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Blue-Print

Girl Guides
Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada | Alberta Council | girlguides.ca/ab

Turning Over A New Leaf

Guiding Memory Sea to Sky Camp

By: Anita Roy, Ranger and Alberta Council Youth Forum Member

An Alberta Council sponsored camp in Cold Lake allowed for a week full of adventure and new experiences for Girl Guides in July. Guides came together from all over our jurisdiction to a remote place, foreign to most of them. All 50 girls were divided into ten patrols with a Leader or a Ranger who they could go to for assistance, and who would make sure that the girls had all their belongings and that they arrived at their proper stations on time. Many of the daily activity choices for the girls' participation were related to engineering and nature.

Every day the waterfront station gave the opportunity to cool off from the hot sun; these activities included canoeing and swimming lessons taught by the local company, Boreal Forest Guides. This resulted in many exhausted girls but also many proud moments by the end of the week when they received their Paddle Canada certificates and Lifesaving Society swim badges.

The cooks provided three amazing meals every day; these meals were eaten in the cabin. Sea to Sky Camp created so many friendships to last the girls' lifetimes. No girl felt left out, as they all spent every moment together. Everyone slept in tents through the week except for Friday; a big thunderstorm moved everyone inside. Many girls were scared; however, after many hugs and bathroom runs everyone made it through the storm. Girls showing their courage and taking care of one another created an amazing sight to see.

The Cold Lake Air Show on Saturday created the most excitement during the camp. Each patrol could go to explore the air show to look at whatever they wanted to. Everyone crowded to see all the planes and helicopters; a huge hit from the camp was going inside the Air Show to get some really cool pictures. Bouncy Castles and glitter tattoos excited the girls, as well as car races, and the soaring planes above

their heads. The girls met many air force workers who told all sorts of stories and would sometimes even trade badges; this helped the Sea to Sky Camp to be a huge success! The Guides, Leaders, and Rangers all had a great time making memories that will not be forgotten. As a Ranger, I always enjoy volunteering, especially when I get to meet so many amazing women and act as a role model to the Guides. I learned many new talents and improved my leadership skills by running stations and taking care of the girls. I love camping so much and cannot wait for the next one!

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A message from the Provincial Commissioner



By: Kathy Batty, Provincial Commissioner

As I sit here on September 15 having just returned from the outdoor Edmonton Area Girls' Awards Ceremony, held in the snow and rain, I cannot help but think just how amazing the members under Alberta Council jurisdiction really are.

Whether soaked to the bone, sitting outside in the snow and rain to celebrate the accomplishments of our amazing youth members, taking personal vacation time to volunteer at one of the weeklong summer camps, or participating in one of the many Girls First sessions to be prepared for the start of the year, I truly think our members are second to none.

The 2018/2019 Guiding year is sure to be an exciting time. With the transitioning year for Girls First (GF) under way, many units in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon (ANY) are embracing the new program. Of course, as with any new

initiative, there have been a few glitches, but in true GGC fashion, our members are taking them in stride to deliver the best girl driven experience possible.

Of course, GF is not the only thing going on in the world of Guiding. This year we will see many of our annual events including Commissioners' Workshop which took place in September, Multi-Faceted and Alberta Girl's Parliament (AGP) in March, Trainer's Workshop in April, a wide variety of teleconference and webinar training sessions, and many, many unit, district and area activities. On May 11, 2019 Guiding in Our Backyard Rallies take place in areas across Alberta Council; make sure to save the date. The summer of 2019 will be busy again with our annual weeklong camps and many units taking the time for some travelling adventures. It's going to be a fun-filled and action-packed year.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Alberta Council, we would like to thank the following members for the time and effort that they gave to volunteering for Alberta Council sponsored events in 2018.



Photo credit, Edna Dach

Celebrating at the Edmonton Area Girls' Awards Ceremony, September 15, 2018 in the snowy outdoors.

Alberta Girls' Parliament (Program sponsored)

Edie Jubenville Shannon Jaeger Robin Kitz Julie Kitz Gultaj Kara Laurie Robertson

Multi-Faceted (Training sponsored)

Leanne Hemphill Tirzah Wolff Denise Kerr Donna Leonard Robb Liz Barter
Dorothy Boras Lorie Coghill Mary Hatcher Rosemary Smith Sue Fortunka
Jan McCaghren Tanya Watts Stephanie Lindstead

Trainers' Workshop (Training sponsored)

Chris Burton Lauren Bowman Chris Haydon Margaret Utgoff
Bev Burton Tracy Burton Janet Melnyk Tanya Watts

OAL Training (Camp sponsored)

Twyla Jenkins Kathy Cawthorpe

OAL Adventure Training

Anna Robertson Laurie McIntosh



Sea to Sky Guide Camp (Camp sponsored)

