

October 2020

Blue-Print

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

Girl  Guides

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

A message from the Provincial Commissioner

Tracy Burton, Provincial Commissioner

When Bob Dylan wrote the song *The Times They Are a-Changin'*, I don't think he could ever have envisioned the times we are in now and the changes we are facing on a daily basis. While Guiding may look different right now, there are many things we can look forward to. We can enjoy the laughter of the girls, even if we can't always see their smiles through their masks! We can enjoy making new memories with the girls, playing socially distanced versions of tag and learning new skills. We can even start to plan for outdoor activities as groups, such as day camps, and hope that we can have overnight camps in the spring. We can also choose to find the positives in every meeting – the girls are great at showing us these!

There are some exciting new changes with Girl Guides this fall. Firstly, there is the online option for selling mint cookies. This will allow for a safe and socially distanced option for selling our yummy mint cookies. There will also be some chocolatey mint cookie Blizzards at select Dairy Queens – doesn't that sound great? Secondly, the program team at National has been busy creating new outdoor meeting content and resources for doing all types of Guiding. If you haven't had a chance to check out the resources they have put out, check out Member Zone to see all the updates.

There have also been some changes to communications to our members. Instead of the ANY-GuideNews and the GuidePost coming out, all of this has been put together to the GuidePost. There will be national information first, followed by provincial information and then any area specific

information. This will be your one stop shop for all the information you need. You will also see many more webinar trainings being offered – these are online and cover a variety of topics, ranging from Safe Guide to learning about different branches of the program. This is a fun way that you can get training done – and you can do it in your pyjamas.

I am excited to see what changes we will see over the next few months. I hope that in the not too distant future I will be able to meet with you all face to face (or mask to mask!). In the meantime, I wish you all the very best as we start our Guiding year. Take time to enjoy the best parts of Guiding that we still have – the girls and the friendships we have together!

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The Unique Names of Alberta's Trefoil Guilds

Submitted by Beverly Simpson Headon & Glenda Metro – Alberta Council Trefoil Guild Co-Liaisons

In Alberta Council, we have 38 Guilds with a variety of unique names. Each Trefoil Guild can come up with their own name and in many cases, it reflects the interests of the members. As you know Trefoil Guilds are an activity for women over the age of 30. Many have other roles in Guiding in addition to this. We would like to highlight a few Trefoil Guilds and their unique names in this issue.

Purple Martins Trefoil Guild from Edmonton - They wanted a name to incorporate a Division name which was Betty Martin and since they wear purple the name was born! They even have a rap for their guild. We fly south in the winter ... we love to eat ... we sing a little and we flock together.

Emonis Aka Trefoil Guild from Calgary – Emonis Aka is a Blackfoot name that was given to Lady

Baden Powell when she visited Alberta. It means Otter Woman. They started in 1999 with 3 members and still have 2 of those members active today.

Wild Tumbleweeds Trefoil Guild from Edmonton

– They chose their name because they roll around and gather people from all over the Edmonton Area. Their members come from all parts of Guiding, unit leaders, former DC's trainers, and camping advisers. They are a Wild Bunch!

Did you know? In 1920 in the UK, Ex-Guides began to form unofficial groups with the purpose of maintaining contact with their old Guide companies. In 1935 an organization named "Old Guides" was formed. In 1943 The Girl Guides Association amalgamated the various groups of "Old Guides" and adopted the name "The Trefoil Guild."

All About Link in ANY Council

Submitted by Lauren Gee, Alberta Council Link Liaison

- Link is for Girl Guides of Canada members from the age of majority in their province/territory (18 in Alberta and 19 in Northwest Territories and Yukon) to age 30.
- Eligible members can join Link at any time during the year.
- Some Link members hold other roles in Guiding, while others participate only in Link.
- Link members can take part in the Link Program, which covers personal and professional development, outdoors and adventure, health and wellbeing, and active citizenship.
- Last year, there were over 120 Link members across Alberta Council!
- There are currently Link units in the following areas: Aurora Adventures, Calgary, Edmonton, Parkland, Peace River, and Woodsmoke. If there is no Link unit where you live, there is also an option to register as a Link member at the Alberta Council level.
- A Link to the Future is an event for Rangers and Link members to connect, try out different activities, and have fun! Unfortunately, the pandemic led to canceling last year's event in May. We look forward to hosting this event when it is safe to do so in the future.

