

FALL 2013

Blue-Print



Girl Guides of Canada – Guides du Canada | Alberta Council | www.albertagirlguides.com

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada enables girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous, and to make a difference in the world.

Over 90,000 cases of Girl Guide Cookies were ordered in 2013!

– Amy Wiens, Provincial Cookie Adviser

We had an amazing year for cookies last year that made history for AB/NT/YK by ordering an incredible 90,141 cases of Girl Guide Cookies in 2013! Did you know the Classic Sandwich cookie campaign ordered 48,854 cases and the Chocolate Mint campaign order was for 41,287 cases of cookies, which was an increase of almost 2,000 cases over the 2012 order. Huge thank you to all members that continue to make Girl Guide Cookies a success at all levels of Guiding.

In May at the Provincial Banquet we celebrated by presenting Cypress Hills Area with the Cookie Award for both Mint 2012 and Classic 2013 for selling the most cookies per member as well as recognizing all the Areas that have increased cookie orders over the last year.

Cookie All-stars also deserves to be mentioned when talking about the successes of cookies last year. We saw over 5,500 youth members participate with 30 girls reaching the top selling prize of 80+ cases of cookies. Let's keep up this amazing accomplishment going as we are now into a new Cookie All-Star year with some new prizing options so keep up the amazing work!

Cookies has always been and will continue to be an important part of the Girl Guides of Canada Program it gives us a fantastic opportunity to get out in our communities and by making sure we are visible while we are fundraising for our yearly activities and special trips and opportunities that Guiding can provide.

We would love to include some of the units success stories or best practices in these Blue Print Articles when it comes to cookies so if you have a great story or would like to share something that really worked well for your unit or in your community please send a quick note to cookies@albertagirlguides.com so we can include them in upcoming issues.

Keep up the great work and can't wait to see how wonderful this year will be! Continue to be out there and selling the Chocolate Mint Cookies and remember that Classic Cookies will be available in Spring!

Welcome Back!

– Donna Leonard Robb, Provincial Training Adviser

Welcome back to another Guiding year. If you are new to Guiding we are so pleased you have joined us!

Now is the time to think about what trainings you would like to take this fall. Arrange car pools so you can travel together and be sure to include the new Guiders in your district.

If you are a commissioner, we are looking forward to seeing you at the workshop being held October 4 - 6, 2013 at iHotel in Red Deer. Our training team is ready to help you "sleuth out the answers"!

While at the Trainers Workshop held the end of April, Tanya Watts shared a really fun craft/activity for girls of all ages. Tanya purchased photo albums for the dollar store, cut cookie boxes as the front and back covers and filled the inside with blank sheets of paper so the girls could create their own journal. Perhaps one page could be done as an opening activity as the girls arrive for the meeting. This simple craft has endless possibilities. Thank you to Tanya for sharing with me and for allowing me to share it with you.

Enjoy the last days of fall!



In this issue...

A message from the Provincial Commissioner.....	2
Outdoors in the Community	5
Understanding National Fundraising Policies better	6
Looking for additional program activities?	7
2014 International and Domestic Trips.....	8
Introducing your new Provincial Camping Adviser	9
MEMBERSHIP: Building our Communities	10
First-Time Donor's Super Credit (FDSC) for Charitable Donations	11
Are you our next Provincial Commissioner?	12



A message from the Provincial Commissioner

Welcome back to another great year of Guiding.

Or, if this happens to be your first year as a Member of Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) then I hope you enjoy your experience with us.

Flooding in Southern Alberta

I know our thoughts have been with the Members affected by the flooding that occurred in southern Alberta in late June 2013. The extent of the flooding affected Calgary Area, Chinook Area, Cypress Hills Area and Prairie Rose Area. Fortunately two Areas did not have damage to **buildings** at their camps (Calgary & Cypress Hills) but Prairie Rose's Silverland Camp sustained damage including to equipment, and Chinook Area's Camp Okeekun was very badly damaged and Calgary Area had lots of debris on the land at Camp Jubilee. Many Members, and their families, have spent many, many hours this summer helping to clean buildings, clear trees and other debris, and restore the campsites – I thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication to Guiding.

Alberta Council consulted with affected Areas and with the help of the Area Commissioners determined what damage and losses had occurred. Alberta Council decided on a three-part solution. On August 26th, Alberta Council approved the use of provincial council financial resources to support the individual Member (girl or adult) who lost her Guiding uniform with a replacement uniform top and insignia (adult Members), and uniform top, badge scarf, reef knot pin, tie and program book for girl Members. For units which had their unit resource materials destroyed by the flooding we decided to give each unit \$200 (non-matching grant) to help to re-supply the units, and for the two camps that had equipment losses we decided to give financial assistance to help replace several major kitchen appliances.



