

## **NB/PEI 2018 AGM Girls First Questions**

### **Program and Platform:**

#### **When can we access the program? Why is it not available before September?**

The online platform will be accessible to Guiders at the beginning of September, but there will be e-modules available in mid-August. The program is still in development and will be undergoing final testing during the summer, which is why it won't be available until then. The Areas of Program and Themes are available now, and more information will be released as it is finalized.

#### **Will the platform be user friendly?**

The platform will be very user-friendly and will work on all devices – computers, tablets and mobile phones. It has search and favorite features, as well as like/dislike and comment (for those over 13).

#### **Will there be a document outlining how to transition to the new program?**

How you transition to the new program is up to you/your unit. There will be an equivalency document that shows you what parts of the old program are equal to in the new program, as well as what awards are equivalent. There are three general options for switching to the new program:

1. You dive right in and start Girls First in September
2. You mix and match, working with both programs
3. You stay with the old program for the entire 2018-2019 year and start Girls First in September 2019

Find more info at

[https://www.girlguides.ca/web/GGC/Girls\\_First/Girls\\_First\\_Program\\_Updates/From\\_the\\_Project\\_Team/March\\_2018.aspx](https://www.girlguides.ca/web/GGC/Girls_First/Girls_First_Program_Updates/From_the_Project_Team/March_2018.aspx)

#### **Why are there no more challenge crests?**

Challenge crests have been worked into the new program! And the new digital platform allows GGC to update and add things within a matter of weeks, so when a new challenge or activity is designed it can be accessed almost immediately as part of the program. It will also be made branch specific so you don't have to spend the time adapting the activities to your unit level.

#### **Will today's computer slides be on website?**

The slides from the AGM are for Champion training sessions and can't be shared, however much of the information is available on the website, or contact a Champion if you have a specific question.

**New program looks like it would require a lot of Safe Guide paperwork. Is the process for forms going to be easier/fewer forms?**

What activities your unit does is up to you and your girls. Green activities will still be green; yellow will still be yellow, etc. So unless you decide to start doing more yellow or red level activities, your paperwork load should not increase.

**Will girls be able to work on badges at home?**

Yep! Girls will be able to access the program at home – younger girls can have help from a parent or guardian. They can also access the program of all the branches below them and one branch above them, if they need more info or a bit more of a challenge.

**What about 3<sup>rd</sup> year Guides – do they finish the old program or drop it and start the new program?**

That is up to your girls! There will be Program Equivalency Plan and Awards Equivalency Plan released in September which will allow you to see how the programs overlap, so you can switch them over if they choose.

**How will the new program affect the Canada Cord?**

There will be an equivalency document released in September outlining award equivalencies.

**Will there be a new Girls First App separate from the current GGC app?**

The current app will be obsolete and the new Girls First platform will be usable on phones or tablets.

**If the girls arrive at the meeting that they have helped to plan and no longer want to participate is ok if they spend the night chatting?**

Having the girls involved in planning should make it more fun and interesting to them, which is the goal of Girls First. If your unit has a change of heart, it would be a unit decision whether they want to continue with the planned activity, work on something else or have a “free” night.

**What will girls/Guiders with no internet access do?**

For girls with no internet, if they can't find a way to access it (at a library/school/friend's house), encourage them to work with a Guider to explore the program. Guiders can explain the Areas of Program and themes, and print or explain activities if girls wish to do them at home. Girls don't “NEED” to access the program, but it is understandable that they will likely WANT to. For a more specific situation, contact a Champion for ideas or support.

It is likely that at least one Guider in a unit will have internet access, or be able to access the program using a library, etc. You could have a planning meeting at Tim's, Starbucks, etc that offers free Wi-Fi. Again, contact us if you have a more specific situation and we will try our best to help you find a solution!

**How can younger girls choose if they don't have internet access at the meeting place/at home?**

The program can be printed ahead of time, meaning you don't need internet access at your meeting place. Younger girls can be given options of various activities ("Would you like to do science experiments or go outside and learn about trees for the science badge?"). They can also access the program at home with a parent or guardian, and bring back ideas to the unit.

