Why should I participate in a leadership program? Leadership is for everyone; we all have the potential to be great leaders. Developing leadership skill requires more than knowledge and experience. It requires a supportive team; people you can trust, people who believe in you, people who are willing to help you see your own leadership potential. The Red Ants Pants Foundation Girls Leadership Program is designed to develop your leadership toolbox while surrounding you with people who will help you recognize your unique strengths and abilities.

Why the Red Ants Pants Foundation Girls Leadership Program? The Red Ants Pants Foundation Girls Leadership Program (RAPF GLP) focuses on bringing together girls from all across Montana as similar opportunities can be limited in smaller communities. The RAPF GLP recognizes the unique experience of girls from rural communities and seeks to build upon the strengths of these experiences.

Why just girls? Female specific leadership opportunities are limited. With just girls, RAPF GLP participants can be themselves, ask tough questions, share and experiment with leadership in a safe, supportive environment.

Who can apply? The RAPF GLP consists of 8-10 girls entering their junior year of high school and 8 – 10 mentors from across Montana. Girls from every community, regardless of size, are welcome to apply. Some girls come with leadership experience from sports teams, community or school organizations, and for some, this is the first time trying something like this. All backgrounds are welcome. We just require a commitment to participating and learning from each other.

What do we learn about? The purpose of the RAPF GLP is to inspire hope, build strength, develop pride, and foster courage in young, rural Montana girls. Topics include communication, team building, self-awareness, self-care, emotional intelligence, project planning, project management, conflict resolution, and resiliency.

What do we do? The RAPF GLP includes four key activity areas:
- Program Retreats: We will host three retreats (October, January, April). We learn about leadership skills while team-building and having fun.
- One-On-One Mentoring: Participants will be paired with mentors from around the state to support their engagement and growth. Mentors are not counselors – but folks who can help you and act as role models.
- Community Projects: Participants will design and complete a service project in their community.
- Self-Directed Home Activities & Monthly Check-Ins: These activities are designed to reinforce leadership skills, promote reflection, and support continued personal development.

What are the RAPF GLP logistics? All retreats begin on Friday and conclude on Sunday. Food and lodging are provided during retreats. Retreats are generally held in central Montana and participants are responsible to provide their own transportation. Mentors connect with their mentees biweekly at a time of their choosing, usually virtually or via telephone.

What does the program cost? The Red Ants Pants Foundation GLP costs approximately $5000 per participant. However, due to the generosity of sponsors, donors and proceeds from the Red Ants Pants Music Festival, there are no program fees for participants. The only cost for participants is transportation expenses to and from the retreats. If this is a difficulty, stipends may be available for assistance.
What do former RAPF GLP participants and parents say?

‘I want to thank you for making this possible. Without a doubt, it changed my life and gifted me with a new perspective as well as many new friendships that I will cherish forever! I cannot wait to see where this journey takes me.’

‘I would just like to say thanks again for this amazing opportunity to discover more about myself and the world around me! I honestly don't know where I'd be in life without this program. I know for a fact that I wouldn't have some of my closest friends and a network of amazing women if I ever need anything in life. I will forever be thankful for this program and all of the amazing people I've gotten to know because of it.’

‘I learned that I could be a leader. I learned that leadership isn’t about whether you fail or not, it is about how you stand up and try until you can’t. Being a leader is about believing in those around you no matter what happens and listening to others. I never thought my seed of courage would grow but with guidance, mentoring and people believing in you it will sprout into something beautiful. This, I believe - that anyone can be a leader, if you just give them a chance.’

‘Before this program I did not know that I had the ability to be a strong leader in my community. I also did not know what an honor it is to be a strong rural woman. I now have the confidence and drive to empower others to make an impact.’

‘My daughter realized she can be passionate about a cause and move forward on her own. She is now able to give presentations with confidence and also use persuasive speech to communicate. She realized it's ok not to follow blindly and to take the other path, without the crowd.’

‘She has learned to trust herself and somehow gotten more aware of other people’s needs. She met a lot of girls who had a lot in common with her and I hope they stay close.’

‘I learned that my biggest passion is to serve and that I’m so much stronger than I think. I learned that it only takes one person that cares to make a difference. I gained so much confidence and am so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing program.’

**Girls Leadership 2020- 2021 Program Dates:**

*all retreats begin with dinner on Friday and conclude with lunch on Sunday*

Application Open – May 7 – August 15, 2020

Fall Retreat – Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25, 2020

Winter Retreat – Friday, January 29 – Sunday, January 31, 2021

Spring Retreat & Graduation – Friday, April 23 - Sunday, 25, 2021

Red Ants Pants Music Festival – July 22-25, 2021 (optional but highly encouraged!)

To apply visit the Red Ants Pants Foundation website at [https://redantspantsfoundation.org/girls-leadership/](https://redantspantsfoundation.org/girls-leadership/).

For more information feel free to contact the Red Ants Pants Foundation at [info@redantspantsfoundation.org](mailto:info@redantspantsfoundation.org).