

December 2018

Blue-Print

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Girl Guides
Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

In Our Community

Guiding Memory **November 2018 Pathfinder Camp**

By: Finley Rogers, 32nd Calgary Pathfinders

As a university student, I have the luxury of having my feet in two communities at most times - at home (in Sylvan Lake), and where I am studying (in Calgary). This year, I took on the Responsible Guider role in my unit, which served to be an amazing learning experience (or learning curve some days) in my short and sweet Guiding career. This fall, my Pathfinder unit intended to camp from November 16-18; however I could not find a single campsite that was available in Calgary Area. Thankfully, since I started Guiding in Parkland Area, I knew that Camp Sherbino was in my back pocket. After running this by the girls planning this camp, we decided that going to Sylvan Lake was our best option to spread out all our third-year camps across the school semesters.

After a dry week, Sylvan Lake received about 10 cm of snow the night before camp, so naturally, most campers were late. Immediately after unlocking the camp gate, I dropped the key, and only noticed it missing after we drove to the parking lot. This resulted in a short hike back to the gate with no luck, followed by a hike back to check my car. Still no luck. We made some phone calls to see if a camp key was hidden somewhere (there was not). I searched my car once more, while a girl and her grandfather checked around the gate. With another camper arriving, we walked back up to the gate to continue searching. Within moments of us returning to the gate, we retrieved the key (thankfully!). Naturally some parents were unfamiliar with the camp's location, which contributed to the lateness, but everyone ended up arriving by 8:30 p.m.

The girls planned a phenomenal Disney-themed camp, including a "grub hunt" (Lion King), "gummy-worm sushi" (Monster's Inc.), and a "dot-art" T-shirt (this included various Disney films - and the shirts turned out really well!). They even played a game that had me laughing so hard I fell to the floor. After seeing the board on the wall labelled "Camp Hat

Gadgets," the girls wanted to leave their mark, and used a piece of a T-shirt that had been cut off, to create a "Disney Camp 2018" headband to pin with the other camp crafts.

On our final day, some of the girls wandered around to find the Ranger Hut, and decided that they would also like to have their camp in Sylvan Lake. It was really amazing to share my "other" community with my Pathfinders, and hear that they would all like to spend more time at this camp.



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A message from the Provincial Commissioner

By: Kathy Batty, Provincial Commissioner

The theme for this edition of Blue-Print is “In our Community,” which leads to the perfect opportunity to speak on the incredible community of women and youth within Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council.

During November 16-18, Alberta Council and the Alberta Council Youth Forum (ABCYF), came together at the Alberta Girl Guide House for the weekend. The ABCYF participated in their annual Welcome Camp, while Alberta Council conducted their quarterly meeting weekend. Although we come from all over Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon, rural and urban communities, and have very different issues and concerns, we come together to make decisions for what we believe is best for all of Alberta Council. During break times and social times, it is so apparent that, wherever we are from, we are first, and foremost Girl Guides and we have a common bond.

We made this Girl Guide connection very apparent recently when one community ended up without cookies for the mint cookie campaign due to an

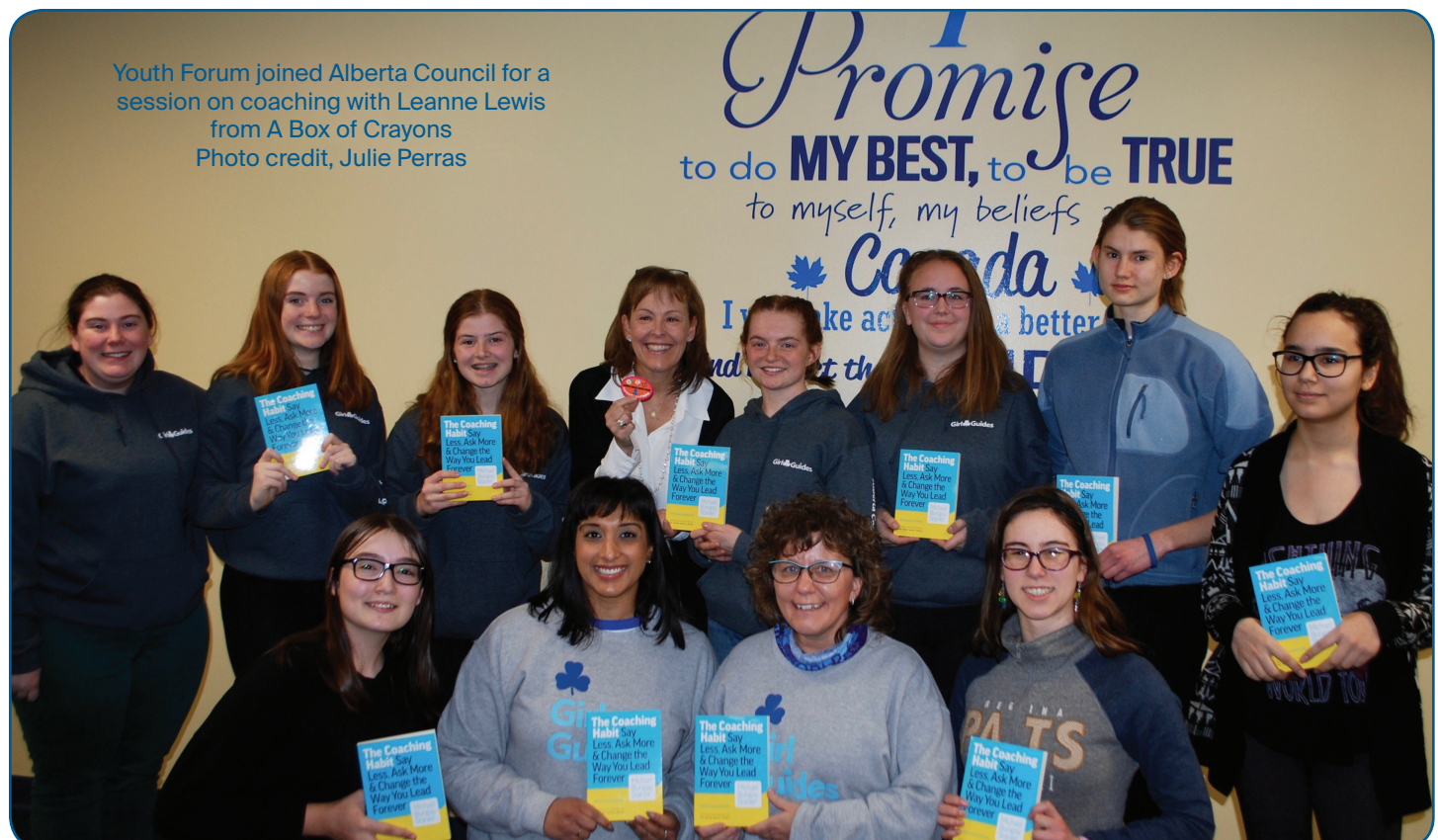
ordering error. Units from all over offered their extra cookies so that this community would have sufficient cookies to sell for their activities and trip fundraising. What a fantastic response and a perfect example of Lending a Hand.