If you would like more information on how to join Link, please visit the Link page on the Alberta Council website or email Lauren at any-link@girlguides.ca.

Working on the Archives in a Pandemic

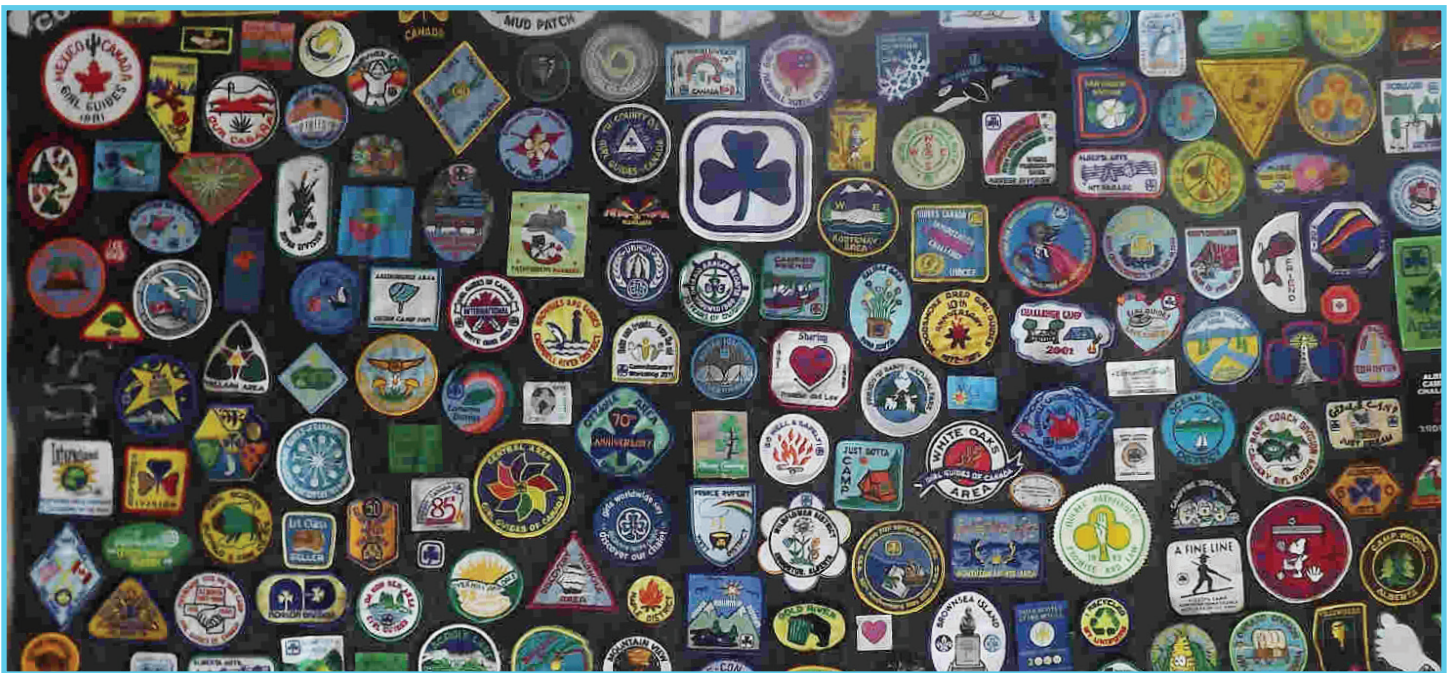
Janet and Geoff Allcock, Alberta Council Archives Committee

Some of it – as it often is – was just a matter of luck, but a lot was good planning for an emergency!

