

November 2023

# Blue-Print



Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada | Alberta Council | [girlguides.ca/ab](http://girlguides.ca/ab)

## A message from the Provincial Commissioner

Tracy Burton, Provincial Commissioner

I always feel like fall is a time for a new beginning; for me, this is the start of the new year. I always feel excited to start my Spark and Ember unit - how many girls will I have, what will they want to do, what new friendships and adventures await us? I hope that many of you feel this way. I hope that you were able to relax and rejuvenate over the summer. For those of you who have just joined us - welcome; for those of you who are returning - I am so excited to have you back again! For all of us Guiders, what new friendships and adventures await us this year?

There are lots of exciting events and activities happening this year in Girl Guides in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. The Leadership Learning Path trainings have started and the Commissioner Workshop trainings are wrapped up. We are offering these trainings again in January/February. Cookies have arrived and many units and districts have Squares so they can sell these cashless. There have been so many innovative ways to sell cookies - from having the girls dress up as cookies, to drive thrus, to cookie ATMs. Keep up the fantastic work. If you need more cookies, there are provincial surplus cookies available in both Edmonton and Calgary.

Alberta Girls Parliament is going to have a virtual session this fall and then will have their in-person event in the spring. Watch GuidePost for these exciting events. In March, we have our annual

Multifaceted training with a wide assortment of topics to learn more about. There will also be opportunities to volunteer for one of the summer camps - a great way to get some experience camping and have fun.

As we start our new year, I want to wish all of you a fantastic time in whatever role you are doing. If you are working in a unit with the girls – have fun planning with them and seeing them grow and change. If you are one of the many Guiders who support the units, I wish you the best in your role. You are all important members of the Guiding Sisterhood. I hope that this year we can all work to support each other. Have fun and keep on Guiding!

**Tracy Burton** Provincial Commissioner

### In this issue...

Message from the Provincial Commissioner	1
2023 Scholarship Winner Biographies	2
Youth Forum at the AGM	6
Welcome Back - Back to 1953	7
Beginning of Year Financials	10
ANY Training Blue-Print Report	10
Backpacking on the ANY Council Trip	11
Getting a Great Start to the Year	13

# 2023 Scholarship Winner Biographies

Submitted by Donna Leonard Robb Alberta Council Nominating Search Lead

## JOYCE FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP

### JORDAN



Jordan is currently a Ranger and Junior Leader for Embers. A 13-year Member, she began as a Spark and participated in all branches. As a Junior Leader, she planned meetings, on-line meetups, polled the girls to see what activities they wanted to try and led meetings. Community service is important to Jordan, and she has volunteered at soup kitchens and was instrumental in Bags For Homeless, an initiative to fill bags with essential items for those in need. Jordan called businesses and hotels asking for donations or items to fill the bags and solicited donations from family and friends. She purchased missing items, filled, and distributed the bags. Jordan earned honours through grades nine to 11 and was valedictorian at her graduation. She has numerous academic, sport and service awards. Jordan wrote that Guiding taught her to speak with courage and to hold her head high. From a young age, she spent time in the forest with her grandmother, learning about nature and the world around her and it is no surprise that she enrolled in the faculty of General and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at University of Alberta.

## MARGARET UTGOFF SCHOLARSHIP

### SAMANTHA



Samantha's passion for cooking and baking led her to enroll at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in the Culinary Arts program. Beginning in Sparks, she has been a Member for 13 years and is currently a Ranger. Samantha earned numerous awards in Guiding, through her school and with Girls Hockey Canada. An avid reader, she likes to read about and travel to new places, trying different cuisines and learning preparation methods; passionate about protecting our environment, she loves being outside and staying active. Samantha writes that her most significant accomplishment is her school administrators selecting her to be on the Chief Superintendent Advisory Council, working with peers from schools across Calgary to discuss student issues and brainstorm strategies to help create change. As captain of her hockey team, she learned the importance of never giving up when things are tough, always looking at two sides of the story and the importance of connections. Samantha has supported many community service projects including Un Stuff a Bus in partnership with Calgary Co-Op, Birthday in a Box, and Brown Bagging for Kids, all aimed at ensuring those in need receive support.