Anita Roy (Ranger)	Sam Steman (Ranger)	Nadia Mak (Ranger)	Tonya Wolfe
Marla Haring	Cheryl Ryan	Megan Tyner	Catherine Oswald
Ann Kendall	Kassi Davidson	Debbie Shudra	Dena Lamothe
Amanda Chaulk	Leanne Conrad	Meg Scott	Suzanne Tonner
Mel McDaniel	Barb Mullie	Meleena Fulton	

Adventure Awaits Pathfinder/Ranger Camp (Camp sponsored)

Marlis Rose	Mary Biglands	Kelly Biglands	Kathy Watson
Rose Ward	Katrina Belzerowski	Hazel Snyder	

Advanced Backpacking Camp (Camp sponsored)

Laurie McIntosh	Elizabeth Jack	Sheila Morrison
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Girls Arts Camp (Program sponsored)

Sam Brown (Ranger)	Rianna Hodgson (Ranger)	Skylar Johnson (Ranger)	Megan Lye (Ranger)
Jacqueline Emes	Dana Wagner	Natasha Wagner	Eileen Johansen
Annette Jaenen	Beverly Lipon	Kimberly Jollimore	Denise Brake
Donna Thomas	Jessica Neufeld	Theresa Wamboldt	Gina Hrachy
Molly Schumacher	Sharon Wildwind	Aimie Williams	

Colour Your World (International sponsored):

Katherine Tonner (Ranger)	Piper Watson (Ranger)	Amanda Saigeon	Joanne Schatz
Sam Boys	Rachelle Fortuin	Adrienne Penny	

Canoe Training (Camp sponsored)

Anna Robertson	Marg Ramsey
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Hodgepodge (Camp sponsored)

Stephanie Lindstedt	Carmen Zayac	Anna Robertson	Laurie McIntosh	Tiger Rousseau
Judy Nicolas	Denise Kerr	Twyla Jenkins	Tanya Watts	Janice Buckley
Jennifer Buckley	Hazel Snyder	Sara Horseman	Rose Ward	Marion Rex
Cindy Chiasson	Dana Wagner	Kathy Watson	Anita Gerlinksky	Liz Maki
Tania Prucyk	Regan Coyne	Allison Ireland	Cassandra Rose	Jamie Lowry
Trina Caunter	Erin Cross			

Commissioners' Workshop (Training sponsored)

Tammy Robbins	Pat Istead	Sue Fortunka
Debbie Morgan	Jan McCaghren	Kathy Watson

Webinars

Tirzah Wolff	Sue Fortunka	Tirian Eynon	Diane Wereley	Donna Leonard Robb
Leslie Horton	Eileen Hendry	Margaret Utgoff	Judy Bober	Teri Anderson
Nadine Beyersbergen	Weiting	Tracy Burton	Bev Burton	

Telephone Training

Judy Bober	Elena Favaro	Sue Fortunka	Chris Haydon	Eileen Hendry
Leslie Horton	Shannon Isaac	Tammy Robbins	Donna Leonard Robb	
Margaret Utgoff	Diane Wereley	Tirzah Wolff		

If we have missed thanking anyone on these lists, please know that it was not intentional.

Kathy Batty

Kathy, our Provincial Commissioner, involved herself as a member of our organization for 27 years – including six as a youth member. In all these years, Kathy held many positions including: Alberta Council Training Adviser; Tamarac Area Commissioner; Pinedale District Commissioner; a Unit Guider for Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders; and the Tamarac Area Membership and PR Adviser.

Although Kathy enjoyed all the positions she held, she particularly relishes the Commissioner roles as they allowed her to meet amazing and dedicated volunteers from all over the province. Kathy appreciated the Training Adviser role as training is beneficial to everyone; she works toward ensuring learning continues for everyone. Gratification came from her time as a Unit Guider as Kathy believes that girls need GGC. Kathy valued watching girls develop through the experiences Guiding offers.

Kathy is a secretary for the Department of National Defence, and she thinks “tanks are really neat”; she lives in St. Albert. Kathy’s first job was waitressing in Mannville. Kathy is also a devoted soccer fanatic – ask her for her crest when you meet her.

Fennie Fraser, Kathy’s first District Commissioner, created the biggest influence in Kathy’s Guiding career.

Kathy’s ideal position in Guiding is the one she presently holds - the senior volunteer representing Alberta Council, as this position allows her to meet extraordinary girls and women across Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

Kathy has received many awards including the Alberta Rose; the Alberta Centennial Award; the Medal of Merit; two Team awards; a letter of commendation; the Bronze Merit award; and the Gold Merit award. Alberta Council looks forward to Kathy’s continuing leadership in Alberta.



Laurie McIntosh

Laurie McIntosh is one of Kathy’s Deputy Provincial Commissioners. Her membership in GGC spans 35 years, including eight years as a youth member.

Laurie is a Yellow and Red Activity Assessor, an OAL Adventure Facilitator, and a member of a Trefoil Guild. Laurie has held many other positions in Guiding such as: A Unit Guider for Rangers, Pathfinders, Guides, Brownies, and Sparks; a Yellow Fish Road Coordinator; a District Guider; a District Co-Commissioner; a District Camping Adviser; and an Area Camping Adviser.