We were in the Guide Office at the end of the week when COVID hit Alberta and realizing that this could be serious, I brought home some material that could be worked on at home. That was the luck bit. The emergency we planned for was more in the line of "How awful it would be if due to a computer failure we lost all our records." With that in mind, we have always had a back-up system: putting everything we record both on the office computer and on memory sticks which we bring home.

As a result, we have been able to help from home a number of researchers, inside and outside Guiding, who have contacted us in the last six months. We have tackled such diverse topics as records and photos about early Guide units and their marching drill displays, campsites in the Lac St. Anne region, and Alberta Council cookie contracts with The Independent Biscuit Company in Calgary.

Our latest achievement was finally to get artifacts transferred from Parkland Area and a donation from a Guider in Lacombe. This venture had been on hold since March and we would like to thank Denise, Parkland Area Commissioner, for bringing it all to Edmonton. Our basement now has a sorting and accessioning station. As always with donations there are duplicates of material, but we were delighted to see a small notebook, dating from 1953, containing a record of setting up a Local Association in Lacombe. These groups were the early method of providing support for fledgling units and were often required before Guiding could be introduced. There was material specific to Parkland Area (and the Area is not well represented in Archives) and a lovely wall hanging with crests (see photo). We have no information on its history so would be very interested to hear from any reader who can tell us more.



Connect with Alberta Council via Social Media

Submitted by Veronica Hoffman, Alberta Council Public Relations and Communications Adviser

Did you know that Alberta Council has four official social media pages?

- **Facebook page:** [Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council](#)
- **Twitter account:** [@GGC_ANYCouncil](#)
- **Instagram account:** [@GGCAlbertaCouncil](#)
- **YouTube channel:** [GGC, Alberta Council](#)

The Alberta Council's social media pages are a great source of information and showcase what Guiding members are doing in Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Yukon. These pages relay interesting Guiding news about special events, camps, program opportunities, and cool activities members can do. The Alberta Council social media pages also showcase Guiding in the media and share information related to Alberta Council, Girl Guides of Canada, and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Each social media platform is slightly different. **Facebook** allows you to share information in various forms that others can 'like' or share. It also has groups and pages that you can join or follow. **Instagram** is a visual platform that shares information through photos, short videos, and simple, yet creative, posters, or advertisements. These posts use hashtags (#) to link the content to a specific topic so others can use that hashtag to find all the posts related to that topic more easily. **Twitter** shares information in short, concise messages or 'tweets' in less than 280 characters. These tweets also use hashtags (#) to help their message reach a larger audience. **YouTube** shares information in the form of videos. To help explain these different social media platforms, I created a quick explanation using Girl Guide Cookies.

Social Media platforms explained using Girl Guide Cookies



Facebook

- I like Girl Guide Cookies!
- This Guiding Group has lots of ideas on how to sell Girl Guide Cookies.
- I shared a cool recipe using mint Girl Guide Cookies with my friends.

Instagram

Look at these amazing pictures I took using Girl Guide Cookies. #GirlGuideCookies

Twitter

I am so excited! They are selling mint #GirlGuideCookies again!

YouTube

Check out our video on how to sell mint Girl Guide Cookies.



Sisterhood

Keeping Connected

Submitted by Cindy O'Flaherty, Wapiti Meadows District Commissioner

As social distancing moved in quickly due to the world pandemic and we cancelled our events, we looked for new ways to stay connected. We have a very large District geographically with over 60 Guiders.

We thought it was important to continue our monthly District meetings so we held our April through June District meetings on Zoom; we had great representation from all units! To add a little fun at the end of each meeting we would do a group activity; we completed the Grande Prairie Library's Digital Escape Room, the Alberta Council Commissioner's Promise Challenge, and shared a PowerPoint presentation with unit photos from events throughout the year.