# Girl Guides

## ALBERTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

### AINSLEY



Ainsley has been a Member for 12 years, starting as a Spark and progressing to Rangers. Very involved in school activities, Ainsley, as president of the student's union, planned a spirit week for her school to help build a sense of community in a creative, supportive environment. She has participated in two Teen Leadership Camps, accepting the opportunity to lead the weeklong camp in 2023; both camps included community service project components. Ainsley received her hometown's Junior Citizen of the Year. She is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science/Education program. Ainsley is an accomplished musician, plays several instruments, enjoys basketball, crocheting and embroidery.

### CAMILLE



Camille was a girl Member for nine years, is now in her first year as a unit Guider and has taken on varied leadership roles in Guiding and at her school. Her unit helped at various events including Nite Trek and travel with her unit fuelled her love for travel and camping. Camille was a member of the Environment Club during high school. Because of improper waste sorting and disposal by students, all school waste was taken directly to the landfill. Camille led a campaign to have waste bins properly labelled. Camille has earned numerous awards and scholarships, including a best vocalist award. She is part of a choral executive planning events and fundraisers. Camille is currently attending the University of Calgary in Biomedical Sciences. She enjoys back-country camping, vocal and piano lessons, playing basketball and watercolour painting.

### ELLA



Ella is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education faculty at the University of Alberta after graduating from high school with Honours with Distinction. A Ranger, she is very involved in girl leadership. As a Junior Leader for a Spark unit, she planned multiple meetings including running games and crafts, and is proud of the meeting she planned around forestry and trees, including a butterfly leaf craft and a nature walk lead by a female forester. Ella helped as an event coordinator for an Ember's Camp Academy. Her leadership skills extend to her school community as well as her elected position of school president following the Covid-19 pandemic and became chair of planning the school's first large event, the Gravy Bowl. Ella considers her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award her most significant achievement. It took three years to complete, working on goals during the pandemic and culminating in an Adventure Journey – planning and executing a team journey. A member of the Alberta Council Youth Forum, Ella has earned many Guiding awards. Ella's hobbies and personal interests include curling, reading and creative writing.

## JULIA



A Member of Guiding for 14 years, Julia began as a Spark and is now a unit Guider. She has participated in many camps and trips and has taken part in numerous service projects throughout the years including collecting items for a local woman's shelter, singing songs for seniors, collecting toys for children, garbage cleanup in parks and ponds, and projects with South Eastern Alberta Watershed Alliance, among a few. An accomplished musician she plays flute and is in bands in two different schools from grades seven to 12. Julia's love of art, and her ability to draw, create, paint and all forms of art, has led her to enroll at Medicine Hat College in the Art and Design program, with a view to becoming a museum archivist. Julia has earned several Guiding awards including the Gold Chief Commissioner award, as well as awards for choir and achievement in band.

## KATELYN



Katelyn is currently working on an after-degree program in Elementary Education at King's University in Edmonton. Despite many responsibilities at home, she is the first in her family to receive a Bachelor's degree as well as an after-degree and is very proud of what she has accomplished even though she has a permanent learning disability; she attributes her success to her determination, consistency and strength. Katelyn writes that Guiding can offer moments of collaboration and celebration to create community for girls and women who may not have that opportunity in their own space. She started Brownies (now Embers) in grade three and is proud to be a unit Guider. Community work includes several years of participating in the Hike for Plenty, where she initiated the Edmonton Food Bank truck situated in an empty parking lot, filling backpacks with food for those in need and volunteering many years with Santas Anonymous. Katelyn also volunteers in a university anthropology lab and assisting students with mild to severe cognitive delays in a grade five classroom. Katelyn enjoys gardening, cooking baking, crafting, yoga, line dancing and travelling.