Through social media, we see every day how units are involved in their communities. I was so proud to be a Girl Guide as I saw numerous pictures on Facebook of girls and adult members participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies and parades. Guiding is regularly included in these ceremonies, often with significant involvement, because of our ongoing contributions to the community.

As we enter the holiday season, I am confident that Guiding will be seen throughout the communities in AB, NT, and YT. Whether you wrap gifts at a mall, bring cheer to a seniors home or hospital, or help out at a community kitchen, we see you giving back and helping to make your community a better place.

Alberta Council has an incredible community of girls and women.

Thank you for all you do.



Youth Forum joined Alberta Council for a session on coaching with Leanne Lewis from A Box of Crayons
Photo credit, Julie Perras

Girl Guide Cookies

Don't Leave Home Without Them

By Adette Lacerte 45th Calgary Rangers

I have been in Guiding for more years than I can count. I started as a Brownie, long before Sparks ever came into being. I remember selling my cookies door-to-door in a rural community. My route had me visiting the same houses every year and every year the same lady would tell me she just started her diet but would still purchase two boxes of cookies. Cookies are a part of my past life and continue to be a part of my life as a Guider.

For the last thirteen years, I have been a Pathfinder and a Ranger leader. My girls and I travelled to Paris and Switzerland, Tofino, Hawaii, and most recently England and Ireland. As you can imagine, I helped sell my fair share of cookies along the way. While traveling, the girls and I carried more boxes of cookies to use as gifts for people we met along our way. While in Hawaii, we meet some local Girl Scouts and swapped cookies with them; it was a real treat for everyone.

On our most recent adventure, we brought along a full case of cookies and dispersed the 12 boxes amongst our group. Our goal was to always have a box of cookies in someone's daypacks to give to our tour guides, or someone who went out of their way for us. While touring Dublin, we scheduled a trip to Trinity College to see the Book of Kells. Rumours were that the line-ups could be quite long, so we arrived early to discover a long line-up already formed. We confirmed with others in line that this was the lineup for the Book of Kells and so we waited. As we stood in line, the line continued to grow. After being in line for about a half hour, a security guard made an announcement to the

growing line that the Book of Kells was closed that day until 2 p.m., and that this particular lineup was to see the Royals. With puzzled faces, we started to ask questions, and sure enough, we were in the lineup to see **Prince Harry**, Duke of Sussex and his new bride **Meghan Markle**, Duchess of Sussex.

We quickly polled the girls on what they wanted to do. Waiting to see the Royals would mean changing our other plans and juggling things. Unanimously the girls agreed that we should continue standing in line for the next two hours as this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Our early arrival put us near the front of the line. Once we cleared security and were entered the grounds of Trinity College, we secured a spot right on the crash gates. While we waited, we realized what an opportunity this was. Then it dawned on us: we had Canadian Girl Guide cookies in our backpacks. We had a gift to give to the newlyweds.

When the time came, Harry and Meghan made their way along the crash gates chatting and shaking hands with the crowds of people. Harry led the way with Meghan behind, nearer and nearer they inched towards us. Then Harry realized that in order to keep a schedule he needed to move quickly and bounded past us. Our hearts sunk briefly, but then realized that Meghan had not followed him. Closer and closer she walked towards us until she was right in front of us. As Meghan reached our Ranger who was right on the gates holding out a box of chocolatey-mint Girl Guide cookies Meghan exclaimed, "Are those the thin mints? I was a Girl Scout for many years." She eagerly accepted the chocolatey mint cookies. Never suspecting the final destination of the cookies that we managed to carry with us, across England and Ireland would be in Royal hands.



