

## International Day of the Girl 2013 Instant Meeting GIRLS TAKING THE LEAD

**International Day of the Girl (IDG)** takes place on October 11. It is a worldwide opportunity to bring awareness to, and further the advancement of girls' rights across the globe and to empower girls to take the lead.

The United Nations declared this day as a time to recognize girls and young women as citizens and powerful agents of change in their lives, the lives of their families and of their communities. It's a day to hear from girls about what empowers them. By delivering this instant meeting, you are offering girls the opportunity to explore, speak out and be inspired to take action on girl impacting issues they care about in their communities and around the world. Ideally this meeting will take place the week leading up to, or on, October 11<sup>th</sup>; however, units can choose to participate as close to the date as possible.

Participants: Girl Guides of Canada Unit, Guest Speaker

Event Date: Friday, October 11, 2013

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

International Day of the Girl Crest: Available on the online store by the end of October, 2013

Timing	Activity	Learning Objectives
5 Minutes	Welcome; Opening Circle/Horseshoe	
10 Minutes	<p><u>What does it mean to be a girl?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set out a large section of paper (or tape smaller pieces together) and have girls get creative as they consider "what it means to be a girl." Set out magazines, markers, glitter, newspapers, etc. and have them use the "graffiti wall" to share their thoughts on what it means to be a girl using words, drawings, and images. Consider cutting out words and images from printed materials in advance to save time.</li> <li>▪ Guider and/or guest speaker highlight commonalities and differences in girls' responses once the girls have contributed to the graffiti wall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To offer individuals opportunities to share their thoughts and reflections about what it means to be a girl.</li> <li>▪ To appreciate the diversity that can exist within a group of girls one's own age.</li> </ul>
15 Minutes	<p><u>What is International Day of the Girl and why is it important?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Present to the girls the significance of this day, and the role that Girl Guides of Canada played in having it established by the United Nations (UN). See <i>BACKROUNDER for further information.</i></li> <li>▪ Invite the girls to openly brainstorm on what types of issues or themes matter to girls, and why.</li> <li>▪ What challenges do girls face around the world?</li> <li>▪ Discuss the different realities that exist for girls worldwide.</li> </ul> <p><i>See <u>Guider Tips: Resources</u> below for additional information that can be used during this discussion.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To highlight the purpose of IDG</li> <li>▪ To identify high-level themes that matter to girls; such as human rights, inequality, girl empowerment, education, etc.</li> <li>▪ To consider what systemic barriers exist for women in society i.e. the work force, politics, laws, school, traditional gender roles, etc.</li> <li>▪ To explore local and global realities for girls and develop contextual perspective</li> </ul>



15 Minutes	<p><u>Guest Speaker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce guest speaker and explain why they were chosen.</li> <li>▪ Invite your guest speaker to speak to the unit about her role in your community, her leadership position, being a female role model, the importance of females in leadership positions, etc. <i>For ideas on who to invite as a guest speaker, see the Guider Tips that follow.</i></li> <li>▪ Encourage your guest to speak to the girls about her role/work</li> <li>▪ Allow time for questions and answers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To engage with the local community and promote Girl Guides to potential new members</li> <li>▪ To learn from a female role model about becoming a leader in the community and what leadership means to her</li> <li>▪ To allow girls the opportunity to speak out to community leaders</li> </ul>
10 Minutes	<p><u>Female Role Models and Music</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform girls that Girl Guides of Canada has invited girl members to <u>submit videos</u> of their favorite female musician/role model.</li> <li>▪ Discuss what you think makes a good female role model (characteristics, values, behaviours, positions in society, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Who are your female role models in music and why? How has this person(s) impacted you? Have a few girls do 1 minute presentations to group. Consider bringing images of female musicians, for example: Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Pink, Adele, Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez, Beyonce, Demi Lovato, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To become engaged in GGC's online IDG event</li> <li>▪ To explore what characteristics make a good role model, and why</li> <li>▪ To evaluate individual understandings and perceptions of positive female leaders</li> <li>▪ To allow opportunities for girls to speak out to their peers</li> </ul>
20 Minutes	<p><u>How can girls take the lead in creating a better world?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ask the girls what inspires them to take the lead and be an agent of change.</li> <li>▪ What can you do to help girls achieve equality? (Recall the challenges that were addressed during your discussion of International Day of the Girl).</li> <li>▪ Then ask the girls: what are the three most important things that every girl on Earth should have and why? Have the girls get into pairs and share their answers with one another. Ask each pair to put their 3 responses on one piece of paper and into a hat which the Guider can pull from, share and discuss with the whole group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To consider the different factors that motivate girls to speak out</li> <li>▪ To explore how girls can get involved and take action-how they can take the lead</li> <li>▪ To identify the most basic needs of girls worldwide and why they are necessary in creating an equal world for girls</li> </ul>
10 Minutes	<p><u>Why do we need girls in the lead?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reflecting on your discussions from the meeting, have girls think about <i>why</i> we need girls in the lead to create a better world</li> <li>▪ As a unit, use the post card on GGC's Day of the Girl webpage to complete the following sentence: "We need girls in the lead because..."</li> </ul> <p><b>See important information on post card activity in GUIDER TIPS!</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand why female leadership is important</li> <li>• To demonstrate support for girls' rights</li> <li>• To contribute to a worldwide community of girls and young women that are supporting International Day of the Girl</li> </ul>
5 Minutes	Wrap Up; Final Comments; Closing Circle	



## **GUIDER TIPS**

Units can commemorate this day the week leading up to October 11<sup>th</sup>, or another time in the month of October if that week doesn't work. This meeting is a great opportunity to invite other branches to join in. For example, girls in Pathfinders/Rangers could help facilitate activities and discussions with the younger girls and also participate in the Q&A session with the guest speaker. This meeting is a great way to engage girls of different ages and to reflect on what issues matter to them at different stages of their lives.