## KENZIE



Kenzie graduated from high school with Honours, maintaining an average of over 90%. Receiving early admission for the University of Lethbridge, in the Faculty of Arts and Science, she was invited to an enhanced first-year program, the Global Citizenship Cohort and was selected to the Environment and Society theme where she will connect with other like-minded students who think critically and responsibly, learning together and growing into world leaders ready to make change happen. Kenzie has been a Member of Guiding for 11 even years, starting as a Brownie (now Ember) and is currently a Ranger. Achievements also include a school Spirit award, volleyball awards and Guiding medals. Kenzie participates in community work which includes Thanksgiving dinners for the less fortunate, Stampeded Breakfast Fairs, the Yellow Fish Road program, delivering hand-made cards to seniors during Covid and organizing a district wide book drive with books going to "Little Libraries" throughout her neighbourhood and community books

stores that raise money for charities. Kenzie took the lead in organizing a campaign at her school “Zinc Saves Lives” Battery Recycling Campaign. Every AAA battery contains the same amount of zinc that can help save the lives of six children suffering from zinc deficiency and the program collected and recycled the equivalent of saving 13 596 children. Receiving the Spirit Award was validation for Kenzie of her commitment to making a positive impact on her school and her community.

## MEGAN



A Member of Guiding for 22 years, Megan began as a Spark, and as a young adult travelled to Kenya on a nationally sponsored trip. She is currently a Ranger Guider and has earned numerous girl and adult Guiding awards. Megan wrote that her most significant achievement has been planning a trip to Japan for her Ranger unit. Planning and fundraising began during Covid-19 and Megan learned about managing relationships, organizing fundraisers, and communicating in different ways. Megan currently attends the University of Alberta in the Bachelor of Education faculty. She supports her community through fostering cats and kittens; volunteering with the Edmonton Folk Festival; and including her entire family in planning for a fall festival for her community, hosting 70 neighbours, celebrating local gardens and collecting donations for the Edmonton Food Bank. Megan is an avid Geo-Cacher.

## PAIGE



Graduating from high school with Honours with Distinction and an academic award in chemistry, Paige currently attends Queen’s University in the Applied Science & Engineering program. While in high school she initiated and executed her school’s first Blood Drive, a project which took many hours of planning and behind the scenes work. She has earned several academic, community service and sport awards. A third generation Girl Guide, Paige has been involved for 13 years and it’s here she was first introduced to and became interested in STEM. Paige’s leadership activities include being a Junior Leader for Embers, coaching volleyball and track and field for grade seven students, being a section leader for jazz and concert bands and being a member of her student council. Paige likes to stay active and plays on an Elite Performance Team for volleyball, enjoys soccer, track and field and badminton, musical theatre and playing the French horn and trumpet. Paige’s community service includes involvement with Shad Canada, a national university initiative to encourage STEM minded students to travel to university, live in residence and work with peers to solve issues such as how to improve the wellbeing of Canadians.

## SOPHIE



A Member for 13 years, Sophie began as a Spark and is now a Ranger. She credits Girl Guides with allowing her at a young age to develop skills such as decision making, public speaking and small group management in a safe, controlled environment where girls are not judged for their mistakes. Skills that helped her be successful when called upon on very short notice to attend a weekend camp as the quartermaster for 30 girls and their leaders. These skills were also used in her school as she and her team organized a Halloween Week event, the last event before her school shut down due to the pandemic. Sophie

was a set designer, mural painter and constructed the set for her school's production of "Frozen". Along with her family, she designed and created back drops, murals, and the ice castle. Sophie feels her most significant achievement is her figure skating club's Spirit of Skating award as it showed younger skaters that hard work, perseverance, and passion for skating has impact and significance. Having earned many Guiding, school and service awards, Sophie's enjoys planting trees at her community dog park and supporting young skaters at her skate club. Sophie is in the Biochemistry program at the University of Alberta.