Good Guiding Neighbours

By Janet Allcock, Archives

Written by **Robert Baden-Powell** and published in January 1908, “**Scouting for Boys**” was described as “a handbook in good citizenship”. Here for the first time Baden-Powell stated the Promise and Law, which, though the wording has changed, remains at the centre of the Scout and Guide organizations.

This Promise included “to help other people at all times” and both Scouts and Guides were expected to “Be Prepared” for all kinds of emergencies and to perform services as part of their everyday lives.

Today Guides are not expected to deal with mad dogs and run-away horses or dash into burning houses; however, service to the community remains a focal point. Guides **TAKE ACTION FOR A BETTER WORLD** in many ways appropriate for today.

When I searched through our extensive collection of photographs it was hard to select ones for this article – there were so many to choose from. My favourite options included Brownies on their annual visit to a Seniors’ Lodge to sing carols and hand out gifts, Guides participating in community events by providing face-painting and food concessions, Brownies admiring the flowering bulbs they had planted in front of the Municipal Offices in Swan Hills, Pathfinders giving a Christmas party for inner city children etc. etc. So here are just a few showing the variety of ways that Guiding has been involved in the Community.



A Pathfinder serves tea for Seniors in 1994.



A St. Albert Brownie arranges the bake table at an annual tea and bazaar in the 1980's.



Guides pose by their donations to the Food Bank in 2000.

Girl  Guides



Girls take part in Canada Day celebrations 1991 at John Walter Park, Edmonton.



St. Albert Division members participate in river clean-up in 1988.



Maywood Division (Edmonton) members march to the cenotaph at Jasper Place on Remembrance Day 1981.



Swan Hills Brownie Pack show off the quilts they made for the International Year of the Child in 1979.



In the days before communities had recycling programs newspapers were collected and sold for recycling. This photo taken in 1980 shows it was big business.

Making Guiding Visible in Our Community

They Can Not Join Us if They Do Not Know We Are There!

Bev Burton, Membership Adviser

We all know the amazing benefits of Guiding – the friendships developed, the lifelong skills learnt, the confidence to be able to do new things, the list goes on and on. However, if you are not in Guiding, how do you find out about it and how do you know that you should join our organization? We need to make Guiding visible in our communities.

As mentioned in the last issue, the Bring a Friend Challenge and the Plus One Challenge encourage new girls and women to join the organization. The details for these challenges are available on the Alberta Council website. These challenges work well for people who have a connection to Guiding already. The girls and women in our community who do not know someone in Guiding also need an opportunity to learn about Guiding.

Here are some ways to make Guiding more visible in the community:

- Host a meeting outside so that people can see that Guiding lives in their community.
- Be involved, while wearing uniform, with community events such as hockey games.
- Why not host a campfire in a public place such as shopping mall – this allows members of the public to see the fun-side of our meetings.

Take every opportunity in your community to hand out information on the benefits of joining Guiding as well as details on how to join. Please talk to your Area Membership Adviser -- she can help you with these initiatives. Also, check with your Area to see if there are Girl Guide item giveaways to use at your event. If you do an event, please let your Area Membership Adviser know what you have done so we all can share in your success.

Look for a Guider Pocket Pal coming from the Alberta Council Membership Committee. This handy document is branch specific and includes information about the branches, enrolment, WAGGGS, etc. Find it on Alberta Council website or print it out to carry with you to use at meetings. We hope the Pocket Pals will be a useful tool for Guiders and Rangers.

2018 Scholarship Winners Biographies

Leah Pagé

Margaret Utgoff Scholarship Winner

Leah has been a member of Girl Guides of Canada for 13 years and has travelled extensively both nationally and internationally with her unit and personally. An honour student throughout high school and the recipient of many awards, Leah is enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program, University of Alberta – Augustana Faculty. An active Member of GGC, Leah participates in numerous service projects with her unit as well as provincial and international camps. An accomplished pianist, she plays piano twice a week at a Senior's Residence. Having studied traditional karate for 11 years, Leah has earned the title of Junior Shodan and puts her skills to use assisting at Little Dragons Karate for students aged four to six. Leah has attended Alberta Girls' Parliament for four years and credits GGC with her willingness to try new things and the opportunity to acquire a wide range of skills including leadership, organizational and money management.





Acacia (Cassey) Fallis

Cassey is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program at Grant MacEwan University. A Member of GGC for 13 years, she has participated in many events and projects during that time. Having attended Alberta Girls' Parliament for seven years, starting as a page, Cassey feels one of her major accomplishments was being elected Leader of the Opposition. An honour student, she has been actively involved with many school clubs and projects. Community work includes helping with summer camps through the City of Edmonton, being a reading buddy for the Public Library and participating in bake sales, carolling, Food Bank and Hike for Plenty. As a past member of the Alberta Council Youth Forum, Cassey enjoys travel, reading and plays a variety of musical instruments.