Laurie most enjoyed her role as a Camping Adviser as this role allowed her to use her love of camping and organizing; camping with the girls as a Unit Guider is also one of Laurie's favourite activities within Guiding.

Laurie is a Chemical Engineer; she lives in Calgary – her first job was as a research engineer. The best job she held was setting up the quality system for Westaim Biomedical. When she is not busy working, Laurie enjoys hiking and being outdoors, quilting, and gardening. Exercising, spending time with family and friends, travelling, singing, and backpacking also make this list.

Laurie found her parents most influential in her Guiding career. Laurie's ideal position in Guiding would be as a TREX Guider. As Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Laurie exemplifies organizational skills, good listening and communication skills, and she tries her best to make Guiders feel included and like they belong to the Girl Guide team. Organized, committed, and enthusiastic describe Laurie – if one is limited to only three words.

Awards received by Laurie include: A Team award, the Alberta Centennial Award, the Gold Merit, and a Gold Thanks award.

Laurie wishes to accomplish her goals of supporting the update of the Alberta Council website and redesigning the Event Planner within the next year; her personal motto is "Work hard, be honest and have integrity."

Julie Perras

Julie is one of Kathy's Deputy Provincial Commissioners. She spent nine years as a youth member, and 21 years with GGC in total. Positions held by Julie include: Treasurer at the unit and district levels; District Commissioner; and contact Guider with both Brownie and Spark units.

Julie loves organizing camps and large group events; fortunately, she has had this ability in most roles she has held within Guiding.

Julie is an accountant; she has both CPA and CIA (Certified Public Accountant, and Certified Internal Audit, respectively) designations, and she currently works in the Audit field. She lives in St. Albert; and first worked as a babysitter.

Julie loves to learn new skills. Holding roles that require working with new tools and processes and acquiring new information within GGC really benefit Julie in this facet.

Julie's Guiding career was most influenced by Julie's mom; she is both a Guider and Rotarian and always lived by the principle of "service above self." When Julie is not busy at work or with Guiding she likes to spend time with her family. Julie thrives on serving others and making a difference in their lives.

Julie is functionally artistic, so she regularly creates beautiful projects. Programmed by organization and logic, she needs to see things and map them out. She finds this mapping process helps to generate good discussions for decision making. Julie is also passionate and productive – she likes to get things done. Julie is also an avid reader. Her personal motto? "Be prepared and lend a hand." Being able to convince her kids to keep their basement clean is a goal that Julie would like to accomplish in the next year.



Biographies ...continued

Janet Allcock

Janet currently holds the position of Museum and Archives Lead for Alberta Council. She is also a member of a Trefoil Guild, an Honorary Life Member, and the Coordinator of the Canadian Branch of the Olave Baden-Powell Society.

Janet has held many positions in GGC. Janet held positions as a Unit Guider for Brownies, Guides and Rangers units. She was also an Adviser on several committees - International (twice), Camping, Program, and PR. Janet was also the Tamarac Area Commissioner, a member of the Provincial Camping Committee (a position she particularly enjoyed as she worked with like-minded women and created friendships as a result), a Blue-Print editor (this position held value to Janet because it taught her many skills), an AGP Parliamentarian, and an Adviser to Alberta Senior Branches Council.

Janet's first job was Junior School teacher in UK from 1965-1970 she continued teaching in the UK until immigrating to Canada. Her family spent 19 years in Fort McMurray, where Janet enjoyed working as a Research Assistant for the history of Fort McMurray. This position allowed Janet to gain the experience for her position in archives. Janet also volunteered with several non-profit organizations; but mainly describes herself as A Professional Volunteer! Janet has been living on an acreage near Devon since 2001.

The biggest influences in Janet's Guiding career include: her first Guide Captain who taught Janet all her early outdoor and camping skills (1953-1959), and a Brown Owl, with whom she was a Pack Leader, who also taught her exceptional leadership skills (1955-1958).

The Alberta Rose, the Queen's Jubilee Medal, a Medal of Merit, and the Northern Lights Area Award encompass a few of the awards received by Janet.

Janet feels everything she has done in Guiding has prepared her for her present position as Archives Lead; her knowledge of Guiding, her attention to detail (without losing sight of the big picture), and her sense of determination are valuable skills for an archivist. Janet continues working toward attaining Recognized Museum status for the Alberta Council Guide Museum.

When Janet is not busy with her volunteer activities she enjoys gardening, cooking, traveling, reading, attending performing arts events, and spending time with her husband (who also works in the archives). Janet is interested in international causes which promote the education and rights of women. Her motto is: "enjoy yourself and make the most of your opportunities – this life is not a rehearsal!"



Shannon Robertson

Shannon is the Link Adviser for Alberta Council; she has been a member of Guiding for 23 years (including 12 as a youth member).