We also wanted to keep the girls involved and connected; some groups were doing Zoom meetings but others just found it too challenging. We contacted the Scouts in the Grande Prairie area and created a joint Trefoil and Fleur de Lis Emblem Hunt where our adult and youth members posted a Trefoil or Fleur de Lis in their window. We created a Facebook event with maps where we invited members to take a walk around their neighbourhoods or go for a drive with their family to see how many they could find. All that participated will receive a special crest. We had members participate from throughout the District. The DC and Deputy DC did their best to find and post them all.

One of our Guiders and her Scouter husband created a scavenger hunt around one of our parks for all to participate in over the summer.

To stay connected over the summer one of our District Guiders set up Virtual Craft Night, on Tuesday evenings everyone who wanted could join by Zoom and work on crafting projects they had on the go or just visit with the group. There were a few organized craft nights hosted by different Guiders where kits could be picked up to be created together, we made lanterns, had a paint night, and made felt owls. It was a "hoot."

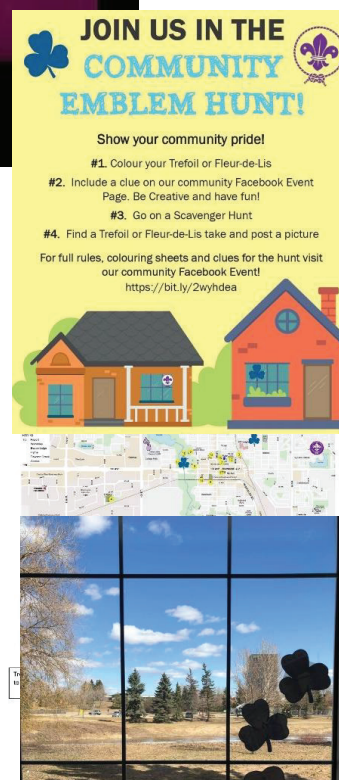
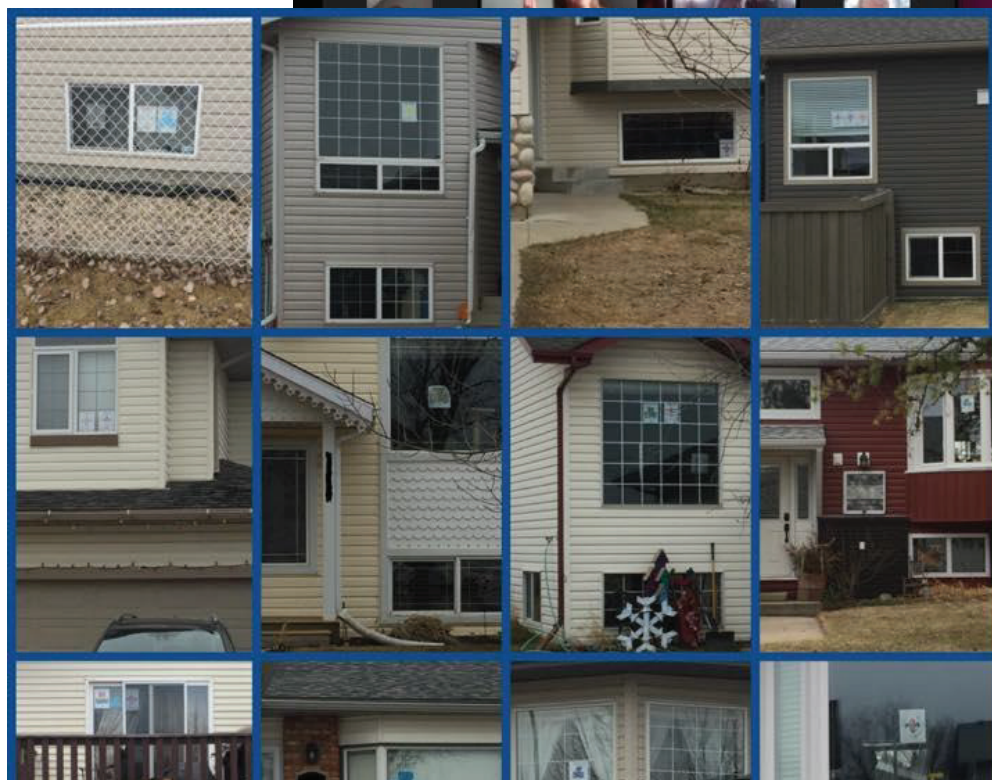
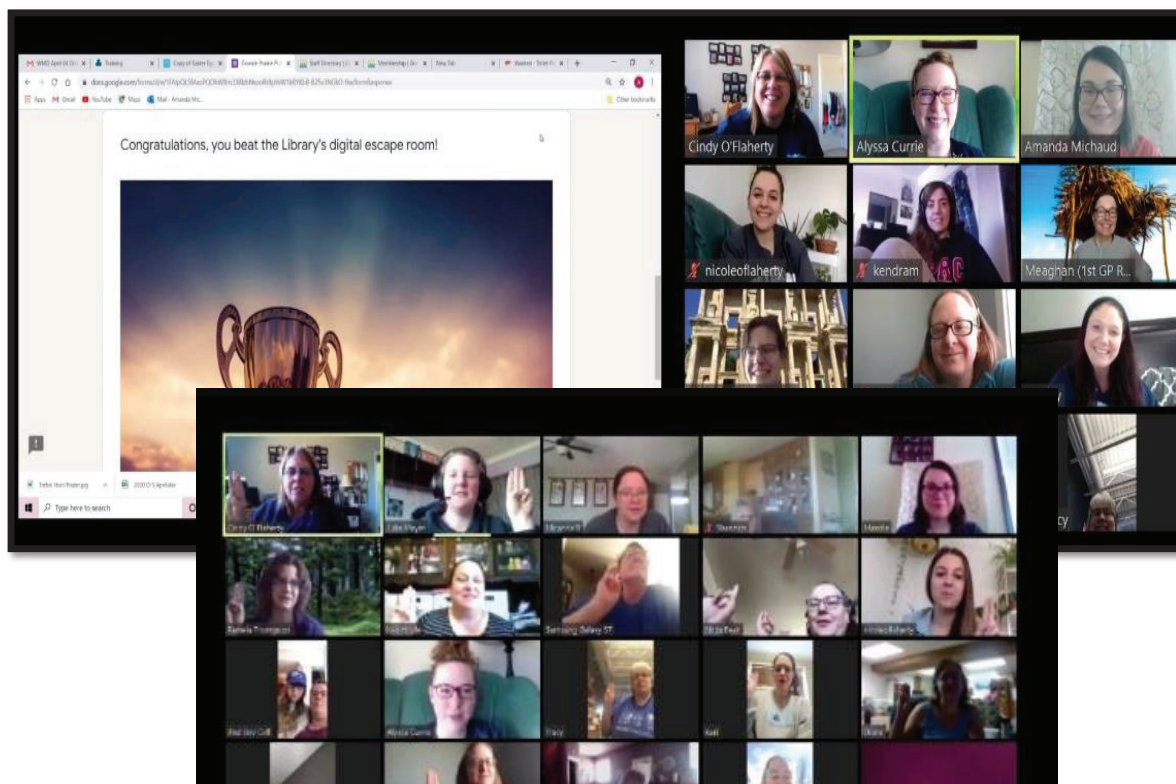
The DC and Deputy DC felt it was important to connect with their leaders and to see how everyone was doing, so Leader and Ranger gifts were personally delivered to as many leaders as possible while maintaining social distancing.

Our District has attempted to stay connected and support each other during these unsettled times by remembering what Baden Powell once said "The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others."