**Are we allowed to purchase a laptop for the unit? Any recommendations on brand, memory, etc?**

It is likely that someone within the unit will have a suitable device for accessing the program – remember it will work on all devices. Apply your Guiding law – use your resources wisely. If a unit has zero access to a device, please contact a Champion or your DC/AC for additional ideas or support.

**How much PR is this being given?**

There will be a big launch party held in 3 cities across Canada – including here in Moncton! There is also tons of PR being done on the website and on social media by National.

**Any ready-made activities? What about provincial/area camps in box?**

Yes, there will be instant meetings included in the new program. Since camps are larger and have so many variables, offering a camp in a box may not be feasible, but there are lots of resources to help plan camps if that is something you are looking for!

**Can we download the program if we don't have internet at our meeting place?**

The program will have a print button, so you can print activities in advance, or save them as a PDF. The platform has also been designed in a "print friendly" way so that most activities should print on two sheets or less.

**Can things from the program be shared on a private FB group?**

Yes, but girls and parents can also access the program on their own so you may find you can just direct them where to go and they can find the resources themselves.

**How does Girls First differ from what we have been supposed to be doing for 100+ years?**

Love this question! The answer – It doesn't! With Girls First, the biggest change is putting the girls in the driver's seat and having them be more involved in deciding what they want to do and how they want to do it, but many of the activities and traditions we have done for years will still be a part of GGC.

## **Uniform and Badges:**

### **Will there be uniform changes/what are they?**

At the current time, no uniform changes have been confirmed to us. The Girls First Champions have only been involved in the program roll-out.

### **When are new badges available?**

New badges will be available in September.

### **Will badges be sew on/iron on and embroidered/printed?**

The badges will be the same style as the current Spark and Brownie badges – Embroidered and sew on. There is a sneak peek available on the website.

### **How many badges will there be?**

28 badges per branch. One for each of the seven Areas of Program and the three Themes that fall under each AoP.

### **How much will the badges cost?**

The intention is to keep pricing similar to the existing badges.

### **Will scarves and sashes still be worn?**

Yes to both!

## **Training:**

### **When will Champions be fully trained and available to do training?**

Champions will be scheduling training over the next few months, working with AC's and DC's. The majority of the training will happen in the fall, once the platform is available. The Champions will work to ensure all Guiders have an opportunity to get trained, and are always open to questions. Our email is below if you have any questions or want some additional training.

### **How much training will Guiders get?**

There will be multiple formal trainings scheduled in each area, and Champions will also be available for informal coffee house or campfire sessions. We are also available for one-on-one, skype, phone calls or emails as needed.

**Will there be online training (for Guiders that can't attend training)?**

There will be some e-modules released in the late summer, but we haven't been told exactly what they will contain. Champions will also be available to do Facetime/Skype/AdobeConnect sessions.

**Will Champions go out to units/Districts?**

Yes! We will be working with AC's and DC's to book training sessions and you will be notified when there is one planned for your Area and District. Champions will also be available for informal meetings if you want to contact us at the email below.

**What resources/training will be available for parents?**

The Girls First tab on the Girl Guides website has tons on information and will continue to be updated.

**Can you do sample activities with Guiders?**

This may be possible, depending on how long the training sessions take, but we will be happy to provide you with examples of activities even if we don't have time to run through the full activity with you.

**Will Champions be doing things over the summer? What/when/where?**

We will be doing trainings and informal meetings over the Summer and Fall months. Information on times and dates will be sent out through Areas/Districts, but contact us at the email below if you want to schedule something extra and we will try our best 😊

NB/PEI Champions:

Amanda Rouse, Angie Robinson, Carolyn Cockram, Janice Noble, Kelly Matchett, Rita Bartlett and Tracy Leaman

Contact us – [girlsfirst@girlguides.nb.ca](mailto:girlsfirst@girlguides.nb.ca)

Visit the website for the latest information:

[https://www.girlguides.ca/WEB/GGC/Girls\\_First/GGC/Girls\\_First/Girls\\_First.aspx?hkey=16f6097d-9315-4ef0-b100-bba204ad27a1](https://www.girlguides.ca/WEB/GGC/Girls_First/GGC/Girls_First/Girls_First.aspx?hkey=16f6097d-9315-4ef0-b100-bba204ad27a1)