

Guiding Pen Pals

Tips for communicating with your new pen pal

Are you or your Unit looking for a Guiding pen pal either somewhere else in Canada or in another country? There are lots of Guides around the world looking for pen pals just like you.

Your Guider will help you find a pen pal.

When you first start writing to your pen pal, you might want to set a few guidelines with her. Here are some questions to consider:

- How frequently does each of you want to correspond?
- What is the easiest method of correspondence? It might be traditional mail, e-mail or through a dedicated, secure, moderated blog.
- What is your goal in the pen pal relationship? Is there a particular type of information you would like to share, or are you just looking for a new friend?

As you build your relationship with your pen pal, think of fun activities that you can share with one another.

- Can you both work on the same challenge together?
- Can you share camp recipes?
- Do you both have access to Skype, and could you have a virtual Guide meeting online?
- What about sending your new Guiding friend a file of your Unit singing your favourite songs?

Always remember that even if you can't meet your pen pal face to face, she is still your friend, so treat her the same way that you would treat any of your other friends.

Be understanding of cultural differences—even if your pen pal speaks English, she may understand things a little differently than you, so take the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures instead of becoming frustrated about minor miscommunications.

There are so many exciting things that can happen through Guiding pen pals. Have fun building your new friendships!