Helping out at the Crisis Café in Calgary after the flood in late June.

I know also a number of Provincial Councils from across the country and a number of Trefoil Guilds have offered help as well – we think perhaps they may be able to assist with replacing earned badges for the girls. Everyone has been so kind and supportive – such severe and widespread damage isn't anything anyone ever wishes to have to experience but the generosity of the public and Guiding to those affected has been remarkable.

Membership Increase

Every year at this time I set a membership challenge. For FIVE consecutive years, Alberta Council (AB/NT/YT) has increased membership – an absolutely wonderful accomplishment – and **everyone is to be congratulated** for their efforts in achieving this collective goal. Our official Membership Count on January 31, 2013 was 13,983. So, the goal I would like us to reach for the 2014 Count is 14,250 – can we do it? Yes, I know we can!! We have over 875 units and approximately 100 Councils – if every unit, council and committee increased by ONE Member we would reach 15,000 Members – wouldn't that be wonderful?

The girl membership numbers (paper and on-line registrations) as of August 31, 2013 were up by 500 over the same date in 2012!

One way to increase membership is to consult your unit roster from the 2012/13 guiding year and to call any girl on the roster who didn't return to your unit. If she is the right age for the next branch then please put her in contact with the Guider of that unit; if she didn't re-register then ask if she would like to register now with your unit and if there is a conflict with the date/time of the unit she was in last year then please suggest another unit within your District that might meet on a different night. Please remember we have Lone units as well – a "virtual" unit which is overseen by very experienced Guiders and the program work is mostly conducted by email. It means the girl can continue to be a Member and work on the GGC program. For more information please contact Tracy Burton, provincial Program Adviser.

Bring a Friend nights work too but perhaps think about having the *Bring a Friend* night in November so that any girl who attends and then decides to join Guiding has a large part of the Guiding year remaining to experience what we offer.

We can also increase membership by having our Non-Member Volunteers (NMVs) who are registered as our Unit Assistants become Members. I have heard that some units are reluctant to register these NMVs as Members as it will

“cost the unit” too much money. But think of the benefits that these women would have and if someone cannot afford the registration fee then there is the Member Subsidy program available (deadlines to apply for Member Subsidies (individual or meeting space rental fees) is November 1st and March 1st). For more information please contact your District Commissioner.

If there are girls who wish to join GGC and cannot afford the registration fee please ensure that the paper registration form (A5.P) is **immediately forwarded to the iMIS home for inputting**. The iMIS home will record that the partial/full payment is still outstanding and then the request will be made to Alberta Council through the Member Subsidy program – however, the girl will be entered in iMIS and will show on the unit roster which is what we want.

Screening Changes

There have been two changes to the *Adult Member Screening Process*. The screening timeline for a Potential Member (PMBR) to complete the screening process is now **4 months**. As well, any PMBR wishing to work with a girl unit must first have their A1, Police Records Check (PRC) and her two reference checks completed, and all entered into iMIS first. The interview and *Orientation to Guiding* may be completed at any point in the four month timeline. The timeline to complete *Safe Guide* training remains at six months.

Fundraising

Some of the most frequently asked questions I receive concern fundraising. So, a little bit of background and then a few Q & As put together by our Fund Development Coordinator, Mary Chibuk, and myself.

The first thing is that if you are planning a trip with the girls then the Responsible Guider (RG) must complete an SG.8 and forward it to assessor@albertagirlguides.com before any arrangements are made or fundraising commences. Then, for any fundraising (travel or otherwise), beyond the sale of GGC cookies, an FR.1 must be completed and forwarded your Area Council (change for 2013 – all FR.1s are now to be approved by Areas, not the District) for approval. If the fundraising is for a trip then the approved SG.8 must accompany the FR.1 application. All fundraising for travel must be carefully accounted for according to the Fund Development Policy (# 01-19-01). Please ensure you have read this Policy before commencing any fundraising. There are very clear rules on what fundraised monies may be spent on. Also, each participant on a trip must pay a minimum of 10% of the cost of the trip, unless there is a situation of financial need.

Finally, one of the clauses that seems to cause concern is that the Responsible Guider must complete, and submit the financial statement for the trip within 30 days of the completion of the trip. This includes all the supporting documentation (deposit slips, airline receipts, tour company receipts, payment amounts received from each Member participating on the trip, and receipts for all other expenses). Any excess funds

that were raised (excluding funds raised from the sale of GGC cookies), that were not spent on the allowable expenses for the trip must be forwarded, **at the same time** as the financial statement, to the Area Commissioner. These excess fundraised funds will be kept at the Area level to support future travel costs. Failure to understand the rules surrounding fundraising concerning travel does not exempt anyone from having to comply. If you have any questions please consult with your Assessor, or your District or Area Commissioner in advance of the trip.