## Youth Forum at the AGM

Submitted by Sienna Gin, Alberta Council Youth Forum Member

**E**arlier this year in May, the ANY Council Youth Forum had the opportunity to attend the Alberta Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Calgary. This special occasion allowed for the Youth Forum members, including myself, to not only meet in person, but also see how an organization like Girl Guides of Canada runs at the provincial level. It was so exciting to see everybody in person again as we all arrived in Calgary from our different corners of the province. The Youth Forum regularly meets online and only gets together in person a couple times a year. Another Youth Forum member and I arrived early, so we got a brief glance at the decision-making room where the Council gathered (and a chance to try some of the food).

As we all began to arrive, it was quickly decided to take advantage of the fact that we were all together, tasked with posting social media updates on the Youth Forum's Instagram account. There was a lot to post about, as we had a whole hotel - the location of the event - to explore. The content was abundant: an Instagram story featuring Emily

and the hotel's paper flowers, a video of us finding a 30-minute workout to Taylor Swift's discography, and plenty more. We also got the chance to further plan and discuss the projects that the Youth Forum has been working on.

We then changed into our Girl Guide uniforms, adorn with our pin tabs and scarves, to attend the Council's dinner and presentation. At the dinner, I got to meet and network with Council members, Commissioners, and other people involved in Guiding. I was immediately interested in the different awards that hung around people's necks, most of which I had never seen before as a Girl member. After eating, we watched the Year in Review Video that the Youth Forum made. This was a project that I had worked on alongside some of the other Youth Forum members. We summarized the Annual Report into a Wonderland-themed video about what has been going on in Guiding in the Council. Watching the dinner attendees watch the final product left us with an incredibly rewarding feeling.

Next, we split into our dinner table groups, and competed in "Minute to Win It" games, including putting together a puzzle of a Girl Guide Cookie Box, and building snowman marshmallows with chopsticks. Watching adults try to slide a Girl Guide cookie from their forehead to their mouth in the name of friendly competition is truly an unmatched bonding experience. Then, the formal awards presentation began, the decades of service that some members had contributed to Girl Guides had me in awe.

This experience has exposed me to the many ways to contribute to Girl Guides beyond being a Guider. It opened my eyes to the many different

leadership levels in Guiding and all the different opportunities for adult members. The Youth Forum did our best to collect as many crests as possible from the Guiders from different areas, before heading upstairs to one of our hotel rooms. We made a "Put a finger down, Girl Guide edition" reel for Instagram (@albertacouncilyouthforum, in case you want to check it out). We spent the rest of the evening chatting with each other and eating the snacks we had brought, and the room felt full of the spirit of Guiding.

## Welcome Back - Back to 1953

Submitted by Janet Alcock, Alberta Council Archives LEAD

In 1953, quite by chance, I joined the UK Girl Guides. I was ten years old and had just started at secondary school. One morning, in assembly, there was an announcement made that the school was starting a second Guide company and anyone who was interested should meet in the gym the following Monday after school. I knew nothing about Guiding but for some reason it still piqued my interest. I told my mother I would be home late and went to the meeting. There was no registration form and no annual fee. Joining this organization was a decision that has had a big impact on my life.

The organization was a lot less flexible in those days and the rules said that although I could attend meetings I could not be enrolled until I was eleven the following March. (In those days Guides were aged 11 to 16) That gave me plenty of time to complete the Tenderfoot Test. You might be interested to know what I had to do.

1. Know and understand:
  - The Guide Law
  - The Guide Promise
  - The Guide Motto
  - The meaning of the Good Turn
  - The Salute, Sign, and Handshake
  - The whistle and hand signals
2. Understand the composition of the Union Jack, the right way to fly it, and have read or been told some of the legends and history connected with it
3. Demonstrate the woodcraft signs out of doors
4. Demonstrate the stalking positions, if possible, out of doors
5. Whip a rope, and tie the following four knots correctly, demonstrating their uses: reef, sheetbend, clovehitch, and bowline
6. Have at least one month's attendance

As I passed each section my Guider signed it off on a card similar to the one shown in Image 1. I was not regarded as a member until I was enrolled and I received my service stars (yearly pins) on the anniversary of my enrollment. The ceremony was quite formal and would come after patrol inspections and the company had marched into horseshoe formation.

