

# GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

## BACKGROUNDER



**Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada** is the original activity-based leadership organization for girls and women in Québec. Guiding is bold, fun, energetic, and empowers girls and women to face new challenges with confidence.

### Mission








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

### Promise

I Promise to do my best,  
To be true to myself, my beliefs and Canada  
I will take action for a better world  
And respect the Guiding Law

### Law

*The Guiding Law challenges me to:*

-  be honest and trustworthy
-  use my resources wisely
-  respect myself and others
-  recognize and use my talents and abilities
-  protect our common environment
-  live with courage and strength
-  share in the sisterhood of Guiding.

### BRANCHES

**Sparks** – ages 5 and 6  
**Brownies** – ages 7 and 8  
**Guides** – ages 9 to 11  
**Pathfinders** – ages 12 to 14  
**Rangers** – ages 15 to 17+  
**Adults** – as leaders, mentors, team members and more

### The Guiding Advantage

For Girls, Guiding is an accepting and inclusive environment with diverse and exciting programs and activities that offer the chance to learn valuable leadership skills such as making new choices, discovering new interests, and making lasting friendships. Guiding gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve greatness.

For women, Guiding is a chance to get involved and make a difference in the lives of girls and young women in their community. It's a chance to impart wisdom; it's a place for personal growth, an opportunity to travel, an opportunity to network with like-minded women, and a place to develop leadership qualities even further.

With over 90,000 members strong and growing across Canada and Québec we welcome all girls and women in Québec.

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### What we offer in Québec

Guiding in Québec is unique in that it offers leadership programming specifically designed for girls, led by women, focusing on the fundamentals of female leadership, such as confidence, determination, perseverance, and independence, through innovative projects geared towards personal growth that are age-appropriate. Guiding is a leading organization in Québec in that, as an extracurricular program for girls, offers a wide range of activities and exciting programs that enable girls and women to challenge themselves with the support that an all-female environment offers and providing our women just as many opportunities to learn new skills as it does our girls.

### Our History

*In the last 100 years, over 7 million Canadian girls and women have been connected to Guiding*

-  In 1909 girls in England demanded to take part in a Boy Scout rally by storming the Crystal Palace in London. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, recognizing the need, asked his sister, Agnes, to create a program just for girls.
-  By 1910, the Guiding Movement had reached Canada and the first Unit was formed in St. Catharine's Ontario.
-  By 1912, there were Units in Québec as well as every other province.
-  In 2010, Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a trailblazing organization advocating for girls and women.

### Did You Know?

We are the only organization in Québec that offers comprehensive capacity-development programming in an all-girl environment.

Before 1909 a large number of girls directly influenced the creation of Girl Guides. They were practising in Scouting by signing up with only a first initial and last name. Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouts, asked his sister, Agnes, to create a program just for girls.

Québec Council owns and maintains the beautiful Camp Wa-Thik-Ane Girl Guide Camp, offering residential and tenting facilities for the use of our members; these sites may also be rented by outside groups (school groups, family reunions/get-togethers, weddings, and retreats).

Famous Girl Guides from Québec are Céline Dion, Elisha Cuthbert, and former Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

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Some other names you might recognize in Girl Guides or Girl Scouts; The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Roberta Bondar (Canada's first female astronaut), Mariah Carey, Hilary Clinton, Barbara Walters, Venus Williams, Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia), Karen Kain, Lucille Ball, Margaret Atwood, Feist, Sarah McLachlan and Queen Elizabeth II.

### **Badges**

Proficiency Badges symbolize girls' achievements during their years in Guiding, however, Guiding in Québec includes much more than badges as there are many pins, crests, commemoratives, and other symbols girls or adults can earn and wear. Although badges have been a part of girl programming since the inception of Guiding they have evolved with the girls. Some of the badges girls can earn in today's Guiding are: cybercitizenship, conservation, media & image, money wise, photography and web design, fashion and interior design, finance and technology, engineering, community safety.

### **Uniforms**

Girl Guides of Canada is a uniformed organization for both its girls and women making them instantly recognizable as part of the same dynamic organization. Its contemporary design was developed in consultation with girl members in Québec and across Canada. Its versatility allows the girls and women to participate in a wide range of activities such as planting trees in a community garden, volunteering at local charities, engaging with local politicians, or canoeing down a river.

### **Camping**

Camping is one of the activities that girl members of Québec enjoy the most and is a classic cornerstone of the Girl Guides of Canada program. Especially in this technological age, camping provides an environment in which girls can connect with each other and nature without distractions. It teaches girls valuable life skills and gives them confidence in their own abilities.