The other question I hear a lot is about the 25% requirement re GGC cookies. The decision was made by the Provincial Commissioners across Canada, to ensure that cookies remain our **primary fundraiser** since the sale of GGC cookies not only benefits all levels of Guiding but also is invaluable as a visible reminder to the public that GGC continues to be in our communities. We set the minimum at 25% meaning that when fundraising, 25% of the goal to be fundraised should come from cookies. There may be circumstances where this proves to be difficult or impossible to achieve. For instance if several groups were travelling in the same year and came from the same part of a city or in a town then it might be impossible for each to sell sufficient cookies to meet the requirement of 25%. Or, a small town, or a neighbourhood in a city, might have reached saturation with respect to cookie sales. If that is the case then the unit or district conducting the fundraising needs to make a “business case” to the Area Council – it might be one of the examples just given. The Area would look at the level of cookie ordering the unit or district has maintained (are they continuing to order the same number of cases or more as in past years)? If the Area feels that cookie sales are being maintained and that there is a good reason for why the unit/district cannot meet the 25% requirement then the Area Council may grant an exception and approve the FR.1.

Continued on page 4.



Q & A on Fundraising

GGC National Governance Policy 01-19-01 says:

*18. Units, districts, administrative communities, areas and provincial councils are prohibited from **donating funds** which have been collected for GGC purposes to other organizations or charities.*

The policy says donating funds, but what about using funds (see scenarios below). Is it interpreted differently depending on the circumstances?

Some of the questions that have arisen with respect to the above clause:

a) May we use unit funds to make a cash donation to XX organization (e.g.: Breast Cancer Foundation Walk)?

The answer is no, we cannot use GGC funds to make a cash donation to another organization

b) The 1st Guide unit wishes to do a community service project by baking cookies and then selling them to raise funds to give to another organization.

i. May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking? The answer is No, again because it would be giving GGC funds to another organization.

ii. May they give the funds raised to another organization/charity?

The answer is No, again because it would be giving GGC funds to another organization.

c) The 1st Guide unit wishes to make cookies as a Unit and then give them away to the volunteers at a charity event as a community service project.

i. May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking?

The answer is Yes, since they are giving the cookies to volunteers.

d) The 1st Guide unit wishes to work on their “Baking” badge together and make cookies, which they then intend to give away to volunteers at another community event.

i. May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking?

The answer is yes, as again the cookies are being given away.

e) The 1st Brownie unit wishes to work on a community service project and make table favours to give to a senior’s home at Christmas/Easter/Thanksgiving.

i. May they use unit funds to purchase the materials for the favours they are giving away?

The answer is Yes as it is a service project

g) May a Unit collect/raise funds under Girl Guides for e.g.: Run for Cancer or wrapping gifts for Lions Club at Christmas in the mall?

1. *No, you are not allowed to collect/raise funds under GGC for another organization*

2. How can the girls participate?

Girls may volunteer their time, in uniform if they wish, to help at the event handing out water, etc. or in the case of the wrapping of gifts in the mall, as long as it is clear they are Volunteering and not the ones raising money (placement of a sign saying thank you to GGC for volunteering time is a good way to make it clear).

3. As non GGC Individuals: girls may choose to be involved individually or as a group of friends and collect funds and participate in a fundraising walk/run for another organization, however it is NOT a GGC activity and they must not use GGC name to raise and/or channel the funds to another organization.

Yes, this is allowed.

h) May GGC funds (unit/district) be used to:

1. purchase a gift (e.g.: flowers)

Yes, this is permitted.

2. make a donation to a charity when there has been for e.g.: death in a family, serious illness, etc.?

No, this is not permitted as it is donating “funds” to another organization.

Why can Unit funds be used in some instances and not in others:

- When the primary reason for using the funds is to donate an item as a service project then you may use unit funds within reason.

I am now in my fifth, and final, year as your Provincial Commissioner. Please see the volunteer opportunity for the Provincial Commissioner position further on in this issue – it details the experience and skills required for the position of Provincial Commissioner, along with the job description. I encourage you all to consider if you, yourself, have the experience and skills needed, or, to please approach Adult Members whom you feel should consider applying.

I hope this is a wonderful year for you. Thank you for giving your time, experience, skills, enthusiasm and talents to ensure the girls experience Girl Greatness Starts Here!

Margaret Utgoff

Provincial Commissioner, Alberta Council

Outdoors in the Community

We don't have to wait until camp to take the girls outdoors. We can enjoy outdoor activities year round right in our community.