Shannon has held many diverse positions during her adult Guiding career including: A Unit Guider in Sparks and Guides; a Camping Adviser; a Deputy District Commissioner of Maywood District; several positions in Alberta Girls' Parliament (Parliamentarian, Activities and Media); a Canadian delegate at the Young Women's World Forum Oxford in 2010; and a Girls' World Forum delegate in 2012.



Shannon calls Edmonton her home. She loves her job as a grade one teacher.

Shannon's mother volunteered with Shannon's Spark unit to "help out" and ended up continuing this role 23 years later. Shannon's mother often juggles more than one unit at a time. The dedication exemplified by her mother became the biggest influence on Shannon's Guiding career. Shannon considers herself fortunate to have the support of her family as she pursues her passion for Guiding.

Shannon's ideal position in Guiding would be planning themed camps for girls; especially for Sparks and Brownies. The favourite themed camps she planned were Dr. Seuss and a Jungle camp. Shannon slips movie quotes into daily conversation to see if anyone will notice (most people do not quite catch these references, but they will be on the lookout now); she considers this an unknown talent. Shannon also brings her passion for Guiding and planning events to the table; these skills all benefit her position as a Link Adviser. Shannon believes Link is an excellent program and aspires to keep members connected in our organization.

Shannon has numerous awards including: five Team awards (as part of the Welcome the World Rally team, the Guides in the City Event 2016, the Maywood District Camp, the Brownie Winter Friendship Camp and the Spark Winter Camp); the Silver Merit award; two Gold Thanks awards; the Alberta Centennial Award; the Bronze Merit award; a GGC Scholarship (which she earned in 2006 in the Edmonton Area Award in 2006); and her Canada Cord.

Goals Shannon wishes to accomplish within the next year are working on her hand lettering and playing the ukulele. Shannon loves to be outside enjoying nature, camping, hiking and geocaching. She also enjoys photography, video editing and playing board games. In her spare time, Shannon likes to write in her journal, read and bake. She also enjoys watching Disney movies. Shannon's personal motto is: "Leave a little sparkle wherever you go."



Breaking News!

Arab Region “Market of Ideas” Conference Participant – Samantha Shewring participated in a WAGGGS triennial regional conference that focuses on sharing ideas with one another and opinions on the Arab regional strategy. Learn more here:

<https://www.wagggs.org/en/our-world/arab-region/about-us/how-we-work/arab-regional-conference/>

Girl Greatness Awards Recipient – Kenzie Alm (pictured on right) from Rocky View County won the Making a Difference Award for Guides this year! Way to represent Alberta, Kenzie! See what her friend wrote to nominate her here: <https://www.girlguides.ca/web/girl-greatness-awards>



Did you know? Sparks turn 30 years old this year!

By: Geoff and Janet Allcock, Alberta Council Archives

It is an opportunity for the Archive to remind you of a few changes and “New Leaves” that have been turned in Guiding over the years, and to tell how we got to “Sparks.”

Guiding first catered to girls 11 to 16 years of age; the first change came very quickly when younger girls begged to join, and Brownies came along for girls aged 8 and up. Other changes to bring in Rangers and Cadets for older girls soon followed. These age levels stayed in place until the 1970’s, but in the early years of that decade, pressure from parents brought change again to allow younger girls to join.

As a first step, National invited Provinces to run a pilot project for girls of five and six. Alberta, Manitoba, and P.E.I. took up the challenge. Alberta named these younger groups Busy Bees, and they were extremely popular. The Guiders designed their program themselves, which mainly consisted of games, songs, and crafts. The program ran from 1975 to 1979 at which point the Brownie age lowered to six, and the pilots were discontinued. Girl Guides of Canada also reduced the entry age for Guides, and new programs were introduced, designed for these younger age groups.

In parallel with the pilot projects, National conducted an Age Study and realized that a change was warranted to serve better the needs of girls aged 12 to 15. So, in 1979 along came a new level – Pathfinders, and that is an opportunity for an article next fall.

Pressure continued to promote a change to admit younger girls. So, in 1988, following the lead of some other countries, a younger branch, came the introduction of Sparks. For many years, the Sparks program consisted of one-year, with very loosely structured program and few to no opportunities to work for badges. However, dressed all in pink, Sparks soon made their mark and are here to stay. When the 1995 program changes were implemented, it became a two-year program (but program books only belonged to the Guiders), and Brownies was reduced to two-years – but still no badges for Sparks. 2004 brought with it the first program change in which Sparks could start working towards earning badges.

...Sparks turn 30 years old this year! continued



Spruce Grove Busy Bees at a day camp on May 28, 1978. Recently, the Archive and Museum were fortunate enough to receive the banner of the First Spruce Grove Hive (on the left in the photograph) as a donation.



Chief Commissioner Elaine Paterson chats to a Peace River Spark during her Alberta visit in 1999.



Provincial Commissioner, Rosalyn Schmidt, launches a Calgary Spark unit in 1989.



Alberta Beach Sparks, getting their hands into bannock-making in 1990.



Tamarac Area Sparks pose by an arch with balloons coloured for the Guiding branches.

