

Lula Richardson-Guillory is troop leader for Troop 2010 in Ville Platte, LA. She has been involved in Girl Scouts since 1986, when a friend (then service unit coordinator for the Ville Platte area) challenged her to prove everyone wrong when they said "Girl Scouts is not for African Americans."

Lula says, "There is an incredible bond that you not only see, but can feel between all of us. The changes I've seen are the choices they make in every day decisions. They [girls] aren't afraid to take on a challenge. They voice their opinions when asked, even when others don't agree." She understands that every girl can benefit from Girl Scouts and that you always have to be making connections.

Once at a cookie judging contest she piqued the interest of one of the judge's, the judge's daughter was then very young. She enlisted her daughter the very next day as a Brownie and the daughter remained in Girl Scouts all the way through her high school graduation. Later, in college the daughter was asked to make a presentation on something that impacted her life and Lula says, "She took her Girl Scout vest, and explained in detail how she earned each badge/patch and how she later applied that knowledge to her life."

When asked to give advice to other leaders Lula reminds them that, "No two girls are alike, note their uniqueness, include the girls in all of your planning, guide them gently, smile a lot and focus on the positive." She also includes that if negative is inevitable sandwich it between two positives. Lula is truly an asset to this organization and sets a great example for girls. She sees the true value in Girl Scouts, "This is the place where learning and fun work hand in hand. It is a lifetime experience that will be an asset, regardless of the field she chooses. It is an awesome way to have a family that reaches around the world."