



Love Your Leader

April is National Volunteer Month, and we're here to show some love!

Did you know that April is National Volunteer Month?

Our troop leaders support and guide us through so many of our Girl Scout adventures! They cheer us on. They lift us up when we are down. They help us turn our ideas in to reality. They become amazing, wonderful parts of our lives, and they do it all just because they enjoy it! Here's our chance to show them how much we appreciate it all!

Fun tip: You can do these steps for ANY volunteer! Where you see the words "troop leader" in this activity, you can also think of any other special volunteers in your life!

How to earn the Love Your Leader: Thank You Cards Sent patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Discover what makes a leader.
2. **Connect**—Create a handmade thank you gift.
3. **Take Action**—Show your gratitude and live by example.

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- website resources to check out some history about our leadership:
www.gsusa.org & www.gswpa.org
- craft supplies (See Step #2)

STEP

1

Discover what makes a leader.

Begin by thinking about your Girl Scout experience. What examples of leadership do you see around you? We have a long history of great leaders, from Juliette Gordon Low to your very own troop leaders!

With permission, check out the GSUSA & GSWPA webpages to learn more about Juliette Gordon Low and the tradition of leadership she started. You could check your local library for books on Girl Scouts too!

Now, think about the special qualities of your troop leaders. Write your troop leader's name in the middle of a piece of paper or on a blank page on your computer. Then, write 5-10 words around the page that describe your troop leader. How do they make you smile? How do they inspire or encourage you? What makes them a great leader? How do they support you and your troop? Set this aside— we'll come back to it later.

STEP 2

Create a handmade thank you gift.

We LOVE our leaders, and we want to show it! We're going to make a small gift to show our appreciation. You'll need the following supplies to make your handmade mini notebooks. These materials are enough to make two small notebooks.

- 5-10 pages of standard size paper (This can be copy paper, notebook paper, graph paper, or light-colored construction paper—your choice!)
 - one sheet of 8x11 cardstock, a brown paper bag, or a cereal box (This sturdy piece will be the covers to our notebooks.)
 - stapler or hole-punch & string/ribbon (to bind our notebook)
 - scissors
 - decorating items you would like to use: colored pencils, markers, crayons, stickers, paint, etc!
1. Fold your stack of paper in half and cut where the dotted line shows. This gives you 2 stacks of folded paper for the inside of your notebooks.



2. Cut your notebook covers to fit your insert paper. It may help to lay your paper flat and trace around it. Decide if your cover will be the exact same size or a little larger to leave a border—your choice!
3. Place paper inside of each cover and make a nice crisp fold; this is where you will bind each notebook.
4. There are many ways to bind the notebook, but here are two options: You can staple through the cover and papers right at the fold, OR you can punch a few holes along the folded edge of the notebook and thread ribbon through each hole and tie a simple knot or bow.
5. You now have two mini notebooks to decorate and give as thank you gifts. (And you know how to make more!)
6. Think about how you'd like to complete the gift.
 - Would you like to write special messages or memories on the pages?
 - Will you leave it blank for them to use?
 - What types of designs or phrases might you like to put on the cover?
 - Will you draw, color, or paint?
 - It's all up to you!

Connect with your fellow Girl Scouts to see if they'd like to participate too! Maybe you all want to share ideas and messages in a group gift or make individual thank you gifts. What creative and fun ways can you show your appreciation?

STEP

3

Show your gratitude and live by example.

Find a moment to thank your troop leader with your homemade gift. Consider sharing some of your favorite Girl Scout memories, some of their qualities you admire, and ways they have inspired you! (Be sure to check with your adults about how best to do this! You may want to mail the notebooks or drop them off on their porch.)

After you've thanked your troop leader, take a moment to think of other leaders and volunteers that you are grateful for! This could be a teacher, a parent, or a friend. How can you show your appreciation and remind them how special they are?

Take out that list you made about your troop leaders in Step 1 and write your name on the page too. Circle the qualities that you see in yourself too!

Finally, using the amazing qualities you see in leaders around you, consider creating a personal motto, or mission statement to live by. A great way to thank someone is to live by example! Here is a great example from Juliette Gordon Low: "**Right is right, even if no one else does it.**"

Everyone around us impacts us. We are grateful to have such strong leadership that impacts us in so many wonderful ways!

All done?

CONGRATULATIONS! You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Love Your Leader: Thank You Cards Sent patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

**Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*