Alberta Council to Ecuador

By: Sarah Kurash and Cassey Fallis with collaboration from all participants

Picture this: worn out cobblestone pathways, interconnecting mountains that appear woven from quilts spanning the horizon with fertile farmland. The street is bustling with life, as the various vendors come up one by one selling everything from fresh food to trinkets and toys, right in front of you. Your travel group stays close together, snapping photos in awe, simply taking in the beauty of the country without crowding the already-narrow sidewalk. There is so much to take in, but only so much time. Even when you stare down at the city from the rooftop of your hotel, it is difficult to comprehend the thrill of standing and breathing on such a historical site. That was the first day in Quito.



From July 2-11, Alberta Council sponsored a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity trip to Ecuador for 12 inspiring girls and two Guiders. As one of the girls put it, Ecuador was “an unforgettable experience in which I learned so much about the world around me and I made friends that would last a lifetime” (Imaan). Another girl stated that “my trip to Ecuador was an amazing experience. There is no doubt in my mind that I would do it again. The people I met will always hold a special place in my heart” (Krista).

Working together on a service project ended up being one of the largest aspects of the trip. For our service project, we chose to help build a local school in Sablog, a small community in the Chimborazo province. With only three days to make the most of our efforts, we took on various

odd jobs, such as carrying wood planking for the roof, transporting 1151 bricks, and even manually mixing concrete in the rain. The tasks proved to be quite the physical challenges, but the determined teamwork and girl power pulled us through. One participant noted: “The girls and I worked our butts off to finish everything for the men and women working at the school. I saw happy faces the whole time and people pushing themselves more than ever.” (Max). Exhaustion hit us by the end of the third day, but we saw how our efforts made a difference. By building the school we also made new friends with the school children and a few other helpers. We reinforced these friendships by taking a break from the hard work to play.

We learned about the day-to-day life of typical Ecuadorians when we were not working on our service project. Going to a market with only \$1 to provide a meal for a family of ten people, or hauling buckets of water just to take a shower and cook is the harsh reality for many individuals. We visited a local girls club that supports young girls who continue their education into high school by making and selling handicrafts. The girls learn how to make



and sell them for a profit that covers the cost of bussing to school. Young girls are lucky if they get the chance to finish high school in Ecuador; it is usually too expensive for them to continue their education. The women’s club on the other hand, provides jobs for women to financially support

their families. This empowering opportunity is somewhat controversial as some husbands are against the idea of their wives going to work due to the traditional patriarchal system embedded into Ecuadorian society. The gender inequality in Ecuador is astonishingly clear; visiting the girls and women's clubs reinforced this fact. There is a stark contrast from the individuality and freedom women experience in Canada. As Girl Guides, we can take our lives in virtually any direction we want. Emily



(another girl participant) took this aspect to heart: "This trip opened my eyes to a completely different culture compared to the one I live with in Canada. This experience made me want to make change in my own community." Being able to see this disparity opened our eyes to the world around us, humbling us in a way we did not expect.

Overall, we are grateful for our experience in Ecuador. It is not every day you get to see the Andes mountains while playing soccer with some local school children. Learning curves and culture shock set aside, we believe we can speak on behalf of the entire group in saying how much this trip impacted our lives. The experience will stick with us in a positive manner through our own daily lives. Adele (girl participant) stated: "It was a life changing trip

that offered a new worldview that everyone should experience." The biggest lesson we take away from this trip is that our three days volunteering in Sablog made a difference in the lives of young children by providing them with education for generations to come. Not only did this trip change the lives of Ecuadorians but also the lives of the 14 Girl Guide members. Spending 10 days alongside strangers and working together volunteering in a quaint community really makes you think of everything that we take for granted in Canada, and how grateful we should be for all our belongings, opportunities and this unbelievably unique trip.

This is hopefully the first of many trips Alberta Council will be sponsoring, and we encourage you to apply for the next one! Whether it is a provincially-sponsored or even a nationally-sponsored trip, the experience is well worth it. This trip allowed for an incredible, and unforgettable adventure where the sisterhood of Guiding really shone through. We all made new friends and new memories that will stay with us for life. Thank you again to Alberta Council for changing the lives of 12 girls and two Guiders in the span of only 10 days.



Girl Guides

Everything she wants to be.

Turning Over A New Leaf with the ABCYF

By: Cassey Fallis, Alberta Council Youth Forum Member

As we come into the 2018-2019 Guiding year, the Alberta Council Youth Forum is excited to say “hello” to new projects and members. The Youth Forum is also saying “goodbye” to some members that are aging out; these members include: Cassey Fallis, Alexis Holmgren, Kassandra Vandermeer, and Teagan Cameron. Three of these members were part of the inaugural team that first paved the way for the Alberta Council Youth Forum for future years.

Now that we completed the Ranger program, we move on to becoming Link members, Guiders, and continue to volunteer within the organization. As adult members, we take exciting new steps such as: taking on new responsibilities, attending post-secondary education, travelling and, working.