Alana Tollenaar

Enrolled in Environmental and Conservation Sciences at the University of Alberta, Alana graduated high school with honours (distinction). The recipient of several awards, Alana was involved in numerous clubs and projects including Youth Toastmasters, food drives and attending international conferences through Rotary. A relatively new member to Guiding, Alana has organized and led adventure camps and wilderness survival skills workshops for her unit and others. Outside of Guiding, she has planned and led Nature Alberta's Family Nature Nights, is a University of Alberta Ambassador and a Board member for the Lee Nature Sanctuary Society. A sport and outdoor enthusiast, Alana was a member of the Canadian team in the World Archery Youth Championships and holds 20 national and 40 provincial records.



Chelsea Krpan

A returning member of Girl Guides as a Unit Guider, Chelsea has been involved for the past three years in her district organizing parades, Brownie Revels and acting as a chaperone for dances. An accomplished swimmer and aquatics supervisor, she has reached out to local Guiding groups to aid them in completing badge work and swim tests. Always heavily involved in community service, she is a long-time volunteer with the Calgary Police Victim Assistance Unit and has spent many hours at call centers for victims as well as meeting with them. In addition, Chelsea has coached soccer, worked with Strong Kids Charity in the aquatics department and planned events for the YWCA. Enrolled in Education at University of Calgary, Chelsea was on the honour role during high school

and the Dean's list for her Bachelor of Science degree all the while volunteering long hours in the community.

2018 Scholarship Winners Biographies

...continued



Gillian Cameron

A 13-year member, Gillian has had many experiences in Guiding through attending the Centenary Rally in Ontario, Alberta Girls' Parliament and GM 2016. An active honour student throughout high school, she was a member of a choir, on Student Council, the Science Olympic team and her school's nominee for the Schulich Leadership Scholarship for her high grades, planned program of study in University and her significant school and community involvement; she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science. While in Pathfinders, Gillian and her sister volunteered for the Inn from the Cold shelter, and they started a service project in their Rangers years, Baby Bags, which collected baby items for those in need. Community service included working at the Interfaith Food bank and Calgary Reads to name a few. Gillian states that Girl Guides is a "safe community where girls and women can collaborate and grow."

Grace Jacyk

An honour student throughout high school, Grace studies a Bachelor of Science at the University of Calgary. Participating in two ministries at her church, she has organized a Church Rally and helped trained new altar servers. A member of Guiding for nine years, Grace attended an international trip in Switzerland, GM 2016 and a trip to the Yukon with her Pathfinder group. As a Unit Guider, she loves to backpack and camp with her unit, including winter camp. Grace enjoys swing dancing, playing the french horn, knitting and reading.



Kate Bourne

Having completed an undergraduate degree in Microbiology with an impressive GPA, Kate has begun her master's degree in Cardiovascular Science at the University of Calgary. A GGC member for 12 years, she has spent nine as an adult member. Kate has been a member of the Health Services Core Crew at three SOAR camps, a member of the Health and Wellness core crew at GM, attended a national conference and completed the bronze, silver and gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. As a Trex Guider she has led her unit on many outdoor adventure activities, including tripping and is a mentor to new Guiders. Kate has served her community in many health-related ways through her work with St. John's Ambulance as a medical first responder, teaching first aid at elementary schools and as a member of the University of Calgary medical response team.



Madison Latta

Madison currently attends Mount Royal University in the Transitional Vocational Program. Despite a learning difference, she graduated from high school and won an award of excellence for math. A member of Girl Guides for 14 years, Madison has traveled to a camp in another province and visited Our Chalet and Pax Lodge. She has volunteered at My Best Friend's Closet for six years, and with her unit, has helped at the Calgary Food Bank, Super Trains, Stuff-A-Bus and the Holiday Train. Madison created a program called Warm Feet Warm Heart and collected socks filled with necessities (toothbrushes, etc.) for those in need. An avid equestrian, Madison also enjoys movies, driving, hiking, biking, Guiding and spending time with family.

Qaisara Mohamed

Having graduated high school with Honours and Distinction, Qaisara attends Mount Royal University in the Bachelor of Child Studies program. A Member for 13 years, she has been a Junior Leader for Brownies and Guides and has travelled extensively with her unit including a camping trip to California and a kayaking adventure on the Indian Arm of the Pacific Ocean. Qaisara attributes her keen survival skills and the strengthening bonds of friendship to these trips. Her global community involvement includes teaching hygiene, career and university opportunities in Pakistan and planting mangroves in Costa Rica. She is a long-time volunteer with Camp Discovery where she began as a Councillor in training and became a Director managing other Councillors. Tutoring is also one of Qaisara's passions. She also enjoys sewing, dancing, reading and photography.



Teagan Cameron

Teagan has been a member of Guiding for 13 years and is beginning her Bachelor of Arts in Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Alberta. She has been heavily involved in Guiding from Sparks to Rangers. Highlights include Alberta Girls' Parliament, membership on the Alberta Council Youth Forum, and the Grass Roots Huddle in September 2017. Throughout High School Teagan often volunteered with the school while being involved in broadcasting, music, and debate. She also collaborated with her sister to start their "Baby Bags" initiative for Inn from the Cold. Teagan's move to Edmonton brought more opportunities to get involved in Guiding; she now volunteers at the Alberta Council Archives, where you may find her researching the scrapbooks. When not studying Teagan enjoys handicrafts, sketching, and singing in the University's Mixed Chorus.