**This is the Law and Promise as they were then:**

**The Guide Law**

1. A Guide's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Guide is loyal.
3. A Guide's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Guide is a friend to all and a sister to every other Guide.
5. A Guide is courteous.
6. A Guide is a friend to animals.
7. A Guide obeys orders.
8. A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties.
9. A Guide is thrifty.
10. A Guide is pure in thought, word and deed.

**The Guide Promise**

I promise, on my honour, that I will do my best:  
 To do my duty to God, and the Queen,  
 To help other people at all times,  
 To obey the Guide Law.

Guiding has changed a lot since then as society has changed, but the basic principles remain the same and the organization still presents me with challenges that pique my interest.

For many years the only record a girl would have to show her progress through the program was a pocket-sized test card like this.

TENDERFOOT TEST		SECOND CLASS TEST		SECOND CLASS TEST (Cont'd)	
	Date	Signature of Examiner		Date	Signature of Examiner
1. Know and understand:			A.		
(a) Guide Promise	2/1/68	[Signature]	1. Trail	1/15/68	[Signature]
(b) Guide Law	"	"	2. Stalk	1/15/68	[Signature]
(c) Guide Motto	"	"	3. Kin's Game	1/15/68	[Signature]
(d) Salute, Sign and Handshake	"	"	4. Nature	2/15/68	[Signature]
(e) Whistle and Hand Signals	"	"	5. Accident Prevention	2/15/68	[Signature]
(f) Good Turn	"	"	6. Founder, Lady Baden Powell or World Guiding	2/15/68	[Signature]
			7. Flag of Canada	2/15/68	[Signature]
2. History and World Flag	"	"	B.		
			1. (a) Fire Precautions	1/15/68	[Signature]
			(b) Firefighting	1/15/68	[Signature]
			(c) Outdoor fire	1/15/68	[Signature]
3. Attendance	2/1/68	[Signature]	2. Knots	2/15/68	[Signature]
			C.		
			1. Hike	1/15/68	[Signature]
			2. Physical Fitness	1/15/68	[Signature]
			D.		
			1. Explain First Aid	1/15/68	[Signature]
			2. Demonstrate First Aid	1/15/68	[Signature]
			3. Know about clothing on fire	1/15/68	[Signature]
			4. Make and Carry First Aid Kit	1/15/68	[Signature]
			5. Police, Doctor and Community	1/15/68	[Signature]
			6. Service Project	1/15/68	[Signature]
			Review Promise and Law	1/15/68	[Signature]



A St. Albert Guide Company enrolment held in 1970. The Patrol Leader (on the left) has introduced a Tenderfoot Guide to the Captain. The form of the ceremony was laid out in P.O.R. (Policy, Organization and Rules) and ended with the Guide reciting the Promise.





In the early 1960s several Sea Ranger Crews started in Alberta. They opened their meetings and any formal ceremony by marching into the shape of an anchor. Here the Skipper pins on the dark blue trefoil pin after the girl has renewed her Promise.



A Brownie (now Ember) in the 21st Red Deer Pack makes her Promise. The sign was made with only two fingers at this time (1980) as the Brownie Promise had only two parts.



This Brownie (now Ember) has been enrolled and then given a certificate of membership.

This new member of the 3rd St. Albert Pathfinder Unit renews the Promise she first made as a Guide.



In 2000, the 3rd Westlock Guides make a dessert to celebrate their enrolment event.

# Beginning of Year Financials

Submitted by Dayna Boser, Alberta Council Treasurer

**W**With the year starting again, the financial integrity should be on our minds again. The first few months are very busy so make sure you do not forget any of these important items.

**A budget** - starting the year with a budget can help you with planning your year.

- This also helps you as a guiding team know what your unit can do and keep track of your money. It can help you determine if you need additional cookies for next season.