We are grateful to have been members of the Alberta Council Youth Forum as it gave us amazing opportunities to contribute to Guiding at the provincial and national levels. Now we are ready to fully support the new rendition of the Youth Forum as they walk into this new Guiding year.

Training

By: Tanya Watts, Provincial Training Adviser

Autumn often brings with it a sense of things ending, but for me it has always been a sign of a new start. And this year what a new start it will be with a brand-new program rolling out across all branches of Guiding.

Your Training Team is here to support and assistance you through face-to-face, telephone and webinar trainings. Provincially run trainings are posted on the Alberta Girl Guide calendar, whereas Area trainings will be advertised locally. Girls First means trainers get to update their training materials for many of our sessions to reflect the new and exciting program, so come check us out and see what we have up our sleeves for this year.

The Alberta Council Youth Forum excitedly welcomes five new members this Guiding year. Interviews have just been completed so watch your inboxes as we announce our newest members soon. It is going to be a very exciting year for the Alberta Council Youth Forum!

Remember to follow us on **Instagram** @albertacouncilyouthforum for all the latest news straight from Youth Forum members themselves.



Alberta Council Youth Forum Members aging-out being recognized at the AGM in April 2018

As always, we have two large events happening in the spring in Red Deer:

Multi-Faceted – March 15-17, 2019 is open to all Rangers and adult members. This weekend covers a wide variety of topics and will suit all interests.

The Trainers' Workshop – April 12-14, 2019 is open to all Trainers as well as adults and Rangers who are interested in taking the Training Stream (purple pin).

Both weekends provide fun filled activities and great opportunities to meet sisters in Guiding from all over Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

Why not challenge yourself to learn or try something new at a training this year; I know the Trainers in your Area are looking forward to meeting you.

Fall – A Time for New Growth

By: Bev Burton, Provincial Membership Adviser

Starting up the Guiding year is an exciting time for everyone – the girls and the Guiders. There are new girls and Guiders to meet, and there are returning girls and Guiders to welcome to another exciting year of fun and friendship. Alberta Council works towards another year of membership growth for the 2018-2019 year. Increasing members only happens if everyone is helping; this involves not only promoting Guiding to help attract new girls and women, but also retaining the members who were involved last year. If every unit can grow by even a few members, we will meet our goal. Ultimately, it is the girls and women involved in Guiding who benefit when there are more members.

But how is the best way to increase membership over the year? The Alberta Council Membership Committee is here to help with this. Here are some of the ways we can support you as you help to grow Guiding:

1. Bring a Friend Challenge – this is now available. The criteria are on the Alberta Council website under membership; the crest is available through the Alberta Council Office. This activity aspires to increase girl membership.

2. Plus One Challenge – this is now available. The criteria are on the Alberta Council website under membership; the crest is available through the Alberta Council Office. This activity aspires to increase adult membership.

Your Area Membership Adviser wants to support you as you get going this year. Please contact her for more information.

3. Print Ads – there are Nationally branded print ads for new girls and for new women. Talk to your Area Membership Adviser to access these ads. You can put up these ads in communities, print and give them to schools for their students, and use at membership events. If you print them on legal size paper, there is room at the bottom to put local contact information or event details.



Change her future. Change her world.

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY

Now is the time for Canadian Guiding members to support Guiding globally!

By: Chris Burton, Chinook Area

As members of Girl Guides of Canada, we are also members of the world's largest organization for girls and young women: WAGGGS (The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), the only global movement geared entirely to every girl and any girl. Ten million members share a common passion – to ensure that every girl can achieve her potential and change the world.

The Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS) is a global network of WAGGGS supporters providing vital financial help for the future of the international movement. OB-PS has a direct impact on Guiding

The Olave Baden-Powell Society celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2019; and the celebration takes place in Toronto!

programs for girls and young women around the world. Current areas of focus where OB-PS supporters are making a difference include: leadership development programs, advocacy campaigning and initiatives to provide training and support to new countries establishing Guiding.

Open to women and men of all ages, OB-PS is a unique, caring and global group of over 1500 supporters from 60 countries. Members are committed to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting and are dedicated to enabling girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens of the world.

To become an OB-PS Supporter, simply make a financial commitment towards a better future for girls and young women. Canadians can support WAGGGS and receive the benefit of a Canadian charitable tax receipt by giving via Girl Guides of Canada (Canadian World Friendship fund). Forms are available from Girl Guides of Canada national office or online on the WAGGGS website: www.wagggs.org/en/support-us/ob-ps/donate-ob-ps/. OB-PS supporters donate the equivalent of £6,000 and this can be given in one lump sum – or pledged and spread out over several years. OB-PS Young Supporters are any women or men under the age of 35, making a gift of £1,00. It is exciting to see our number of Young Supporters grow.

