

8. Multi-Branch

The badges and insignia listed in this section are those that could be worn by more than one section of girl members and sometimes by adult members as well. There are seven distinct groupings:

1. **Canada Flashes and Title Tapes**
2. **Challenges** (to be added)
3. **Commemorative badges and pins**
4. **Provincial Hat badges**
5. **Religion in Life badges**
6. **Service stars**
7. **Other** (to be added)

6. Service Stars

Introduction

Stars were awarded for good attendance as early as 1912. The original star was described in *How girls can help build up the Empire* (1912) as a badge – round white felt with star and border in yellow stitching. Such a star was called an Attendance Badge (see Guide section). Note: There is some doubt that this badge was actually produced.

In 1913 the Attendance Badge was discontinued and replaced with a metal service star. Over the years the design of the stars has changed somewhat, as have the regulations for their use.

Beginning in 1981, Guiders no longer wore Service Stars. Instead they qualified for Long Service Bars, which were treated as awards and are dealt with in the Adult section.

It is not possible to date a Service Star specifically. A variety of manufacturers, different clasps, and changing requirements enable only a rough estimate of the age of any given star.

What follows is a description of the significant rules for different eras, and some sample images to illustrate the variety.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Backgrounds

The cloth backgrounds were usually made of felt.

Clasps

A screw-type clasp was the most common type and was used for many years - until about 1970. From about 1970 the Service Stars have had a butterfly-type clasp. However, service stars with a spread-type clasp, a loop and bar attachment, and with a simple latch fastener have also been found – the dates for these are unknown.

Stars with numerals

Since 1945 there have been Service Stars with numerals 2 to well beyond 20. For many years the first Service Star had no numeral, but subsequently a star with the numeral 1 was produced.

There are three main types of stars with numerals: Silver; silver with the numeral in a dark centre, and gilt stars. Within these types there are variations in shading due to the use of a variety of suppliers over the years.

<p>1919 [Source: <i>POR</i> (British)]</p> <p>Six pointed white metal star. Stars worn on cloth background (usually felt): Brownies on brown, Guides on green, and Guiders and Senior Guides on red. Note: Stars are referred to in earlier price lists, but without reference to the cloth backings.</p> <p>1916 [Source: <i>The Girl Guides' Gazette</i>, March]</p> <p>A Five-year Star (bronze), approx. 2 cm (3/4") across, on navy cloth background could, as an option, replace five single stars.</p>	
--	--

<p>1923 [Source: <i>POR</i> (British)]</p> <p>Stars as above. Worn on cloth ground; felt: Brownies – brown; Guides – green; Guiders and Rangers – red. Commissioners did not wear Service Stars while acting in that capacity.</p>


1929 [Source: *POR* (British 1929)]

Stars and rules for wear as for 1923. Brownie Three-year Star, a large star 2 cm (3/4") across on brown background, was introduced, for wear by Guides who had earned three Stars as a Brownie.



1941 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

As for 1923, with addition of white background for Cadets and blue background for Sea Rangers. Older girls could also wear stars on brown and/or green background to show prior service as a Brownie and Guide.

1943? – 1945 Wartime star

When metal stars were not available during World War II, a cloth star yellow on green background, was awarded (all Branches). There was also a 5 Year star (oval-shaped tan felt with large red star on it)



1945 - 1968 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

Numerals added, starting with 2. Sea Rangers worn on light blue background, and Guiders on NO background. Guides wore their last Brownie star as well as a Guide star, showing years of service in both branches. Others (Rangers, Cadets, Sea Rangers, Guiders) wore one star showing total service in all levels.



1948 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

As for 1945 but Cadets wore NO background.

1955 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

As for 1945 but Air Rangers wore light blue background.



1959 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

As for 1945 but Rangers wore NO background.

1968 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

All Branches and Guiders (not Commissioners) wore one star with numeral denoting total service in all levels. Number one star introduced. No background.



1981 [Source: *POR* (Canadian)]

As 1968, except Guiders no longer wore service stars

2005 Membership Pins [Source: *MC News* (Jan/Feb 2005)]

Numerical pins were introduced for all levels – Sparks to adults. The pins are intended to reflect ALL years of membership, i.e. adult members add their youth service years to the adult years to establish the number of pin they wear. Long Service Bars discontinued for adults.