Get Out There Girl Guides!

By Anita Roy, Youth Forum Member

Girl Guides continues to be a huge part of my life and to make a very big impact on who I am becoming. Whenever I hear that someone does not know what Girl Guides is, I am shocked. I think of how they missed out, bigtime!

Often, the public associates Girl Guides with cookies, but Guiding is more than that. A friend from school defines Girl Guides as, “a group of girls wanting to make an impact on their community.” While we know Girl Guides goes beyond community service, I found it comforting to know that she knew we work hard to make a mark on our hometown. Beyond that, Girl Guides gives us the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and go on amazing adventures--it can be pretty much be whatever you want it to be. We want to make a difference and what better place to do that than in our own community?

As a Ranger in Cold Lake, we do a lot of community-based activities, which includes both volunteer work and promotion of Girl Guides. My unit, although small, helps out in any way we can and encourage the younger girls to do so as well.

We do a variety of volunteering in Cold Lake and try to participate in most of the community events as well. We volunteer at both the Ronald McDonald Run and the Ride for Refuge running a water station and handing out refreshments (which include Girl Guides Cookies) to participants. Running water stations like

**“Wow they are amazing,
can I be a part of that?”**

this helps not only support community events that get people active, but also the Ronald McDonald Charities in Northern Alberta and our Local Food Bank. We also serve at community dinners, pack care packages for deployed military members at the Military Family Resource Center, and visit the residents at the seniors centres. Last year, the Pathfinders and Rangers held an Awake Over. Instead of having a sleepover and sleeping, we stayed up all night,

decorated Christmas cookies, and delivered them to the night shift workers in town. It was a good way to show the police, firefighters, nurses, and military personnel who work the graveyard shift, that we appreciate all their hard work and to bring a little Christmas spirit when you'd least expect it!

The Cold Lake Girl Guides participate in other big events in our community to promote our organization. One event we do each year in September is Community Registration Day, when every organization in town sets up a booth. Volunteers from our organization explain to residents what we do and how they can be involved. We also take part in our Remembrance Day ceremonies where we lay wreaths and sometimes read a poem. Every Thinking Day we raise the Guiding flag, along with the Scouts, for a week at the city for all to see. Last year, my unit entered our district into our town's Santa Claus Parade where we portaged a canoe down Main Street decorated in Girl Guide flair (we thought they meant boat- not float).

Perhaps you and your group already do these things or similar ones? That is amazing! I see a future where people see Girl Guides and think “wow they are amazing, can I be a part of that?” To me, Girl Guides is an amazing organization. We just need more publicity for people to see us for who we are. So get out there Girl Guides; make some connections, inspire your peers, and start making an impact on those in your community!



Who was Joyce Foster?

By Teagan Cameron



In February, Alberta Council asked the Alberta Council Youth Forum to recommend uses for an endowment granted to Alberta Council. After months of preparation, in April, I presented a proposal for the Joyce Foster Memorial Scholarship to Alberta Council with a fellow Youth Forum member. Approval meant our scholarship proposal would launch in 2019 -- the Youth Forum was ecstatic! However, despite the celebrations, a question began to murmur at the back of my mind: who was **Joyce Foster**?

Many Guiders I spoke to did not know of Joyce Foster. While working on the scholarship application form, the question still lingered. All we knew was that Joyce Foster was a Guider from Parkland Area who had gone to the first nationally-sponsored camp sometime in the 1950s or 1960s. We also knew she was passionate about education, camping, and travel. This was the criteria we used to construct the scholarship. We did some

digging, but found nothing. My partner contacted Parkland Area to see what they knew. Finally, we began to find answers.

Joyce Foster was an avid Guide and Guider born and raised in Red Deer. In 1952, she was chosen to attend an international camp in Ottawa, becoming one of the first Guides from Alberta to attend a national camp. She was a teacher and world traveller, teaching in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, and continued to travel upon her return to Canada. When she settled in Calgary, she became heavily involved in her community through social groups, golf clubs, volunteering, and more. Ms. Foster also loved to camp.

While we don't have a lot of information on Joyce, what we have is an image of a woman who loved Guiding and was an active member of the community all of her life. We find a vibrant woman, with a passion for others and travel that took on a myriad of adventures. While Ms. Foster seemed to be relatively unknown to Alberta Council, with a little digging, it was evident that Guiding played a significant role in her life, both as a girl and as an adult.

Thanks to Joyce Foster's generosity, Alberta Council will be able to aid young women for years to come through the Joyce Foster Memorial Scholarship.

Watch the Alberta Council website for the application form and further information in the spring of 2019.

All members attending a post-secondary institution in education or a field related to sustainability are eligible to apply.

All applications are due to the Alberta Council office the second Friday in May.



Awarding Our Guiders

Henny Smit-Nielsen, Awards Lead



It is time to think about awarding the Guiders in your units, districts, and areas. Awards can be done with informal recognition or with formal awards. A great resource to use is the Alberta Council Awards booklet on the Alberta Council website. It gives information on the awards available from provincial and national level Guiding. Also, check to see if your Area has any special awards for Guiders volunteering there.