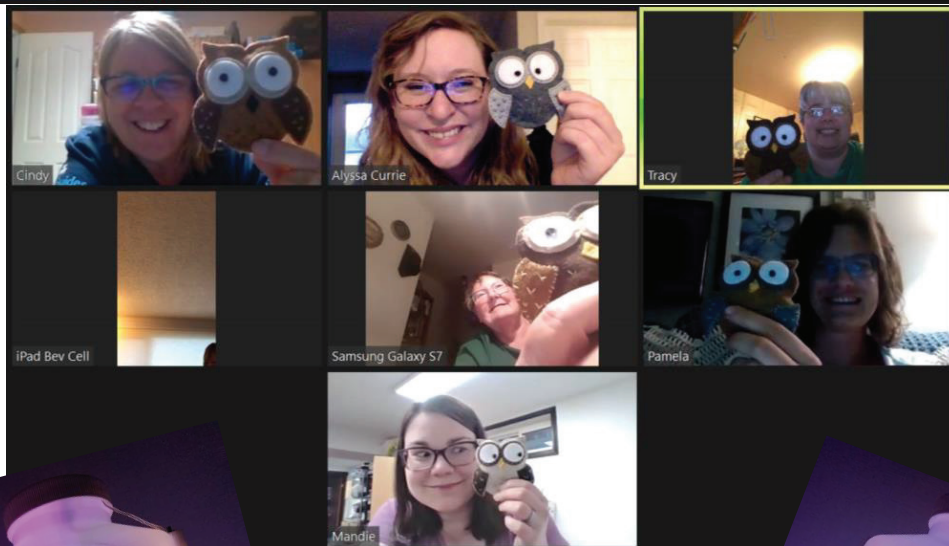
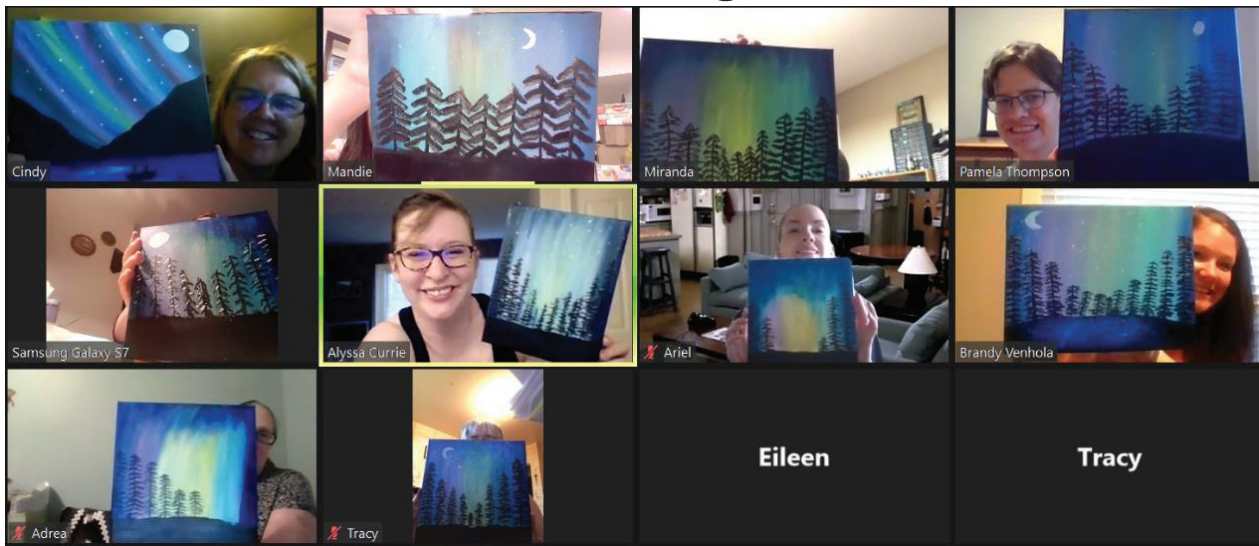
Many photos of the summer connections were sent. We are saving them individually, as well or we can add them in as a pdf. Please enjoy some of our summer connections.

Keeping Connected continued...