Often our weekly meetings tend to be indoors. But we can use meeting times to get outside also. Younger girls can explore the neighborhood looking for signs of fall or spring. A nearby park might be a great place to collect fall leaves for a craft. This same park can be used to go snowshoeing in winter. A compass trail can be set up in the park for your Guides or Pathfinders to follow. Pathfinders may enjoy a neighborhood scavenger hunt. Geo caching has come to almost every town, and older girls can try to find the caches near by. GPS units are available for borrowing at no charge. Contact the provincial office to book them.

A Saturday at the park can help get your girls ready to camp. They should come suitably dressed to spend the day outdoors, and bring a backpack containing items needed for the day. By practicing close to home, they will hopefully learn to come better prepared to be outside at camp. This might be a good opportunity for everyone to make a small first aid kit or survival kit. The girls could bring a bag lunch, or practice lighting a fire or a stove to cook lunch. Please remember that cooking on a fire or stove changes this green level activity to a yellow level, and forms must be sent to the assessor.

Each branch has several outdoor badges or program requirements that can be done outside during your meeting or on a day event.

For example:

- Sparks – Going Outside Keeper
- Brownies – Be Aware Badge
- Guides – Outdoors in the City Badge
- Pathfinders – Finding Your Way Module

For more sharing of ideas, ask your camping adviser to facilitate the Getting Outside module of OAL. This module covers planning an outdoor activity, clothing equipment and food, and program ideas.

In today's society, girls spend a great deal of time indoors. Lets have Guiding give them an opportunity to get out side for some exercise, fresh air, and fun.

Provincial Membership Adviser

WANTED!

Do you have a passion for Guiding and a strong belief that more girls and women should be members of GGC?

Do you have a passion for Guiding and a strong belief that more girls and women should be members of GGC? Alberta Council is looking for an enthusiastic Guider with a keen interest in promoting membership in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. The selected applicant will join the provincial membership committee to work with the current adviser for a period of 6 months prior to appointment to the position.

This position is open to any adult member and responsibilities include:

- chairing committee meetings
- participating in Alberta Council and standing committee adviser meetings
- orientation of area membership advisers
- contributing to the Membership Network and distributing information from national
- supporting and promoting new membership initiatives

Qualifications include:

- good written and verbal communication skills
- a team player
- interest in promoting membership at all levels
- able to meet deadlines

The deadline for application to the provincial office is November 18, 2013

Position commences: July 1, 2014.

The Committee Application form (AB.Council.17) is available on the Alberta Girl Guides website under "Forms". The position description is available from Alberta Council at info@albertagirlguides.com or 780-424-5510.



Provincial Training Adviser

WANTED!

Looking for change?

Interested in a new challenge –
meeting new people?

Alberta Council is looking for an enthusiastic Guider with a passion for Guiding who is interested in training! The selected applicant will join the provincial training committee to work with the current adviser for a period of 6 months prior to appointment to the position.

This position is open to any adult Member and responsibilities include:

- Chairing committee meetings
- Participating in Alberta Council and Standing Committee Adviser meetings
- Orientation of area advisers
- Contributing to the Training Network and distributing information from national
- Supporting and promoting new initiatives

Qualifications include:

- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Being a team player
- Able to meet deadlines

The deadline for application to the provincial office is November 18, 2013

Position commences: July 1, 2014

The Committee Application form (*AB.Council.17*) is available on the Alberta Girl Guides website under “Forms”. The position description is available from Alberta Council at info@albertagirlguides.com or 780-424-5510.



Understanding National Fundraising Policies better

GGC National Governance Policy 01-19-01 says:

18. Units, districts, administrative communities, areas and provincial councils are prohibited from donating funds which have been collected for GGC purposes to other organizations or charities.

The policy speaks about donating funds, but what about donating and/or using funds (see below) as it may be interpreted differently depending on the specific circumstances.

Some Scenarios with interpretation:

- a) May we use unit funds to make a CASH donation to xxxx (eg: Breast Cancer Fdn for their walk)? **This answer is clearly NO.**
- b) The 1st Guide unit wishes to do a community service project by baking cookies and then selling them to raise funds to give to another organization.
 - May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking? **NO**
 - May they give the funds raised to another organization/charity? **NO**
- c) The 1st Guide unit wishes to make cookies as a Unit and then give them away to the volunteers at a charity event as a community service project.
 - May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking? **YES**
- d) The 1st Guide unit wishes to work on their “Baking” badge together and make cookies, which they then intend to give away to volunteers at another community event.
 - May they use unit funds to purchase the ingredients for the baking? **YES**
- e) The 1st Brownie unit wishes to work on a community service project and make table favors to give to a senior’s home at Christmas/Easter/Thanksgiving.
 - i. May they use unit funds to purchase the materials for the favors they are giving away? **YES, as it is a service project**

Why can Unit funds be used in some instances and not in others?