Every year OB-PS hosts an exciting event in a different region of the world. It is a fantastic opportunity to experience a new culture, witnessing first-hand the true impact of Girl Guiding within a unique local context. The Olave Baden-Powell Society celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2019; and the celebration takes place in Toronto! You will be invited to the June 2019 annual gathering in Toronto – with an amazing array of activities planned – and at the event your official OB-PS Pin and Certificate will be presented by HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark, the Royal Patron of OB-PS.

Supporting the Olave Baden-Powell Society makes a real difference to the lives of girls and young women globally. Please consider joining. For more information you can contact Chris Burton, OB-PS Board Member dcburton@telusplanet.net

Tips to Engage Girls in Menu Planning and Food Preparation for Camps and Sleepovers

From ideas shared at the Grassroots Huddle in September 2017.

By: Julie Kitz, Provincial Camping Adviser

HAVE THE GIRLS PLAN THE MENU

Sparks and Brownies

- Use group brainstorming and then voting to choose the menu.

Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers

- Should be able to plan full menus and grocery lists with minimal help.

HAVE THE GIRLS HELP COOK AND CLEAN

Sparks and Brownies

- Help with basic food preparation with supervision
- Wash veggies
- Open packages
- Set out food
- Set the table
- Build their own meals (Pizzas, etc.)
- Wash tables
- Wash their own dishes

Guides

- Help prepare and cook with supervision
- Set tables
- Wash dishes (their own and cooking dishes)
- Clean up after

Pathfinders and Rangers

- Should be able to do everything with a little supervision if needed
- Help with grocery shopping
- Create budgets
- Pack of supplies for camp

Deconstruct food so everyone can choose what they want. Place each ingredient in separate bowls and let the girls build their own meal.

- Individual Pizzas
 - Tacos (in a bag)
 - Salads
 - Pasta - separate noodles, sauce, meatballs, etc.
 - Breakfast Wraps
-
- Encourage the girls to try everything.
 - Ask the parents. Send them the menu to help make suggestions.
 - Try new cooking methods i.e. buddy burners, over a fire, box oven, propane stove, etc.
 - Evaluate the menu after camp and remember your favourites for next time.



Program

By: Dana Wagner, Provincial Program Adviser

Welcome to a new Guiding year! The 2018/2019 Guiding year marks the beginning of a change – turning over a new leaf to Girls First. Throughout our more than 100 years of history, programming for the girls has undergone many changes. The Girls First program allows every girl to be everything she wants to be.

This Guiding year is a transition year with a variety of choices for your units. By now all units received their Girls First card decks. Whether you chose to stay with your old program or jumped feet first into Girls First, I encourage you to use the card decks with the girls. They are an excellent tool for the girls to see the seven new program areas as well as the three themes per program area. The card decks are also available in Member Zone under Program to print if you want more cards for activities with the girls.

Using the cards is a great way to engage the girls without needing a laptop/phone/tablet. There are tons of ways you can use them. Below are a few ideas; these ideas and more can be found in Member Zone as well.

Card Hunt: Use the cards for an active scavenger hunt in your meeting space. Set the program area cards out around the available space. Give two (or more) of the theme cards to each patrol or small group of girls. Girls will try to match their theme cards to the appropriate program area cards.

Card Sort: Provide girls with index cards or slips of paper to write their favourite activities or activities they want to explore – one per paper. Then, work as a team to sort the activities into Page 2 categories with the resource cards, so girls can see how flexible the program is and understand where activities may best fit into earning badges.

GiRLS FIRST

Card Dotmocracy: Use the cards as prompts for dotmocracy voting with sticky dots or a sticker design of choice. Tape or affix them to sheets of paper and give each girl a set of dots. Girls will stick their dots to the sheets with cards that interest them most. To make this more active and get girls moving, post the pages around the room on your walls. If your space is limited, you can set the sheets out on a table, or pass them around in a circle.

Change can be hard, but remember, you are not alone. There are 40 Girls First Champions in Alberta Council ready and willing to help you embrace our new girl-driven program. Play around on the platform, consider taking the branch-specific webinars and most importantly have **FUN**.



Cookies

By: Linda Hallonquist, Provincial Cookie Adviser

It is that time of the year again, Girl Guide Cookie time! It is not just a new Guiding year, there is a new look on the mint cookie boxes. By now you received your Chocolately Mint cookies and are out and about selling these delicious delights.

Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon ordered 56,316 cases of cookies for the 2018 campaign which is 1,169 more than in 2017. Congratulations to all the unit leaders for ordering more cookies so our girls can do many more unit activities and programs, including but certainly not limited to going to camp.

The “Cookie All Stars” site opens in February 2019 for registration

The “Cookie All Stars” program, is a fantastic girl program and since we are all out selling cookies anyways, why not take advantage of this and make sure your unit is registered. The “Cookie All Stars” site opens in February 2019 for registration. Before planning any cookie sales activities, please review Safe Guide to plan a safe and successful event. Thank you to all the girls, Guiders, and parents for supporting Girl Guide Cookies.