Another set of awards to consider are the non-Guiding awards. Many communities present volunteer awards of various kinds on an annual basis. What better way to get our image out in the community than having Guiding members receive some of the awards for all the hard work they do to support girls and young women! The Government of Alberta presents the Star of Alberta Volunteer Awards to youth, adults, and seniors who contribute to the well-being of their community. More information on these can be found online. Do not limit yourself to Guiding awards. There are so many ways to recognize our volunteers.

To submit for any award, you need a reference letter and/or an application form. Remember, when writing a reference letter, go into detail about the person's service you are recognizing. Read about the award, so you know what is required. Is it for service since their last award? Is it for service in all walks of life? Do not assume that the people reviewing the award application

know the person involved. With your words you need to paint a picture of the person and why they should be recognized. Give details and examples. If a Guider works extra hard in the unit, give examples of how she does so. Does she organize amazing outings? Does she have the ability to motivate people to go above and beyond what they normally would? What makes her so worthy? You are the one who must tell the awards committee about this person.

One final very important bit in the process is deadlines. Check to see what the deadlines are for the applications. Some of them are much earlier in the year than others. If you missed the deadline don't despair. Get a head start on next year and be ready when the next deadline rolls around.



Camping in our Community

Julie Kitz, Camping Adviser

There are many ways we can engage with our community. Here are a few places in the community you can camp or have a sleepover:

Calgary

Heritage Park

You are invited to step back in time and spend the night in a bunkhouse. Educational interpreters guide your group through several hands-on and engaging historical activities.

- Group size: 15-30
- All ages

Calgary Zoo

Imagine experiencing the zoo at night and snoring within earshot of over 1,000 creatures.

- Group size: 20-45
- Ages 5+

TELUS Spark

A night of discovery and exploration.

- Group size: up to 130
- Ages 5+

Hangar Flight Museum

Delve into the history or science of flight.

- Group size: 20+
- All ages

Edmonton

TELUS World of Science

When the science centre closes... the ultimate sleepover experience begins.

- Group size: 20-90
- All ages

Bennett Center

Located in the heart of Edmonton's river valley is an unique destination for your group.

- Group size: 25+
- All ages (dormitory style beds with two bunk beds per room)

Edmonton Valley Zoo

Check out the animals that are just waking up as an interpreter guides you around the Zoo after hours.

- Group Size: up to 30
- Ages 5+

Check with your local museum to see if they offer a sleepover program. Or stay at your local community hall and plan your own.

MYTHBUSTERS

Girl Guide Edition

MYTH

Provincial and National awards can be applied for at any time.

CONFIRMED

Awards may be applied for throughout the year and can be presented at any appropriate event. It is not necessary to wait to the end of a Guiding year or term to recognize achievement. Ensure you leave sufficient time to get through the necessary approvals. Refer to the Alberta Council Awards Booklet, found on the Alberta Council website and the Awards section on Member Zone for more details.

MYTH

Areas/Districts can just proceed with property improvements/maintenance at our camps.

CONFIRMED

If an Area/District annual budget and Asset Management Plan (AMP) was submitted to, and approved by, Alberta Council, you can go ahead with property improvements/maintenance with no further approvals. However, only the work stated in the AMP and at a cost less than or equal to the budgeted amount can be done. If the work is outside the AMP and/or more expensive, approval must be obtained from the Alberta Council.

MYTH

Contract signers can sign leases for more than 1 year.

BUSTED

Alberta Council contract signers (Contracts North or Contracts South) cannot sign any contract longer than one year, such as leases. Only the National Board of Directors approves a lease. The Directors of Girl Guides of Canada sign the lease.

MYTH

Later in the year, the registration fee for new girls registering can be reduced.

BUSTED

There is no pro-rating at any time for online or paper registration. Full fees must be paid regardless of when the girl registers. The registration amount does not change.

MYTH

When filling in your SG.3 you need to fill in the section that says "age range".

BUSTED

The Age Range only needs to be filled in for events where there are Extra Ops attending.

MYTH

If I am getting shirts or crests made, I don't need to have them approved unless I want the trefoil on them.

BUSTED

All merchandise must incorporate the GGC logo – the trefoil on its own is acceptable where space is limited. All merchandise must receive the approval from Alberta Council. Refer to Member Zone – Merchandise Standards and AB-PR-01 Crest and Merchandise Approval form (located on the Alberta Council website).

MYTH

When sending forms to the Assessor, you need to send everything including the SG.2, kit list and itinerary.

BUSTED

You do not need to send in your SG.2, kit list or itinerary for assessment. For YELLOW events, you must submit the SG.3, SG.1, SG.4 and, as relevant, SG.5, SG.7 and WA.1. For RED events, you must submit the SG.3, SG.1, SG.4 and, as relevant, SG.5, SG.6, SG.7 and WA.1. For both levels, you need to submit a list of all adults in attendance and activity leader and supervisor qualifications, such as first aid qualifications if not listed in iMIS.

MYTH

Green level events require paperwork.

CONFIRMED

While green level paperwork does not need to be sent to an assessor, you do need an SG.4, it is also strongly recommended that you provide your parents and DC with an SG.1 and depending on the activity, you may need an SG.7 for TPSP.