When the primary reason for using the funds is program or to donate an item as a service project then you may use unit funds within reason.

If you have any other questions about fundraising in Guiding please send to funddev@albertagirlguides.com and we’ll ask the “experts” to interpret the policy for us, so we all understand the “dos and don’ts better!”

Special thanks to Darlene Dunsing of Michener Area for initiating this conversation.

Looking for additional program activities?

While the regular Girl program and Alberta Council has provided many challenges that you can complete with your unit, did you know that there are even more challenges you can complete? Just look at the WAGGGS website. Remember that often completing the WAGGGS challenges will complete some of the regular program, so be sure to look for overlap.

While full details and crests are available on the WAGGGS website (www.wagggsworld.org), here is a summary of some of the challenges that are currently available:

Food Security and Climate Change Challenge

This challenge was developed by WAGGGS and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is designed to increase awareness of the issues of environmental protection and food security and inspire taking action.

The Challenge is divided into three categories:

- Our Climate: a selection of activities to help young people understand weather and climate
- Our Food: activities to learn more about the consequences of our food and life-style choices on our planet
- Our World: ideas to help your group carry out projects and programmes in your local communities

Global Action Theme (Gat) Badge

Girls worldwide say “together we can change our world”. The WAGGGS GAT Badge is an activity pack that helps children and young people to learn about the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and take action on the issues that affect them and their communities. There is a wide range of activities to choose from and they are set up for different age levels.

Examples of activities:

- Make up this home-made recipe for oral rehydration solution, which is given to children suffering from dehydration, and give a small amount to the rest of the group to taste: Mix 1 teaspoon of salt, 8 teaspoons of sugar and 1 litre of clean water together until the salt and sugar is completely dissolved.
- Monitor the amount of packaging that comes into your home in one week. Count how many types of packaging and what materials it is made from. How much of this packaging can be recycled? What can be done to reduce the amount of packaging? Discuss with your group ways to improve the situation.



World Thinking Day 2013

You might only think about World Thinking Day once a year, however, there are many ways to incorporate the theme into your programming around the year. You can dedicate one meeting, several over a year or hold a full-day event or themed camp.

The 2013 themes are “together we can save children's lives” and “every mother's life and health is precious.” These themes are related to two of the MDGs -Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Maternal Health. Newborns, infants and toddlers around the world face higher risks of death or injury when health services are unavailable, inadequate or cannot be accessed. At the same time many childhood illnesses can be prevented though proper nutrition, healthcare and basic medical treatment. By focusing on this issue, Members will be able to learn more about root causes of poor childhood health and ways to make a difference in their own life, community, country and around the world.

Girl Guides of Canada has adapted the WAGGGS activity packs for this year's Thinking Day. The adapted activity pack is available on the National website

2014 International and Domestic Trips

The line-up for the International and Domestic Trips being offered next summer provide exciting travel opportunities for girls and Guiders alike. For more details on these events and application procedures, please see the National or Provincial website. The application deadline is November 1, 2013. Remember – if you have gone on an International trip in the past, you are still eligible to apply for a Domestic trip!

PEI Cycling Adventure

8 girls (15-17 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

Girl Guides of Canada, in partnership with Freewheeling Adventures, is offering the chance to cycle across the island of PEI. During this program participants will follow parts of the Confederation Trail, visit PEI National Park, Anne of Green Gables, beaches, harbours and enjoy the rolling red hills of the countryside. From North Cape to West Point you will experience the relaxing atmosphere of Canada's smallest Province. Bikes are provided; all you need to bring is your enthusiasm and biking skills. You will cover 32 – 100 kilometres per day over rolling countryside. The highest point on the island is only about 120 meters above sea level.

Newfoundland and Labrador Adventure

8 girls (14-16 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

Girl Guides of Canada is offering an amazing opportunity for Members to participate in an adventure trip through Newfoundland and Labrador! In partnership with Wildland Tours, a local travel organization committed to providing educational and environmentally sustainable excursions, Girl Guides of Canada has created a unique program that will explore the themes of the environment and outdoor adventure.

Members will explore the nature and geology of Gros Morne National Park, discover the home of the first Viking explorers, visit United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Site L'Anse aux Meadows, encounter incredible wildlife, and experience Newfoundland and Labrador's local cultures on this amazing adventure.

Arctic Adventure

Churchill and Winnipeg – 8 girls (15-17 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

In partnership with Global Explorers, a youth-focused educational travel provider, Girl Guides of Canada (GGC), is offering an amazing opportunity for Members to participate in an exciting outdoor adventure in Northern Manitoba (Churchill). Girls will explore the themes of service learning, science and technology and Canadian heritage as they learn about Northern Canadian biomes, Arctic conservation, climate issues and First Nations history and culture, as well as participate in a scientific research project.