Different ways of selling cookies:

Cookie ACM

Make an Automated Cookie Machine (ACM). Refrigerator boxes make excellent ACM's. Set the ACM up at your meeting place or a local business, such as your local bank or grocery store. Be sure to obtain permission from the manager before you arrive. The girls will have a fantastic time decorating the ACM in bright Guiding colors.

Cookie Table

Contact store managers at your local Grocery, Toy, Hardware or Camping and Outdoor stores. Have girls in uniform taking shifts (along with appropriate supervision). Cookie tables are also an excellent opportunity to recruit new girls and Guiders as everyone recognizes Girl Guide Cookies.

Special Events/Fairs/Farmers Markets

Many communities have these special events throughout the year. Contact the coordinators to see if you can sell during a special event such as seasonal celebrations like Santa Claus parades, pumpkin/corn maze farms, or community fairs.

Door to Door Cookie Blitz

We often hear from people that “Girl Guides never come to my house anymore to sell cookies.” Perhaps work with your District to coordinate a door to door blitz. This is also an excellent way to do some unit bridging.



Turning Over A New Leaf from the Safe Guide Advisers

By: Marg Easson and Kathy Kibblewhite, Provincial Safe Guide Advisers

What an exciting fall! The new program for the girls is bringing some exciting ideas to take programming to a new level. The new program also brings some changes and updates to Safe Guide: the SG.2, SG.3 and SG.4 all have new versions, and there is a new H.1 form.

As you begin your new Guiding year, take some time to review the Safe Guide changes.

Encourage your parents to fill in an A7 and become a Non-Member Volunteer; so when the time comes that you need some help, they are ready to go and you are not sending in the forms at the last minute.

Set aside some time at one of your first meetings and review your SG.4 for your meeting hall. Have a walkabout with the girls and leaders and go over the different scenarios. If you must evacuate the building, where are you going to meet and why?

If you are planning Yellow or Red activities – make sure to have your forms filled in and sent into Assessor@albertagirlguides.com before the 14 or 21 day deadlines. If forms are not received in time, your activity cannot be assessed and will be denied. These timelines come straight from National and there are no exceptions.

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

“Link” in Alberta Council

By: Shannon Robertson, Provincial Link Liaison

There are so many ways to stay involved in Guiding after finishing the girl program. One of those ways is becoming a Link member. Link is a membership activity for young women aged 18-30. Link members participate in Guiding in whatever capacity they choose. It could be by completing Link Program activities, joining a Link unit, connecting with other young women who share a passion for Guiding, becoming a Unit Guider, or volunteering in Guiding in another way. Link is an excellent way for young women to continue their involvement in Guiding that suits their interests, skills, and schedule.

November of last year brought a new Link program. There are four sections of the program: Personal and Professional Development, Outdoors and Adventure, Health and Wellbeing, and Active Citizenship. Link members can complete the program independently or as part of a Link unit. Link units are groups of young women that can get together, decide on their goals for the program and choose which program areas they want to complete. Link units are self-directed and voluntary, allowing members to make social connections through Guiding.

Currently, there are two Link units in Alberta Council: one in Edmonton and one in Calgary. Please contact the area offices to become a member of one of those Link units. If you are in an area where there is no Link unit, there are a few different choices. One option is to be a member of Link at the Alberta Council level. You can still be connected to other Link members across Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Yukon online and complete program activities individually. Another option is to open a Link unit in your area, more information on how to do so is on the Alberta Council website. All Link members, whether in a unit or not, are still Alberta Council Link members and receive information from the National Link Liaison, are invited to Link activities, and can join the Link Facebook page.

Joining Link is a fantastic opportunity to stay involved in Guiding as a young adult and make connections with other young women. For more information about the Link program or joining a Link unit, please email link@albertagirlguides.com.

Have a great Guiding year!

#TEAMGIRL

By: Amanda Saigeon, Provincial International Adviser

One of Girl Guides of Canada's favourite days of the year is October 11, International Day of the Girl. Each year WAGGGS celebrates with their #TeamGirl campaign and a new focus. For 2018 the focus is on the power and potential of girls.



There are 3 priorities and themes:

- End Discrimination
- Equal Opportunities
- Stop the Violence

For all the activities, download the #TeamGirl Activity Pack:

<https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/day-of-the-girl/>



Starter activity: DISCRIMINATION IS HOLDING GIRLS BACK

Time: 2 minutes Age: 5+

Instructions: Before starting this part of the activity, consider this question:

Do you think girls face any barriers in your community which boys do not face?

In pairs, think of an example and create a freeze frame. Use your bodies and facial expression. Show your freeze frame to the group. Once everyone has guessed the examples shown, discuss the question together.

Remember these activities do not have to be completed on October 11, they are suitable for any time of the year!

JOIN #TEAMGIRL! Buy your badge and matching Girl Power t-shirt www.wagggs.org/shop



Save the Date!

Alberta Council Rally Day - “Guiding in our backyard” is the theme for this year’s Rally Day on May 11, 2019.

Look for information from your Area Council.



For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

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