

## Guidance by example and caring

**A**mazing things are happening for this generation of girls, and, true to form, our organization is taking the lead in making them happen. The renewed **Girl Scout Leadership Development Program** is incredibly exciting to me, as a fellow volunteer in our Movement.



Everything we offer girls enables them to take the lead in their daily lives. Whether they become corporate tycoons, dedicated moms, or some combination of both, the leadership skills they acquire in Girl Scouting serve as the foundation upon which they build their futures. The Girl Scout leadership Development Program not only secures girls' success, but also strengthens our position as the premiere organization for girls in the world.

Leadership is not just pointing girls in the right direction or asking them to follow in your footsteps; good leaders create a culture of collaboration and teamwork. As volunteers, we should take the Girl Scout leadership philosophy deep into our hearts and allow it to seep into daily conversations with our girls. We need to keep it in the forefront of our minds in assisting potential Girl Scout Gold Awardees when they ask for direction on their community service projects. We must incorporate it into helping Brownie Girl Scouts decide which patch to tackle next, and use it to advise all girls who want to make a difference in the world!

Because of your leadership, a girl will discover many wondrous, new things about herself and the world around her. Under your loving guidance, a girl who is unsure of herself gains self-confidence and will be better able to live up to her full potential. Seeing your example, a girl will learn to take action; to try, even to fail, but not stop trying again and again. Because of your caring interest, a girl will experience the sweet taste of leading a team successfully to its goal.

Your continued involvement in the Girl Scout Leadership Development Program is crucial. Over the past 18 months, we have appreciated your ideas on the books, names, badges and other “outer wrappings” of the program. Now that phase of our process has ended, but we continue to need your ideas about locally-developed badges, awards and activities that have worked well with girls, as well as suggestions to expand upon your favorite selections from existing Girl Scout books. Please send your ideas to [programideas@girlscouts.org](mailto:programideas@girlscouts.org).

When girls see us as positive adults embracing change as a pathway to improvement, it models for them the very best leadership qualities. After all, we are building tomorrow's leaders, one girl at a time.

On behalf of girls, I thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Patricia Diaz Dennis". The script is fluid and cursive.

Patricia Diaz Dennis