Lisa Hardin-Reynolds was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Girl Scouts of Utah (GSU) in March 2019. Girl Scouting in Utah started in 1920 in Ogden and the first troops registered in Salt Lake City in 1921. In 1961 the current major council in Utah, Girl Scouts of Utah, was founded by the merging of several smaller councils. The organization, serving over 6,000 girls and 2,500 adult volunteers throughout the state, strives to prepare girls for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure.

Lisa has been with GSU for nearly 30 years, after graduating from Weber State University with a bachelor’s degree in social work. She began her tenure with Girl Scouts of Utah as Outdoor Program Specialist which she says was a chance to combine her education and her love of the outdoors. It also gave Lisa the opportunity to mentor young women in the same way that she had been mentored during summer camp in her youth.

Prior to her recent appointment as CEO, Lisa served as Chief Operations Officer as well as Interim CEO. According to the Girl Scouts of Utah website, she “has provided oversight and leadership in the areas of program, membership, volunteer support, information technology, finance, property, outdoor program, and product sales.” On the national organization level, “she was appointed by the Girl Scouts of the USA to serve on the safety activity task group, property and outdoor conference committee, and was a host council lead for the 2014 GSUSA National Convention in Salt Lake City.”

Lisa said that as a social work student at Weber State, she established the foundation on which she has built an ability to show vulnerability and engage in servant leadership—a leadership philosophy in which the main goal of the leader is to serve the organization and its people. She strongly believes that a preventative approach and framework for youth programs is preferable to programs that are established to deal with the aftermath of any problems a youth might encounter in daily life. When asked about she is passionate about this organization, Lisa said, “I have seen Girl Scouts change girls’ lives, and I have seen it save girls’ lives.”

It is obvious when speaking with her that Lisa is excited about this new opportunity she has in leading Girl Scouts of Utah when she talks about it being “an organization that prepares young women to become the leaders of the future, in a space where they can be a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, and Leader)."