said Lisa. “Schools try to build the same skills with facts and figures, but I don’t know if [non-Girl Scouts] retain as much as the girls who participate in Girl Scouts do.”

When she became a mother, Lisa wanted to share her Girl Scouting experiences with her daughters. Lisa was excited to enroll her eldest daughter in a troop and did not hesitate to sign up to be the leader. Lisa continued to be a leader for all her girls’ troops; and, at one point, led three troops at once. She made a commitment to help her daughters and all the other girls in their troops. As long as her daughters wanted to continue, Lisa was willing to give her time to help.

“When the girls want to do it, you can’t help but want to help them do it as well as they possibly can. It’s nice to see them so excited and interested in Girl Scouts,” said Lisa.

As her daughters grew older, the number of adults who were willing or able to give their time became scarce, and troops began disbanding. It was at this time Lisa began supporting the local council with monetary donations in addition to sharing her time. She knew as one person, her time may be limited, but by giving financially to the council, she could help Girl Scouts ensure that other girls will not go without leaders – or a great Girl Scout experience.

As a Girl Scout and mother, Lisa tries to step back and let her daughters make decisions. With the Girl Scout Leadership Experience supporting them, Lisa is confident all her girls will make good decisions and succeed in life. As a Girl Scout donor, Lisa is also confident that other girls will get to experience all the support and benefits of being a Girl Scout.



"I always wanted to be a Girl Scout leader because I enjoyed being a Girl Scout so much. It was one of the things I couldn't wait to do. Now I get to see this ongoing progression of learning with my daughters. It's exciting!"

- Girl Scout volunteer and donor Lisa Dahl
(pictured top left with her four daughters)