Journey Through London

8 girls (14-16 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

Members on this trip will celebrate the international spirit of the WAGGGS movement in the city where it all began. This World Centre program will include visiting various London attractions, participating in challenges around London, WAGGGS activity sessions, participating in a community service project, and enjoying an evening at the theatre while living and working with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. Additionally, the group will spend time in London for a few days prior to arriving at Pax Lodge. Tours and sightseeing in London and area may include museums, cathedrals, walking tours and day trips.

Kenya Adventure

16 girls (15-17 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 4 Guiders – split into 2 patrols

Girl Guides of Canada is offering an amazing opportunity for Members to participate in a global education program in Kenya. In partnership with Canada World Youth, a youth-serving organization that develops international educational programs, this unique trip will highlight and explore the themes of environment, culture, and service learning, incorporating a variety of outdoor and adventure-based activities. Members will work with a local environmental organization, KENVO, to explore and help conserve Kenya's impressive wildlife and landscape. Members will live with a host family in a small community of 3000 people called Kimende where they will learn about traditional customs in Kenya, enjoy local cuisine, uncover the country's history and explore local markets. Members will also work with a local Guiding unit, hike through Hell's Gate National Park, camp at an eco-lodge site, and experience a Nairobi safari walk!

Sea of Cortez

8 girls (14-16 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

In partnership with Panterra, a Canadian organization that provides unique, eco-friendly travel programs for youth, Girl Guides of Canada is offering an amazing opportunity to explore the Sea of Cortez located off the coast of mainland Mexico, in the Baja Peninsula. This program incorporates an exciting cultural exchange component as Members will explore the beautiful marine environment alongside a patrol of Mexican Girl Guides! All participants will spend 7 days living aboard a 110 foot ship while exploring the flora and fauna of the Sea of Cortez, exploring the islands of Isla Espiritu Santos, Isla San Francisco, Isla San Jose, Isla Partida, and Isla Santa Cruz and conducting wild life conservation work with Panterra's research scientists and marine biologists.

Wings 2014 International Camp, England

8 girls (13-15 years old as of June 30, 2014) and 2 Guiders

Wings 2014 will take place in Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, a county located in south east England, just west of London. This camp's theme is 'Discovering Cultures, Experiences and Berkshire'. Wings is an international experience with activities such as: water activities, archery, circus activities, and group challenges. Cultural activities, sub-camp competitions, musical entertainments, social events, live bands, discos, and crafts are also included in the camp experience. The GGC patrol will be twinned with a Girl Guide unit from the UK during camp. Members will spend time in London for a few days before camp begins. Tours and sightseeing in London may include museums, the London Eye, cathedrals, hop-on-hop-off city bus tour and shopping!

Introducing your new Provincial Camping Adviser

Hi. I'm Twyla Jenkins and I am your new Provincial Camping Adviser. Thank you, Jolaine Martin, for all your hard work on behalf of camping during the past five years.

I was a Brownie, Guide, and Ranger in Calgary; and a Guider in both Calgary and Airdrie. I have held many positions throughout the years- mostly connected in some way to camping. Currently I work with a Guide unit in Airdrie.

I believe a major attraction of Guiding is the wide variety of activities included in the program. There's music, art, service projects, travel opportunities, sports, and personal growth to name only a few. But the aspect of Guiding that interests me the most is camping.

When I was a girl, my Brownie unit and first Guide unit did not camp. So I wasn't introduced to Guide camping until I transferred to my second Guide unit. In addition, my family never went camping. Neither of my parents ever slept in a tent in their entire lives! We didn't own sleeping bags or any other camping equipment. So when the opportunity to go to camp arose at the end of my 2nd year of Guides, I couldn't go. We didn't have any of the items on the kit list. Throughout the next year my mother gradually acquired the necessary items, and the summer after my 3rd Guide year I went off to my first camp – a week long camp at Mockingbird. It was wonderful.

This Guide camp was the beginning of a whole new lifestyle for me. To the amazement of my family, I started attending every camp available, learned to tent in all weather (even winter!) and later went on many backpacking trips. Without Guiding I would never have had the opportunity to participate in the camping life I have enjoyed so much.

As a Guide and Ranger I had wonderful Guiders who taught me the skills needed to enjoy camping and the outdoors. My goal through out my Guiding adult years as a District, Area, and now Provincial Camping Adviser, is to give back by ensuring that all girls in Guiding get opportunities to experience camping and outdoor activities. I'm sure camping can enrich their lives as much as it has mine.

MEMBERSHIP: Building our Communities

– Marion Rex

I can't think of a better theme for Membership than Building our Communities...so let's get out there and share how much fun we have in Guiding!