Grande Prairie Public Library Digital Escape Room



Summertime Sisterhood Crafty Nights



Starting The Year Off Right!

Submitted by Leslie Horton, Alberta Council Program Adviser

One of the things that have always amazed me about Guiders is how resourceful they are, how they are always coming up with ways to think outside the box, and delivering great programming while having fun.

This year is unique; not only will we face the challenge of thinking outside the box on how to deliver the program, we will actually be outside delivering the program.

Look for the following on the Alberta Council website www.girlguides.ca/ab

UPDATED - Arts Challenge. The theme we chose for the Arts Challenge this year is "OUTDOORS." Please ensure you are following all COVID-19 Girl Guides of Canada protocols while completing this challenge.

There are also some new "Meetings in a Box" to come to the Alberta Council website. There are three meetings each for Sparks, Brownies, and Guides. Our hope is that these three meetings will help get you started this year.

Check out the Girl Guides of Canada website www.girlguides.ca

Member Zone has the One-stop Guider Support Shop and you will also find the Badge-in-a-Box series.

Tracking program – Did you know that if you do activities that aren't listed on the Girls First platform you can add a "Units Own" activity to your meeting so you can track the activities you have done in any of the themes? If you have a great idea or activity share it with us.



Thank you for all those who "*Lend a Hand*" to help others, find resources, share ideas, and collaborate on projects. You are wonderful! Pat yourself on the back because you are pretty awesome!



Safe Guide

Chris Haydon & Twyla Jenkins, Alberta Council Safe Guide Co-Advisers

The Safe Guide document is large and is updated yearly; it is no surprise that everyone of us finds ourselves searching for that elusive answer we need **NOW!** When all else fails (or you just need assurance) **email your question** to any-safeguideadvisers@girlguides.ca.

36 assessors make up the assessor team; the majority assess Yellow and Red level event forms; while 4 assessors assess water forms and 7 assessors assess the trip/travel forms.

Planning an event that requires form? Send them to any-assessor@girlguides.ca.

- email your complete package in word format; please do not send PDF forms.
- Within 3 business days, you should receive a reply from the office confirming your forms' reception; assessors do not reply on weekends nor holidays.
- If you do not hear from the office email any-safeguideadvisers@girlguides.ca.

COVID STAGE 2 OUTDOORS:

- You can leave your community/town/city for a **GREEN** or **YELLOW** day event.

Some **YELLOW** events we can still do; you may think of more.

- Canoeing with older girls; 2 in a canoe nicely gives 2m of social distance!
- Cooking or roasting marshmallows or wieners over a fire, cooking with a buddy burner
- While cooking over a fire is a **YELLOW** activity, building a fire to sit around for warmth is **GREEN**.
- Horseback riding with a TPSP;
- Archery

- Rangers building stools in their Guiders' backyard with the help of her husband and the Guider.
- Hikes: a short hike or a day hike; are both OK
- Your EMS time must be no more than 60 minutes. If EMS can arrive to the farthest point in your hike within 60 minutes, it is a **YELLOW** activity. Do not forget to take into account how the Paramedic will get there; is the trail such that they will have to walk in?

AND WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR OUTDOORS ARE WHITE?

- Maybe before that happens; consider doing enrollment while you can still see the grass.
- Cover a field with snow angels, snowmen/snow-girls or toadstools; there will certainly be some in the neighborhood who will enjoy seeing them.
- Maybe a game of Fox and Geese or Tails etc.
- Provincial Program has an arts challenge coming soon on our website.
- The following link has numerous great games for all ages; it is a great resource.



Girl Protection Child Abuse, Bullying and Social Aggression

Donna Leonard Robb, Alberta Council Girl Protection Adviser

Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada is proud to claim a safe and supportive environment where girls and women can feel accepted, valued and respected. In working with girls and youth, you may become aware of circumstances that lead you to suspect that a child has been abused or a girl may disclose to you directly that she has been abused.