**Your Treasurer** - Check your roster to make sure your treasurer is on it.

- If they did not fill out their return form, they may not be on your roster anymore. Getting in contact with your treasurer is a great first start.
- Make sure that you have a plan with them on how often and how you will be providing your receipts to them.

**P-card** - If you have not re-registered yet, do it now as they reset on August 31.

- If you are new to a unit, please fill out the Unified Banking Authorization Form on MemberZone. It can take like four to eight weeks to get your card mailed to you.
- Your card will have a monthly limit of \$300; If you have two cards, each card has a monthly limited of \$150.

**Bill Payment set up & General payments** - with Unified banking, you need to make sure that caregiver know how to get their bill payment set up.

- Having the discussion at the beginning of the year on how payment for cookies, events & anything else helps ensure financial responsibility for all.

**Cookie money** - With cookies being out early, please use the Cookies Best Practices document and the Cookie tracking forms on the ANY council website. If you end up with non-payment, this form will be your saving grace.

## ANY Training Blue-Print Report

Tirzah Wolff, Alberta Council Training Adviser

### THERE ARE TRAINERS AVAILABLE!

With over 25 available trainers in ANY Council, we have the capability of doing almost any training either in person or virtual. Our trainers have been busy running PADDLE Canada courses, OAL Adventure training courses and many different camping courses over the summer.

Now that we are back and rested and ready to go there is room for so many new trainings. Do you have a large number of new Guiders? Our trainers can help with training them! Talk to your Area Training Adviser at [any-\(area\)training@girlguides.ca](mailto:any-(area)training@girlguides.ca) (ie [any-tamaractraining@girlguides.ca](mailto:any-tamaractraining@girlguides.ca)). We have New Guider Learner Path, DEI, OAL, Safe Guide and Enrichment courses all up for grabs.

This fall we offered District Commissioner Getting Started, District Commissioner More Depth and the Leadership Learning Path - check out the National and provincial calendar for dates and times as they will return in January/February 2024. You can find the ANY Training Calendar on the Alberta Council Website.

Check out the National Training Calendar for the Themed trainings that are now offered to all Guiders. Interested in becoming a Trainer?

Have you decided that maybe you want a different challenge within Guiding. Please contact your Area or Provincial Training Adviser and ask the questions about becoming a trainer candidate. We are available to talk you through the process and have you join our amazing team.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Multifaceted March 15 - 17, 2024

Watch for more details.

Please check your local area calendar as well for the wonderful trainings offered for ALL Guiders.

# Backpacking on the ANY Council Trip

Submitted by Serina Polczer-Lum, Alberta Council Youth Forum Member

**T**his summer I participated in the ANY Backpacking camp which took place in the scenic surroundings of the Kananaskis. This camp, filled with adventure, learning, friendship and many laughs, happened over a week in August.

Our adventure began in Calgary where we all met each other for the first time at the Guide Centre. At first it was slightly awkward, but very quickly we were all friends laughing together like we had known each other for years.

We spent the first three days at the Guide Centre learning about how to backpack properly. We learned about how to coexist with wild animals we might encounter, how to pack our bags efficiently, dressing in layers for the weather, dehydrating food, and more. We also took a trip to the University of Calgary where we went rock climbing!

Then we set off to Elbow Pass where we began our journey. We hiked just under eight kilometers to Tombstone Campground where we made base camp. Our first day's hike was very peaceful and filled with beautiful scenery which made the long trek enjoyable.

That evening we all learned innovative skills in rehydrating food. We created novel cuisine in our backcountry cooking from drinking cheese to dyed blue mashed potatoes; the skill did not come easily to some of us, but we all learned and laugh about our learnings now.

The next day we took a day trip to Tombstone Lake, which was absolutely beautiful. The hike there was short but intensely uphill, so we filled it with lots of fun songs to make it easier. We ate lunch there and had fun braiding each other's hair, climbing on rocks, and spending time with each other.

