

The Daisy Girl-Led Experience

All activities in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience build on the three processes – that is, **how** girls go about doing their activities and **how** they interact with each other) that makes Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities.

Activities are Girl-Led:

“Girl Led” is just what it sounds like –girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how and why of their activities. Remember – **you want the girls to take a major role in planning and executing this leadership experience.** The girls may first want you to come up with the ideas and plans. But hold your ground! This is the girls’ experience, and they’re up to the challenge. Here’s what girl-led might look like with Daisies:

- Repeating an activity that girls say they really enjoyed.
- Listening to their ideas on how to make activities even more fun.
- Giving girls the opportunity to ask questions or predict what’s going to happen next in the Daisy story.

Girls Learn by Doing:

As girls take part in meaningful activities—instead of simply watching them—you assist girls with hands on activities that follow discussion and reflection on their experience. This makes learning far more meaningful, memorable, and long-lasting. **When girls learn by doing, they can better connect their experiences to their own lives, applying their learning experiences to their lives both in and out of Girl Scouting.** Here’s what learning by doing might look like with Daisies:

- Girls discuss/reflect what they learned by doing activities and projects
- Provide hands on learning activities that engages the girls.
- Provide outside the troop activities to reinforce the troop projects, such as trip to recycling center or a tour of the hospital.

Girls engage in Cooperative Learning:

Girls share knowledge, skills, and experiences in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, working together on a common goal that engages each individual girl's diverse talents. In cooperative learning environments, people learn faster, process information more efficiently, and are better able to retain the information learned. **In your role as a volunteer, you want to structure cooperative-learning activities that will nurture healthy, diverse relationships**, and also give continuous feedback to girls on those learning experiences. To do this with Daisies you can try:

- Having older or more skilled girls lead others in the group (like learning the Girl Scout Promise and teaching them to tie a shoelace).
- Asking girls to work on projects together.
- Asking girls to share and brainstorm ideas while gathering in the Daisy Circle.

These three processes promote the fun and friendship that, for nearly 100 years, have been integral to Girl Scouting. But they do even more! When girls lead, when they learn by doing, and when they engage in cooperative learning, the fifteen leadership outcomes (or benefits) are far more likely to be understood and achieved.