Everyone has a legal responsibility to report suspicion of child abuse immediately to child protection authorities. Girl Guides of Canada has a set of procedures to explain and support you in responding to and dealing with child abuse, self-harm and mental health issues as well as bullying.

As Girl Protection Adviser, it is my responsibility to provide information, support and training around issues related to child protection. Please contact me if you have any doubts or concerns about how to proceed in the case of suspected abuse, self-harm or bullying of a girl member:

Donna Leonard Robb
Alberta Council Girl Protection Adviser
any-girlprotection@girlguides.ca
(403) 280-9467

Alberta Council's Two Newest Awards

Submitted by Henny Smit-Nielsen, Alberta Council Awards Lead

Girl Assistant Leadership Award

This special award is for Girl Assistants who are showing their leadership abilities. It is for those Girl Assistants who help their units consistently and take an active leadership role. It is more than leading an occasional game or helping with a craft. There is no requirement involvement at any other level.

The award will be in 3 levels:

- Bronze - 1-2 years
- Silver - 3-4 years
- Gold - 5+ years

The nomination will require 2 letters. Girls in the unit may nominate and write letters for the Girl Assistants in their units.

The award is an Alberta Council Award and will be handled like Adult awards. There will be Gold, Silver and Bronze pins for the girls to wear on their uniforms.

Look for the full details and criteria on The Alberta Council website under awards.

Ivy Award

Last spring, Alberta Council introduced this award and it is so gratifying to see how many have already been nominated for it. The Ivy Award is presented to long-time Guiders who exhibit the qualities of reliability, loyalty, friendship, and who continue to serve in a unit or District either on a committee or as a member of a Trefoil Guild. They are always there to lend a hand, for example, when a unit or District needs an extra Guider to man an information table, mentor another member or to be a first aider.

The only prerequisite for this award is that the Adult Member has served at least 25 years as an adult member of which at least 15 are in Alberta, Northwest Territories, or Yukon.

Full details and the criteria are in the Alberta Council Awards Booklet on the Alberta Council website.

Guiding 2020 Word Search

Submitted by Ella Johnson, Alberta Youth Council Forum Member

Try to find the words related to this Guiding year!

Words are horizontal, vertical and diagonal.

Word List:

Girls
Brownies
Outdoors
Zoom
Guides
Six Feet

Uniform
Pathfinders
Friends
Cookies
Rangers

Sparks
Leaders
Virus
Mask
Adventures

K	T	E	E	F	X	I	S	K	E	R	N	O	T
O	F	F	T	E	V	M	S	M	R	K	I	D	A
P	H	E	G	S	R	C	R	U	O	X	R	S	D
A	F	M	U	R	D	S	O	R	R	D	R	A	V
T	R	R	I	E	S	R	E	O	I	I	R	O	E
H	I	O	D	G	S	O	S	R	K	U	V	Z	N
F	E	F	E	N	E	O	R	E	D	I	I	R	T
I	N	I	S	A	I	D	E	D	U	V	E	G	U
N	D	N	K	R	N	T	D	U	S	I	I	S	R
D	S	U	N	O	W	U	A	R	P	R	A	R	E
E	N	S	S	T	O	O	E	O	L	E	T	T	S
R	M	A	S	K	R	S	L	S	Z	O	O	M	T
S	F	O	S	F	B	R	I	S	P	A	R	K	S
D	O	E	S	I	I	U	U	E	H	S	D	E	O

Camping

Leslie Jones, Alberta Council Camping Adviser

Even in these challenging times you can still get out camping!

Plan a day trip out to a favorite campsite. There are lots of activities you can plan that are still physically distant. Have the girls bring a bagged lunch. If you are planning on cooking over a fire, please remember that makes it a yellow activity.

You can go on a hike, teach them how to make a bedroll, play a wide game, plan and execute a scavenger hunt, geocaching, letter boxing, painting rocks, crafts. The ideas are endless!

Please feel free to contact us at any-camping@girlguides.ca



For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

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girlguides.ca/ab/

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