

Guider Symposium 2014

GGC Challenge Crests & Resources for Programming:

- There is no point in reinventing the wheel when there are challenges already prepared and ready.
- Ice Breaker: If you went to an island, what two things would you bring with you? This is an easy question, but it would get the girls thinking.

Engaging the girls:

- You can download all the challenges, however it would make it hard to get the girls input when you take the complete schedule. We need to get the girls engaged and owning the meeting.

Resources:

- When you choose to take up a challenge, make sure that the crests are still available. You can also go to “e-crest”, on which you would be able to find something that you can use.

What is available: Challenges and web sites:

- Each province has a website. They would have a section for the challenges and the crests available.
- BC and Alberta are the provinces with the better resources. Manitoba has the Heritage Challenge. BC and Yukon work together, PEI and NS also have a joint site. Newfoundland has water-based themes (as they are surrounded by it)

When:

- Try a challenge when you want to do something different, or need a quick meeting plan. You can engage the girls by letting them choose which challenge and how they want to learn about it. If you don't like how the challenge presents itself, then you can have the girls tell you what they want to learn about.

Be Flexible, use your imagination!

Where:

- It is very easy to plan a challenge around a camp; you can download the complete set and run the challenge based on the schedules. You can get challenges also in the camp section.
- You can also prepare the challenges to work over a few meetings; it would be long to fit it all in one meeting.

How:

- Use the methods that best work for you. What is provided is a guideline; you can work to your strengths.

Why: *Why not, it's all there!*

- All of these challenges are available to you; it opens up a whole new world to how you view the program. You can look at what you are getting into and where it fits in the program.

Web handout: [GGC Challenges from Across Canada](#)

The attachment shows the websites where you can get different challenges.

- **Jewels:** This is a great site. The site includes Challenges and Interest badges, as well as the detailed meeting plans.
- **DHK:** Also has a form for interest badges.
- **Camping in a box:** Already planned camps based on themes or challenges
- **e-patches:** Is a place to buy crests
- **US Girl Scout site** also has wonderful camp program and challenges

There are **three kinds of challenges** out right now: WAGGGS, National, and Provincial

- **Operation Earth Action:** Using reusable shopping bags, stop using plastic. Try decorating reusable bags. Spa - Environment using healthy products instead of prepared ones. Example: Green tea toner, sugar scrub, cucumber eyes. It is great to get the girls to understand where the products you use come from, where it goes.
- **CSI Challenge:** For the Sparks you will want to modify it to their level. You can use games such as "Eye Witness" by showing them pictures and then hide them. Ask memory questions. "Barcode" by finding matching codes which would describe DNA and finger prints. Take your foot print with a tin foil, or paint on white paper. Find the DNA of a strawberry, and learn that all things have a DNA. Take the strawberry, squish it in a bag and put it on a stick. Be careful when showing the TV show, you need to preview the show. There is the observation piece and moral messages.

How to get the girls involved

- Relate the activities to what they understand
 - Get their input
 - Have them choose the clues, and set up the scavenger hunt
 - Have the girls make the story
- **STEM Categories:** You can write in Braille by using foil paper. Do not forget to write it backwards.
 - **Chocolate Challenge:** Document it, do it at home, relate with the girls. Paint with pudding, freeze the chocolate, melt the chocolate and refreeze it. Talk about what happens when it does.

Health & Safety

- Can see where the girls are in their skill levels. Bring in the skills, and work on what is needed or wanted.

New Guider Training – Nancy Shaw

- There are items that all the leaders need to know then break into branches for the branch specific information. Best thing to learn is that the girls can take ownership of their meetings. They can do it!! In one case the sparks planned their own party. They can decide what items they need, invites, music, food. Afterwards it is important to show the girls what they did, and help them realize

that they did the work, it was also impressive to show the parents that they can do it too.

Q. How do you get through all the keys?

R. Some of the keys can be very long, it is best to work on them and remember that you can make substitutes and exchanges to get through the book. The program book is a reference guide; it is not set in stone.

- **Home Depot:** You can call the 1-800 number to get group work shops. The company takes care of the materials, and the how to. Parents come with their girls for help and supervision. There is no mess, no fuss. Home Depot offers the spots for two hours, but not all the time is needed. You can also take the girls around the store to learn about the other tools. You can use any of the appropriate tools because the parents are there to help their own child. You can also bring parents to the meeting and learn about tools with them.
- One group brought the girls into their **work place** (Medtronic) that was set up with scientific experiments. The girls got to try interesting tests, while outside the meeting place. In this instance they had female workers set up the different workstations and break into groups to work in the areas. The girls can see what is in the community for them, and this teaches the community about Girl Guides.
- **Resources:** Parents, companies, friends, work. Magazines, paper, people. It is good to show the girls that they can be ANYTHING, that jobs are no longer gender-specific. (TV program: *Land Girls* from World War II; when men went to war, the women took over.)
- **Quebec Challenges, Québec Spin:**
Anyone can use the Québec Spin, it is a great way to get new ideas, try new things and most importantly engage the girls. There are many different options to the Spin, the possibilities are endless.
- Have the girls tell you what they should know for any given crest, challenge or badge.
- What the girls are doing at school can be brought to the meetings. If the girls share what they are doing at school, should they get credit? They can see how what they do at school can be used at Guides, and vice versa. They would see how they can incorporate this into their lives, and show that they are looking into the program and can see that they have done this at a different level.
- As leaders we can bring our work to the girls and Guiding into our work. E.g. Science experiment at a science company
- Every group is different, some focus on arts, program, physical activity. Some girls feel over- programmed. Some groups are large and others are small. Each group has a different dynamic and will relate to the challenges differently. You need to know your group and work to stay current and fluent.

Prepared Program:

- Recipe meetings or instant meeting, toolbox

- Looks too much like a holiday, but it can be re-evaluated. They are great meeting plans, but make sure to not follow them blindly and make them your own.
- To find these, try googling “recipe meeting for_____” many of these have been revamped, but you can also find older versions.
- If you have the chance to meet an old Guider, ask if they have old Guide books or items. There are so many old resources that are out there.
- Scholastic books are also great resources. If you can get a copy of the teacher collection, there are some amazing books available. “A poppy is to remember” is a great way to teach the girls about Remembrance Day. *The Chirp* magazine also has great ideas
- WAGGGS web has great ideas as well. There are yearly themes and crests. You can go to worldthinkingday.org