MEMbership begins with ME!

A very wise woman once pointed out that Membership begins with ME!. In this case, "ME" is every member of Guiding in the province. We are ambassadors to the public for our wonderful organization. What we say and how we act has a huge impact on how we are perceived. As well, "word of mouth" is one of our best recruiting tools. You are a very important part of MEMbership, but we don't expect you to carry the responsibility alone—your Provincial Membership Committee is here to help you!

Taste of Guiding

Wouldn't it be great if all girls in your community had the chance to experience all the fun, friendship and adventure that Guiding has to offer? Well, that's what *Taste of Guiding* or *Bring a Friend Night* is all about. It's your chance to showcase what Guiding has to offer girls and women in your community. Picking a theme for a special fun evening just adds to the excitement! Why not send an invitation like this home with your girls for new girls to sample a taste of all the fun Guiding has to offer. For more information, check the provincial and national websites.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada would like to extend an invitation to your daughter to attend a unit meeting in your community and experience everything that Guiding has to offer.

Guiding is an accepting environment with diverse and exciting programs and activities that offer today's busy girls the chance to discover new interests, learn valuable leadership skills and make lasting friendships. Guiding gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve their own greatness.

If after enjoying her night of Guiding fun your daughter would like to join a local unit, then we would invite her to register as a Member. All you need to do is sign our registration and consent forms or register online at www.girlguides.ca.

If you decide to register, we have attached the following:

1. Registration Form
2. Parental Consent Form
3. Image Release Form

Girl Guides feels strongly that Guiding should be accessible to all. Financial assistance is available – please approach either the Unit Guider or your Provincial office to discuss the options.

We truly look forward to welcoming your daughter into Guiding. Please contact your Provincial office should you have any questions after this first experience. We would welcome the opportunity to walk you through the process of getting your daughter started in Guiding.

Sincerely,

Diversity – Do you have room for growth?

- Do you have room for new girls? For new girls from various ethnic backgrounds? Think about our wonderful Canadian diversity and make new members of our community welcome. You might want to try the Diversity challenge—more information is available on the Alberta website under Membership.
- Do you have room for new ways of doing things? Have you been doing the same thing for a number of years? Are you working with the same group of Guiders? Many times we do things the same way or with the same people over and over again. There is comfort in knowing what to expect and what is expected of us. Although this may be a comfortable place, it may also be limiting the opportunities available to you, the Guiders and the members. If you are unit Guider, the status quo may result in the unit not growing or limiting the opportunity to provide a diverse perspective to the members. Stepping out of your comfort zone may be difficult, but wonderful new opportunities await.

Remember that we are never full!

Don't ever turn someone away; if your Unit can't take her there is always another Unit, perhaps in another District or Area, who can. **Each and every one of us, no matter what position we hold in Guiding, has an important role to play in growing membership in Guiding.** It's up to you and me to make it happen so that we can **welcome new members every day.** It's going to be another great year for making lifelong memories as we welcome new members and they become friends.

Online Registration

Congratulations! Online Registration is working for us! As of September 14, 2013, 92.29% of the girls registering for this year have done so online and **registration numbers in Alberta Council Guiding are up from this time last year.**

Thank You and Have a GREAT Year!

I would like to thank you for all you do for Alberta Guiding every year. You continually amaze me with your dedication, creativity, and ability to have fun with your girls. Here's a heartfelt thank you for all you do so the girls can experience the fun, friendship and fabulous learning opportunities that Guiding has to offer. You are not only building our communities today, but you are helping to build the leaders of tomorrow.

First-Time Donor's Super Credit (FDSC) for Charitable Donations

(Source: Canada Revenue Agency – www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

For first-time donors, the budget proposes to introduce a temporary supplement to the existing non-refundable tax credit for charitable donations by individuals. The new credit can be claimed once from the 2013 to 2017 taxation years.

Q1. How is the existing non-refundable tax credit for charitable donations calculated?

A1. Currently, the non-refundable charitable donations tax credit (CDTC) is calculated as the total of: the lowest income tax rate (15% for 2013) multiplied by the first \$200 of charitable donations claimed by an individual; and the highest income tax rate (29% for 2013) multiplied by the portion of the donations claimed by the individual that exceeds \$200.

Q2. What is the new First-Time Donor's Super Credit (FDSC)?

A.2. Starting in the 2013 taxation year, the budget proposes to introduce a temporary non-refundable FDSC that will supplement the CDTC for individuals. This new credit effectively adds 25% to the rates used in the calculation of the CDTC for up to \$1,000 of monetary donations. As a result, a first-time donor will be allowed a 40% federal credit for donations of \$200 or less, and a 54% federal credit for the portion of donations over \$200 but not exceeding \$1,000.