Our next day's trip was to Grey Lake. This hike was longer, but we told stories and sung songs to make it there. The lake was gorgeous but unfortunately, it rained on shortly after lunch and we rushed back to the campground for safety.

Despite the rain, in true Girl Guide spirit we did not let that dampen our mood; we spent our afternoon keeping warm and dry by a fire, naming chipmunks, and making friendship bracelets.

The next day we packed up camp and began the hike back to Elbow Pass so we could take the bus back to Calgary. The hike back did not feel nearly as long as it had on the way in and our backpacks being lighter definitely put us in high spirits. Within no time we were back at the Guide Center after being catching our bus.

I never pictured myself going back country backpacking until I decided to register for this camp. Initially, I intended to attend a much more traditional camp, however I have been looking for more ways to push myself out of my comfort zone and this would be quite a challenge for myself.

The hiking was quite a physical challenge. Carrying almost 40 pounds while trekking for almost eight kilometers seemed a bit daunting at first. Rock climbing was also quite the challenge as I have a fear of heights and it was really demanding on the core.

I also challenged myself socially; I tend to be a bit anxious around meeting new people and being around ten completely new people was something that scared me a lot. But I put myself out there and made new friends and created memories that will last a lifetime.

I would like to do a super special shout out to our camp leaders, Laurie Macintosh and Leah Bettker who shared their valuable time and experience with nine enthusiastic Rangers and Pathfinders. This camp gave me the opportunity to get outside and be one with Mother Nature, make great memories, have some laughs, and learn something new. I hope that many more people have the opportunity to experience backcountry backpacking. Thank you again to everyone who made this camp possible.



# Getting a Great Start to the Year

Submitted by Bev Burton, Alberta Council Girl Engagement Co-ordinator

**T**For those who are returning Guiders, welcome back to another great year of Guiding! For those who are new, this is going to be a really great year with the youth in your unit.

Here are some tips to help get the year started off well. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Area Advisers for more information or help.

## COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES

Communicating with the girls and their families/caregivers is important and helps to improve the girl experience. Please see the following list of sample communications that you can adapt for your own use. These are all on MemberZone in the Guider Resources > Unit Communications Templates.

- Sample Communication - Badges
- Sample Communication - Cancelled Meeting(s)
- Sample Communication - Caregiver Meeting Invitation
- Sample Communication - Change in Meeting
- Sample Communication - Cookies
- Sample Communication - End of Year Email
- Sample Communication - Enrolment and Advancement
- Sample Communication - Monthly Email
- Sample Communication - Registration Reminder
- Sample Communication - Special Event Invitation
- Sample Communication - Start-of-Year Email
- Sample Communication - Weekly Email

## CAMPING

There are many Girl Guide campsites available throughout ANY Council. To book in for a camp, go to [girlguides.ca/ab](http://girlguides.ca/ab), under the Camping Tab, the Property Bookings and you can submit a booking request.

- In Calgary - you can book in the Calgary Area Guide Centre right in Calgary, Camp IASG, Camp Jubilee, Camp Mockingbird and Camp Westover.
- In Edmonton - you can book in the Provincial Building in Edmonton, Sandy Lake Camp and Tangletrees camp.
- In Yukon - you can book Sprucewind Camp.
- In Northwest Territories - you can book Camp Dechinta.
- In Chinook Area - you can book Camp Okeekun.
- In Cypress Hills Area - you can book Elkwater Camp.
- In Peace River Area - you can book Kupasiwin Camp.
- In Woodsmoke Area - you can book Camp Coinda and Happy Haven.
- In Parkland Area - you can book Camp Sherbino

## PROGRAM

There are a lot of wonderful resources to help with planning and delivering amazing program to the girls for this upcoming year.

### 1. Program Platform

- You can access the platform on MemberZone (or through [experience.girlguides.ca](http://experience.girlguides.ca)). This is where you track all the amazing programming happening in the unit meetings as well as camps, etc. You can track the badges that the girls earn, as well as attendance. This is something that the girls have access to and see the progress they are making. The platform is also helpful if they move units so their new Guiders can see what they have done.