MYTH

Unit funds cannot be used to buy supplies for service projects such as Birthday Boxes or knitting toques to donate.

BUSTED

GGC funds can be used to purchase materials needed for girls to make scarves, toques etc. for a service project. When preparing a holiday hamper or birthday boxes, GGC funds can be used, in moderation, to acquire missing items to complete a project. However, members are not permitted to solicit donations from the public for a donation to any other not-for-profit or charitable organization. Doing so could jeopardize GGC's status as a registered charitable organization with Canada Revenue Agency. Refer to Member Zone – Fundraising FAQs for more information.

MYTH

At your meeting, you decide on the spur of the moment to go for a walk to explore your neighbourhood. You just need to lock the hall when you leave.

BUSTED

You need to leave a note on the door stating where you have gone and you need to take the health forms with you.

Do you have a **MYTH** that you would like to have **CONFIRMED** or **BUSTED**?

Email your query to blue-print@albertagirlguides.com using **Mythbusters** as the subject line.

We Need to Evacuate Now

Adventures with the 24 Calgary Rangers

Rosemarie Enokson, 24th Calgary Rangers Unit Guider

Timeline of Events:

5:30 p.m. We arrived at Camp Mockingbird. It was time to head to the firepit for dinner in the sun.

7:28 p.m. The creek by the upper bridge between Swallow and Sisken campsites was completely dry. Leaders noticed the ice dams underneath both bridges. The leaders walked back to get the girls so they could see the dams.

7:40 p.m. We heard a sudden increase in volume of rushing water, as we walked back towards the bridges between Swallow and Sisken.

7:46 p.m. Water submerged the bridge!

7:49 p.m. We left the bridge area; the water ran through the forest area and to Swallow campsite. We decided to head back to Lodge site.

7:51 p.m. As we passed Swallow shelter, we noticed flooding under the doors. The water also started rushing through the trees.

7:56 p.m. The road from Swallow and Sisken sites was a river and water pooled into the flagpole field. This swayed our decision to pack up and get all gear up on tables in Lodge.

7:59 p.m. Guiders called Susan Ryan (our District Commissioner and Home Contact) to advise her of the developing situation. We planned to call again in 30 minutes to update her.

8:06 p.m. The road to Whiskey Jack was dry on camp arrival and water now flooded the road.

8:10 p.m. The water reached our vehicle tires parked at Lodge. The Leaders declared the need for evacuation and called Susan Ryan with the update. We loaded the gear into the vehicles.

8:21 p.m. The water was at the bumper level of Rosemarie's minivan. Mockingbird was officially underwater. We drove out.

8:45 p.m. We contacted our home contact once we were in cell range.

8:53 p.m. We left a message for the Calgary Area Commissioner, Arzmund Teja.

9:06 p.m. Now we made a call to the Alberta Council Emergency Line.

9:47 p.m. We spoke with the Area Commissioner; at this point we were in Cochrane at Dairy Queen.

11:15 p.m. We made it back to Calgary and met parents at Braeside Community Center.



24th Ranger Josie Henderson and Leader Rosemarie Enokson:

Josie: *Mockingbird never fails to be one of my favourite camps to go to each year, especially when the weather is as beautiful as it was on the weekend of April 27-29, 2018.*

Though we had to evacuate due to a flash flood, it will certainly be a camp I will not forget. What shocked me the most was the sequence of events that occurred in perfect timing in the hours leading up to our actual evacuation. Everything occurred in such perfect order and only made me believe further in the saying 'everything happens for a reason'. As we discussed at the Cochrane Dairy Queen after, there were little things we did differently this camp that allowed us to witness the beginning of the flooding and evacuate in a timely manner.

When we arrive at camp, we always set up our bunks and unpack a little bit, as I am sure many other groups do as well. However, at this camp, the weather was so beautiful that we decided to forgo our usual routine and spend some time outside and eat our dinner. Once again we strayed from our routine and went on a walk. The leaders wandered around while us girls stood in the field and talked. When our leaders returned to us, they brought news of an ice dam that we just had to go see.

This was also unusual as we were planning to return to the cabin at that point. While playing in the puddles we heard a rushing of water and discovered upon investigation that an ice dam had broken and water was rushing down the creek bed, the road, and towards other cabins.

Rosemarie: *It was finally a nice weekend after a long winter and I was so excited to be at camp with our Rangers. In another fortunate turn of events, all the tent campers who were to be at Mockingbird that weekend had been moved to Camp Jubilee because of all the snow. We had the whole camp to ourselves.*

*It is amazing how quickly things can change. I thought I heard the roar of trucks running by, but soon realized it was running water. When we realized we were dealing with overland flooding my first thought was the water would likely taper off once the initial waters behind the ice dams came through. But as the water continued to rise my co-leader **Rosanne Bowman** and I realized we had to consider evacuating. It was Megan's first camp to organize and she had thankfully gone through our entire SG.4 in detail while we ate dinner only an hour before.*

Once we realized this was more water than we expected, as a group, we walked back to Lodge with a very clear plan to stack the luggage/gear up and prepare to leave. Rosanne and I set a clear plan that if the water got to the wheels of our vehicles, we would have to go. While this was the last thing any of us wanted to do, within 10 minutes of my first call out to our home contact we had no choice.