Example 1: An eligible first-time donor claims \$500 of charitable donations in 2013. All of the donations are donations of money. The first-time donor's FDSC and CDTC would be calculated as follows:

First \$200 of charitable donations claimed:	$\$200 \times 15\% = \30
Charitable donations claimed in excess of \$200:	$\$300 \times 29\% = \87
First-Time Donor's Super Credit:	$\$500 \times 25\% = \125
Total FDSC and CDTC:	\$242

Example 2: An eligible first-time donor claims \$700 of charitable donations in 2013. Only \$300 of the donations are donations of money. The first-time donor's FDSC and CDTC would be calculated as follows:

First \$200 of charitable donations claimed:	$\$200 \times 15\% = \30
Charitable donations claimed in excess of \$200:	$\$300 \times 29\% = \145
First-Time Donor's Super Credit:	$\$500 \times 25\% = \75
Total FDSC and CDTC:	\$250

Q3. When can I claim the FDSC?

A.3. As the FDSC is a temporary credit, you can only claim it once from the 2013 to 2017 taxation years.

Q4. Who is considered a first-time donor?

A.4. For the 2013 taxation year, an individual will be considered a first-time donor if neither the individual nor the individual's spouse or common-law partner has claimed the CDTC in any of the five preceding tax years.

Q5. Can both my spouse or common-law partner and I claim the FDSC?

A.5. As a first-time donor, the FDSC, along with the corresponding CDTC, may be shared by you and your spouse or common-law partner in a particular taxation year. However, the total amount of donations that may be claimed for the FDSC by both individuals cannot exceed \$1,000. When it cannot be agreed on the amount of the credit that each of you will claim, the CRA may apportion the credit.

Q6. Do all of my donations qualify for the FDSC?

A.6. No. Only donations of money that are made after March 20, 2013 will qualify for the FDSC. For taxation years from 2013 to 2017, a new line will be added to Schedule 9, Donations and Gifts to identify the eligible portion of the charitable donations that you have claimed that are donations of money.

Q7. Where can I get more information about the FDSC?

A.7. The CRA is committed to providing taxpayers with up-to-date information. The CRA encourages taxpayers to check its Web site often. All new forms, policies, and guidelines will be posted as they become available.

If you have any questions about Charitable receipting in your fundraising endeavors please contact the Fund Development office at funddev@albertagirlguides.com or 780-424-5510 ext. 102.

Are **YOU** our next Provincial Commissioner?

This is an exciting opportunity for a member to volunteer to be the leader of our province and chair of the Provincial Council.

Work of the Position:

The Provincial Commissioner provides leadership in the design and implementation of the provincial Operational Plans that support the Strategic Plan of Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada. In her role on the Provincial Committee of the Board of Directors, she has input into decisions that support the implementation of policies and programs at the National level of the organization.

In your role you will have the opportunity:

- To implement the work of Alberta Council, chair Council and Executive committee meetings, encourage and support the Council
- To be a member of the Provincial Committee – a committee of the Board of Directors, advise on issues, champion decisions, provide key messages and solicit consultation as needed
- To provide support at all levels of Guiding throughout the province and to support Provincial Advisers in their work with National Networks
- To promote Guiding through public speaking, media relations and external networking
- To create and maintain a positive climate within all relationships and for effective operations
- To vote in the Board of Directors elections
- To work in collaboration with the provincial executive committee and staff to administer Guiding in the province within the policies of the organization
- To work closely with the Deputy Chief Commissioner – Provincial
- For personal growth, to enhance your existing skills and develop new ones

We ask that your commitment be for three (3) years. It is expected that you will participate in three Provincial Committee face-to-face meetings per year and conduct most of the work of the position through teleconference and e-mail.

We are looking for applicants who possess the following:

- Experience in, knowledge of and a passion for Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada
- Ability to see and appreciate the issues in context of the nation-wide picture
- Effective and proven leadership skills
- Appreciation and understanding of risk management and experience with conflict resolution
- Commitment to maintaining a positive image of the organization
- Ability to chair meetings and solicit views, opinions and advice
- An aptitude for thinking critically, methodically, analytically and procedurally and ability to make decisions
- Ability to work with a team and independently
- Initiative
- Excellent communication and organization skills
- Strong oral, written and comprehension skills
- Computer skills – e-mail, sending and receiving attachments, Windows and common Microsoft applications
- Ability to communicate effectively via teleconference and e-mail.

Further information, application form & full position description are available from info@albertagirlguides.com

Please send your application form by email to: info@albertagirlguides.com

Deadline for applications to be received at the provincial office: **November 18, 2013**

A slate of eligible candidates will be prepared with an election to be held at the February 2014 Alberta Council meeting with the position commencing May 2014.



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