

# ODE TO A LEADER

*Public Domain*

*Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic*

This song has been around for decades; over time some of the words have been corrupted. This is the way it was originally sung by Girl Scout® Leaders in 1980.

**G7 C**

I was glad to have a girl because our first child was a son.

**F C**

I thought of all the ruffles, all the frilly bows and fun.

**G7 C**

I thought of how we'd sit and talk at night when day was down.

**Dm C G7 C**

Wasn't I the foolish one?

**G7 C**

She was only half-past seven when they called me to the corps

**F C**

I said, "I'm not equipped!" They said, "Oh, yes, you are, what's more

**G7 C**

We will train you in the basic, we'll outfit you for the corp."

**Dm C G7 C**

And they shoved me out the door.

**C F C**

Glory, Glory, I'm a leader. How'd I get to be a leader?

**C Am Dm C G7 C**

All I did was have a daughter. Is this the price I pay?

**G7 C**

They taught me to be thrifty, to be thoughtful, to be true.

**F C**

They taught me how to string beads like the noble Indians do.

**G7 C**

I had to learn to dig a trench, and how to use it too,

**Dm C G7 C**

And you should taste the stew!!!

**G7 C**

I had to learn to sing songs that I didn't understand.

**F C**

I learned to dance the polka, and to make a rhythm band,

**G7 C**

To think of what to do, and to forget what I had planned.

**Dm C G7 C**

And they say Girl Scouting's grand!

*C* *F* *C*  
Glory, Glory, I'm a leader. Me - - they had to make a leader.  
*C* *Am Dm C G7 C*  
I - - can't even build a fire, Let alone put up a tent!!

*G7 C*  
We went walking in the woodland, my Girl Scout troop and me.  
*F C*  
The handbook says that nature has a wealth of sight to see.  
*G7 C*  
It's true - we sure were sights when we were found eventually -  
*Dm C G7 C*  
And I do all this for free!!

*G7 C*  
I'm not meant to be a leader, I don't know which bird is which.  
*F C*  
My wiener forks all burn up, we come home from hikes and itch.  
*G7 C*  
The sit-upons all fell apart, I showed them the wrong stitch,  
*Dm C G7 C*  
But no one wants to switch!!

*C F C*  
Glory, Glory, I'm a leader, Hallelujah, I'm a leader.  
*C Am Dm C G7 C*  
Tell me why I should be happy, When no one envies me!!

*G7 C*  
But even though I grumble, and I mumble, and I shout  
*F C*  
Though there are days I wonder, what's the best way to get out,  
*G7 C*  
I guess when all is said and done, there isn't any doubt  
*Dm C G7 C*  
I'm glad to be a Scout!!

*C F C*  
Glory, Glory, I'm a leader. Someone's got to be a leader.  
*C Am Dm C G7 C*  
They can carve it on my tombstone, "Here's a gal who did her best"!