We are only Leaders!



Dear parents

Thank you for lending us your children. We wanted you to know a little about us.

We are not experts. We're your next door neighbours. We're not perfect; we are just parents like you.

We don't have any more spare time or energy than you do; we all work full time and juggle our families and our schedules and try to keep it all together as best we can.

Probably the only unusual thing about us is that we really believe in what Scouting has to offer. So much so, that we contribute our time, our miles, and our talents to help your children and our children grow in Scouting.

We complete authorisation forms, budgets, and registrations, and fill our homes with boxes of paperwork that you will never see.

We are required to take hours of training, as well as attend leaders' meetings, so that we can meet our greatest challenge - providing a variety of programmes which meet the needs and interests of very individual boys and girls.

We try to involve parents who want us to understand that they don't have the time to drive on outings or help at meetings. We rejoice at the generosity of others.

Sometimes we find ourselves going in too many directions; we run out of steam. We have memory lapses. Communication lines break down. Time slips by. But that doesn't mean we don't care.

So many evenings we spend on the phone, seeking advice and support from other leaders when disappointments or problems occur. "How do I keep my child's attention?" "What are your ideas for the ceremony?" "How do you work with youngsters in four different sections?"

Our dining room tables are covered with bits of rope, menus, camping permits, and badge ideas for each and every youngster in the group. A couple of them won't show up, and don't think to call and let us know. Sometimes we feel unappreciated.

Yet, these youngsters can fill us with pride at their determination and accomplishments. Their smiles light up a room; and when they say "Thank You" it makes it all worth it.

We help these youngsters build relationships. Some struggle more than others. Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly... is encouraged by the Scout Promise and Law. And sometimes we too must learn these lessons over and over again with the boys and girls. But we are willing to keep learning.

Please be patient if we appear distracted or frustrated or overwhelmed at times. Forgive us if we are not the kind of Beaver / Cub / Scout Leader you would be if you had the time. Instead, provide us with encouragement or offer your help. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

We are, after all, only mentors...role models...leaders. Volunteers who have taken an promise to give these boys and girls, your youngsters, the most precious gift we have to offer- the gift of time.

With best wishes the Leadership team

(Author unknown-)



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