## **ACTIVITY SPECIFIC**

### *Guest Speaker Activity:*

Invite a local female leader from your community to speak to your unit meeting. This person could be a local business owner/manager, a principal at a school, a teacher, a local political leader, a local athlete, a journalist or media personality, etc. Have her speak to the girls about being in a leadership position/role model, and her journey to get there. What obstacles were there? How did she overcome them? What advice does she have for young women today? Allow the girls some time to ask questions. A Guider can also speak to the girls about being a role model in and out of Guiding if a guest speaker from the external community isn't possible.

### *Post Card Activity:*

Take photos of individual girls, or your unit as a whole, holding up the completed post cards (available on Day of the Girl page). Email the photo(s) to us, along with the text from the cards at: [quicker@girlguides.ca](mailto:quicker@girlguides.ca).

You can also mail the completed post card directly to the national office if you prefer at:

**Attn: Rachael Quick**  
**Girl Guides of Canada**  
**50 Merton St.**  
**Toronto, ON M4S 1A3.**

**Be sure to send them to us by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.** We will be sharing these images and content through our social media pages and some may even appear in blog posts. Remember to confirm in your email that all girls have their IR1 forms signed when submitting your photos! And don't forget to share your photos on the WAGGGS tumblr at [theworldwewantforgirls.tumblr.com](http://theworldwewantforgirls.tumblr.com).

### *International Day of the Girl Discussion:*

When facilitating a discussion with girls on International Day of the Girl, it's okay to not have all the answers. IDG encompasses many different issues that affect girls here in Canada, and around the globe. Attached are some resources to support you in your discussions. To take it to the next level, invite the girls to research a young woman or girl who is considered a role model in her community, and look at how and why she earned that title!

For additional information on IDG, considering reviewing the following resources:

WAGGGS International Day of the Girl: <http://www.wagggs.org/en/dayofthegirl>

UNICEF: The State of the World's Children: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2013/>

Plan Canada: [www.becauseiamagirl.ca](http://www.becauseiamagirl.ca)

10x10: [www.101x10act.org](http://www.101x10act.org)

Half the Sky: [www.halftheskymovement.org](http://www.halftheskymovement.org)

## **RELATED PROGRAMMING**

Participation in this meeting can help girls in completing activities in the following areas:

Sparks: The World around Me Keeper; In My Community Keeper

Brownies: Key to My Community #5; Key to Me #4

Guides: Beyond You: Discover Your Community #3; You and Others: Learn About Leadership in a Group #4

Pathfinders: Follow that Woman module #4 and 6; What's Up around the World module #11

Rangers: Global Awareness #8 and #17; Leadership and Management #3



## **BACKGROUND: International Day of the Girl**

International Day of the Girl (IDG) is a day to commemorate and support girls' rights, and to end global gender inequality. According to the UN, this day "focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights". Plan Canada's campaign "Because I am a Girl" led the push for this initiative beginning in 2009. This initiative was created to bring global attention to the challenges that girls face in their everyday lives, and to encourage governments and communities to address these challenges. Girl Guides of Canada played a role in having this important day established by the UN by signing and supporting petitions.

As a girl-serving organization and a member of the largest voluntary movement for girls and women worldwide, Girl Guides of Canada (GGC) felt compelled to help make this day a reality. GGC was pleased to support Plan Canada's call on the Canadian government to declare the International Day of the Girl, while Units throughout the country signed an e-petition as part of our EmPOWERing Girls National Service Project. As a result of Plan Canada, GGC and other organizations' efforts, the UN recognized October 11, 2012, as the first official International Day of the Girl.

### *What is the situation for girls around the world?*

Girls around the world experience persistent discrimination and inequality simply because of their gender and their age. According to UNICEF, girls and young women significantly fall behind boys in 11 major areas due to this discrimination. These areas include education, poverty, early child-marriage, health, violence, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, child labor, female foeticide, identification documents and participation in decision making. For instance, according to a UNICEF report, by age 18 girls on average receive 4.4 fewer years in education than boys.<sup>i</sup> Additionally, girls and women comprise 70 per cent of the world's poor, which is largely attributed to their limited access to education.<sup>ii</sup>

### *What does this mean?*

About half of the world's population is under the age of 25, and about half of them are girls. Without equal access to education and jobs, or participation in decision-making bodies and the implementation of programmes and policies, we are overlooking a very powerful resource. According to a survey conducted by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in 2012, the top 5 issues facing girls today include sexualisation and objectification, violence, underemployment and unemployment, discrimination, and a lack of opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. These challenges can be seen around the world, and here at home in Canada.

By commemorating International Day of the Girl and encouraging girls to take the lead, we can achieve the world we want for girls. We can ensure their health and safety, their access to education, we can challenge stereotypes and attitudes towards girls, involve them in decision-making processes, and give girls a voice. Girls and young women are important agents of change in their families and communities, and IDG is just the beginning in creating the world we want for girls.

<sup>i</sup> UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children*. 2011: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/publications-pdfs/sowc2011.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> UNICEF. *The State of the World's Children*. 2011: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/publications-pdfs/sowc2011.pdf>