I cannot say enough about our amazing Rangers. When Rosanne and I called to evacuate I made a second call to our home contact. By the time I hung up the phone the girls had nearly loaded all the gear. They were calm, and worked together to get the job done.

As we headed out of camp, the water was at the bumpers of our vehicles. I cannot imagine how this would have played out if the flood had occurred at 3:00 am, or if all of the the tent campers were present at Mockingbird that weekend.

Josie: *My advice to other groups would be that things do happen, no matter how unlikely. The last thing I expected to be doing at 10 p.m. on the Friday was driving home. But the most vital thing is the safety of the unit.*

It is important to read through the safety forms at the beginning of camp and make sure everyone knows what to do. When your leaders make the call, you do not question it, and you have to work together to get to safety. For those that have gone through a similar experience, you will understand the adrenalin rush and subsequent adrenalin crash. After a situation like that occurred, we did the best thing we could think of, stop and decompress somewhere. We stopped and took pictures of the gorgeous sunset, and then again for a more serious debrief (with ice cream) at Dairy Queen. It was an experience I will never forget but the three hours we had together were incredible.



Rosemarie: Once we were safely out of camp, we stopped at Dairy Queen in Cochrane. One thing we always do at the end of camp is debrief – what you liked, what you did not like and what you would do differently. Our debrief certainly brought out the amazing series of events we went through and how well we performed as a team. It also brought out emotions and realizations of what could have been.

The debrief was invaluable in acknowledging everyone's feelings and perspectives. As an Emergency Nurse I also talked about how important it was to take care of ourselves physically and emotionally over the coming days. None of us slept well that night, but we continued the debrief the following day taking all of our camp food and going for a picnic. It was good to have some fun the next day.

While doing the Safe Guide paperwork is probably not most Guiders' favourite activity, we need to follow it to the letter; a thorough plan made it easy when adrenalin levels are running high and focus is narrowed.

Rosanne Bowman and I truly commend our Rangers' (**Josie Henderson, Sarah Enokson, Megan Lye and Andrea Valcourt**) actions that night. We could not be prouder of our girls; they exemplified being prepared,

Activities in the Community

Marg Easson and Kathy Kibblewhite, Safe Guide Advisers

Girls just want to get out!

Gone are the days where the meetings were exclusively in the halls and the only time the girls went out into the community was to sell cookies. Some examples of the many possible service projects and activities include:

Sparks

- Can help with a sandwich making project – Green Event
- Visit the local public library – Green Event

Brownies

- Visiting a Senior Centre – Green Event
- Swimming at the local rec pool or skating at the community rink– Green Event

Guides

- Going to the local grocery store with a budget and purchasing supplies for the food bank– Green Event
- Laser tag– Green Event

Pathfinders/Rangers

- Fall fish rescue– Green Event
- Rock climbing at a climbing centre– Yellow Event

Green events are plan and go – Notify parents and your DC and head out.
Yellow events require paperwork to be submitted to assessor@albertagirlguides.com and must be sent in a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the event.

If you have any questions, please email: safeguideadviser@albertagirlguides.com

Girls First Program in our Community

Dana Wagner, Program Adviser

Get out and be seen in the community! There are so many ways to get the girls out in the community doing the program, here are some new ideas to tie into Girls First:

Be Well - My Physical Self

- Have a skating party at a local outdoor rink
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Curling
- Swimming at a local pool
- Take the girls on a walk around your community
- Participate in a town or mall scavenger hunt
- Use a compass to get around the neighbourhood
- Go geocaching
- Play in a park

Be Well - My Healthy Relationship

- Visit a senior centre

Experiment and Create - Art Studio

- Make peace rocks (<http://www.peacerocks.org/>)

Take Action - All Themes

- Distribute the peace rocks
- Visit a senior centre
- Visit an animal shelter
- Visit a food bank
- Clean a green space in your community
- Make scarves and tie them around trees in a park for the less fortunate

Build Skills - All Themes & Connect and Question - Local Communities

- Visit a fire hall or police station
- Visit a grocery store or bakery
- Visit a flower shop and learn how florists design their amazing pieces
- Visit a mechanic where the girls can learn to change a tire or change their oil.
- Visit a vet or a pet store
- Visit a bank

Connect and Question - Local Communities

- Attend your local Remembrance Day ceremony and lay a wreath on the cenotaph
- Participate in a local parade
- Always ensure you've consulted Safe Guide before undertaking an activity and submitted the appropriate forms where needed.
- Always have fun while out in the community!
- Girls and leaders alike should be in uniform while out in the community. Badge sashes and ties should be on the outside of jackets.
- The possibilities are endless. I hope these have given you some new ideas.
- Alberta Council would love to see pictures of your units out in the community having fun! Maybe you'll see your unit in an upcoming Blue-Print or on the website.



GIRLS FIRST

Save the Date!

Alberta Council
MULTI-FACETED 2019
“Back to the Future!”
March 15 – 17, 2019
Red Deer



Join us for a weekend of exploring the past, present and future of Guiding.

Watch for details on how to register on the Alberta Council website
or in ANY_GuideNews beginning in December.



For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

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