

Role play of conversation - Leader coping well with role responsibilities

SCENE: District Manager's lounge room ... comfortable chairs, coffee table.

(Doorbell rings. District Manager –in civvies – opens front door. Leader is standing there with brief case/bag in hand)

DISTRICT MANAGER: Hi Glenda. Come in out of the rain. Would you like to sit in here?
I was just about to put the kettle on. Would you like a cup of something... tea, coffee, milo ...?

LEADER: Yes please. Coffee would be lovely. White, no sugar, thanks.
(She sits on the edge of the nearest seat)

DISTRICT MANAGER: Sure. Won't be a sec. Make yourself comfortable.
(She exits and returns soon with two steaming coffee cups)

DISTRICT MANAGER: Now let's chat! I have a form here for us to fill in and some questions to help me cover the necessary topics. Much easier than last time.
So, Glenda, how are you going with your unit?

LEADER: Really well thanks ... having fun. We've been really busy recently getting ready for the region camp next month.

DISTRICT MANAGER: Oh great. How many of your girls are going?

LEADER: At this stage we have thirteen girls and myself ... and one parent because Jill can't make it because of the 21st party Suzy is having that weekend.

DISTRICT MANAGER: How is Jill? Are you two managing with all the girls you have in the unit? How many have you got now?

LEADER: We have about 26 registered, but only 22 are regulars. The others are a bit part time. Some nights it's a bit hectic, but we do have a couple of really supportive mums who come along to help out if we call on them. Jill has a really good rapport with the mums. She does most of the paper work too, while I spend more of my time looking after the kids.

DISTRICT MANAGER: Your numbers are super. Are you happy working this way that jobs are allocated to each of you?

LEADER: Yes. When we were planning at the beginning of term we thought it might be easier if one of us specifically looked after things like money, records, parents ... that sort of thing. That leaves the other one free to be with the kids and get them started on the nights activities. Otherwise the parents tend to tie both of us up and the kids are running wild. We found we were always late starting and ran out of time at the end.

DISTRICT MANAGER: So how do you come up with your term's program? Did you and Jill work together to do it?

LEADER: No. At the end of last term all the kids sat down with us and we brainstormed what the kids thought they would like to do this term. There were a couple who wanted to do some of their Junior BP things and one patrol who wanted to work together on a play for their Arts badge. Then Jill and I met at her place and put it into the calendar. We needed to put in some pre-camp preparation stuff as well for the girls going to region camp. I needed a bit of practise with my camp skills too because I never been on a Guide Camp before either.

DISTRICT MANAGER: So you've got quite a bit of variety this term. You really are putting the AGP in action.

LEADER: *(Reaches into her bag and produces a file)*
Here's a copy of our unit program. You can see what we did last term and what we've pencilled in for the rest of the year. We will modify that as the girls add other requests for activities and ideas of things they want to do.

DISTRICT MANAGER: *(Looks through file)*
This looks great. Do you both have a copy of this? I noticed one on the noticeboard in the hall - good idea that.

LEADER: Oh yes. We each have the program and the one on the hall notice board lets parents see what we are doing as well as the girls have it in their folders

DISTRICT MANAGER: Oh great. This World Centres night looks like it was a fun night. How did it all work?

LEADER: Well, each patrol drew one of the World Centres out of a hat. Then they had to find a game or song from that country and teach it to the rest of the unit. They also had to choose a food from their country which they cooked at Guides for everyone else to taste. I tell you ... it was a full on night!

DISTRICT MANAGER: That sounds like it would have been a really fun night. Patrol leaders involved in organisation and then involving their patrol. How did you manage the supervision of the cooking for the night?

LEADER: Oh, we invited some of the mums who are into cooking to come in and help us with that. We made sure we had one adult per patrol and did a safety talk before each group went in to the kitchen.

DISTRICT MANAGER: I really enjoyed the night I came when you had a round robin of activities. I was pleased to share my skills in knotting and happy to watch as others did fitness activities. There were lots of smiles and determination to try everything. Well, your program certainly offers the girls lots of variety and opportunities to be involved. Have you taken time to evaluate some nights?

LEADER: Oh - we have used a smile/frown sheet and a short patrol time at the end to get feedback. Sometimes it is just through observation - easy to see if achieving purpose. Our Program folder also helps as we write comments after the night. (Shows DM)

DISTRICT MANAGER: Yes, it is and try to keep a photographic memory as this wonderful to display later. When I visited the other week I could see that the girls were very happy and you and Jill appear well organised and have good parental support.

LEADER: There is so much to do, but now our Patrol Leaders are a little older, we can rely more on them and our parents are seeing how their daughter is gaining confidence.

DISTRICT MANAGER: Now the other part of your Leader review is financials and reporting. We can really skim over that as I see your sheets each term and you attend regularly our district meeting. So important to have money banked ASAP. Thanks for being diligent in completing the Unit report. Everything is going so well.

LEADER: Yes we will swap over next term and I will do more of the parent notes and Jill will do reports.

DISTRICT MANAGER: Oh that is fine whichever way ensures administration of the Unit is covered.

Now I want to talk to you about your own personal development and your learning log. What is an area in Guiding that you would like to learn more about? Is there any course or workshop that you may be interested in going to? Remember that guide related trainings are reimbursed.

LEADER:

Mmmmm - I must try to keep an actual record of what I attend - will make it easier next time to recall and chat about.

I really would like to try canoeing and even just get some new ideas for games and outside the hall activities.

Maybe Jill and I could have a time with our PLs - pizza night - and tidy the cupboard and look through the resources there for some new ideas too.

DISTRICT MANAGER: That's an idea for me to put to Region - a share and swap on games. I think we could have a noisy fun afternoon for us all!

Glenda, now we come to the forms - look very little to complete!

Let's just add a few points from our discussion. (Writes dot points on form) and the goal of gaining canoe qualification and more PL training. Hope you have found this chatting an easy way of reflecting on what you do at Guides? Let me know if there is anything you need help with.

LEADER:

Oh yes, I was nervous but can see now so much is happening in the unit and we have the interest of the girls and much support. Thanks for tonight - I'm heading away feeling good about we do.

DISTRICT MANAGER: I am so pleased. I will send an email off tomorrow to say we have completed this chat. I look forward to the next fun night at your Guide Unit. Thank you Glenda.

Drive home safely.

(Glenda leaves)