



Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast's "Infant at Work" Program Success

New program proves successful parent and infant bonding in the workplace

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Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast launched an "Infant at Work" program last August that allows parents to bring their infant to work for up to six months. "I believe it is imperative that we do our best to support newborn parents and guardians," says CEO, Tammie Helmuth. An infant's first few months are crucial to their development. It is during this time that the infant and their parent form a lifelong bond and a trusting, healthy relationship.

Through this new program, employees who are new mothers, fathers, or legal guardians are allowed to bring their infant to work for up to six months. This, in turn, promotes a healthy work/life balance and honors the contribution that the employee makes to the council.

The new program has had a successful start with two new "Infant at Work" pairings this month, as well as one graduate. Baby Owen joined his mom, Ariel Torres (Volunteer Service Manager) in the Ventura headquarters this week. Torres says the program "has benefited us in more than one way, the biggest one is keeping him on our normal schedule without having to acclimate to a new one. Also, as a mother/parent we want to be there for all if not as many milestones as possible, so bringing him to work with me allows me to have those milestones and memories." Baby Jayde also joined her mom Kayla McKee (Program Specialist) earlier this month. McKee says, "My experience with her has been good as a whole, there are definitely challenges but it's very worth it." Meanwhile, Lindsey Hatlee (Director of Program) reports our first graduate, Sean Hatlee, is doing well.

"This program shows that the council's practices are what we encourage in our communities; supporting parent and infant bonding, parental well-being, healthy infant development, and breastfeeding," said Helmuth. Parents have the opportunity to



respond to their infant's needs instantly, which will boost their cognitive development. Bonding is a process on its own, it is not something that occurs overnight, it must be nurtured and built up as time goes on. The "Infant at Work" program supports all facets of infant development. This program is invaluable for both parents and infants alike.

Helmuth states: "as a female leadership organization, this program undoubtedly aligns with our mission as we know, and support, the value of parent and infant bonding during the earliest stages of life." It goes without question that Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast is delighted to continue the new "Infant at Work" program in their workplace.

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About Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast serves over 8,800 girls across six counties and is committed to making the Girl Scout Leadership Experience available to girls in ways that impact their lives both in the moment and into the future. Girls participate in troops, individual projects, council events, day camps, resident camps and more. A variety of leadership, outdoor skills, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) based programs and events provide girls with opportunities to learn and explore in fun and informative ways. To join or volunteer in Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura County, visit:

<http://www.girlscoutscoc.org>.