### 2. ANY Council Program Resources

- On the [girlguides.ca/ab](http://girlguides.ca/ab) website, under the Guiders tab and click on Program Resources section to see a multitude of resources to help in your units. There are three meetings in a box to get your unit started, what are dues, information about flag, etc.

- **ANY Council Challenges**

- These are supplements to the regular badges and are just fun topics to enhance the girl experience. Challenge badges are on the Alberta Council website under the What Girls Do tab. There is an order form there to be able to get the crests for the challenges.

### 3. Program Trainings

- Check on the Alberta Training Calendar, [girlguides.ca/ab](http://girlguides.ca/ab) to find trainings offered on the different badges in the program.

### 4. Bring a Friend unit meetings

- As Bring a Friend meetings grow unit membership, early in the year is the best time to host them.
- There is an ANY Council crest available for this as well.
- The Plus One challenge crest is available to bring a new adult to try out a meeting as well.

## INTERNATIONAL

- Girl Guides is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). On the WAGGGS website, [waggs.org](http://waggs.org), there are many challenges, volunteer opportunities and conferences held at a worldwide level. Future Blue-Print articles will highlight these opportunities.
- We celebrate Thinking Day on February 22 every year. Please remember to plan in time to do a Thinking Day activity and some instant meetings will be available closer to this day.

## COOKIES

You need to use the cookie tracking form (included in this issue of Blue-Print) for all cookies signed out for your unit. This helps with record keeping but is the only way to try to recoup the cookies down the road if necessary.

## SAFE GUIDE FORMS

It is important to always use the most up to date forms and these can be found on MemberZone under the Forms tab.

For any yellow level activity, the forms need to be uploaded onto the Safe Guide platform (under Safety and Risk Management > Safe Guide on MemberZone) and need to be submitted more than 14 days prior to the event. For any yellow level event with more than 75 people, Safe Guide forms must be submitted at least 21 days prior to the event.

For any red level activity, the forms need to be uploaded at least 21 days prior to the event.

The girls do their registration online and their forms are done that way. However, you need to collect a health form (H1) found on MemberZone for every girl.

Please always remember to reach out for any help you might need along the way.

## HAVE A GREAT YEAR IN GUIDING!



### COOKIE TRACKING RECORD

AB-Council-27

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

*The caregiver is required to sign in the appropriate box for acceptance of the girl's cookie order and this form will acknowledge the amount owing to the unit. Cookie funds are due back to the unit by the date stated by the unit. Girl Guides of Canada has zero tolerance for missing or misappropriated funds. If outstanding funds are not remitted by the designated date, further collection action will be taken.*

Unit Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

COOKIES TAKEN								AMOUNT RECEIVED/RETURNED						
CASE(S) #	YOUTH MEMBERS NAME ONE NAME PER SHEET UNLESS FROM SAME FAMILY	MINT OR CLASSIC	DATE	HOW MANY COOKIES	BOX OR CASE (B or C)	AMOUNT OWING	CAREGIVERS SIGNATURE	DATE RECEIVED	AMOUNT RECEIVED	C A S H	C H Q	INITIALS FOR MONEY RECEIVED CAREGIVER & GUIDER	Direct Pay TRX #	COOKIES RET'D (B or C)
CAREGIVERS NAME:							ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:							
Email address:														

This form is for internal use within Girl Guides of Canada, Guides du Canada and will serve as confirmation for our financial records. Upon request a copy may be sent to you upon completion.



**The next article submission  
deadline for Blue-Print is  
January 15, 2024  
Send your submissions to  
[any-blue-print@girlguides.ca](mailto:any-blue-print@girlguides.ca)**

# Girl Guides

## Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon



### Follow us on social media!



Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council



@GGCAlbertaCouncil



@GGC\_ANYCouncil



GGC, Alberta Council