

December 2020

Blue-Print

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Girl  Guides

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

A message from the Provincial Commissioner

Tracy Burton, Provincial Commissioner

I want to send a very heartfelt thank you to all our Guiders for everything you have been doing to keep Guiding thriving in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. There have been many challenges and many changes we have faced in this Guiding year. None of us could have predicted how much COVID would change how we do things. When I feel the pressure of all of these changes, I like to reflect back on my promise to help me with getting through this. What I have really been reflecting on lately is the very first line – I Promise to Do My Best. I feel it is easy to just move past this on to the rest of the promise, but I feel like this line is actually the heart of our promise. It is not saying that we all have to be perfect; it says that I will promise to do my best. By doing my best, I am giving 100% of my energy and enthusiasm to each project/meeting/interaction. I am promising the girls in my unit that I will try my very best to give them a great Guiding experience, even though that looks quite different than it did in the past. This means that I will work with my fellow Guiders to come up with new and innovative ways to deliver the program and to help the girls to see that we are all trying to fulfill our promise, as we are teaching them to fulfill theirs.

I would like to challenge all of us in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon to really strive to do our best this year. I would like us to be a shining example for all of our girls and fellow Guiders to say that this year they noticed that

we were giving the girls a fantastic experience, that we were finding exciting ways to make the program work with all of the restrictions we have in place. It is easy to focus on what we are not able to do, the things that we have always done that are just not possible this year. However, let's do our best to focus on the things we still can do and find the new things that become what we always do moving forward. I would like you to share your adventures with others, so they can learn and take inspiration from this. You can share this with other units in your district or your area. You can even share these through Blue-Print by writing up an article about the amazing things that you and the girls are doing together.

I also encourage every adviser, commissioner and committee member to also do their best with every girl and Guider activity that is able

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to happen this year. We may be doing events virtually or in small groups/units/districts as opposed to large events this year. We may even be doing this by “snail mail” this year! However, we can still all work to create great events and great Guiding memories to last a lifetime.

I know that there are amazing Guiders in Alberta Council who are creating great programming. By working together and striving to do our best, we will continue to provide these amazing experiences and make Girl Guides the organization of choice for all our girls and women! I also encourage every adviser, commissioner and committee member to also do their best with every girl and Guider activity

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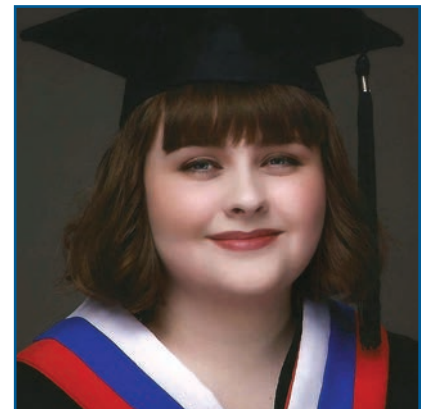
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2020 Alberta Council Scholarship Recipients

Margaret Utgoff Scholarship

Alex

An 11-year member, Alex had the opportunity to travel to Peru with her Pathfinder unit where they traveled to various cities across the country. An honour student throughout high school, Alex is currently working on her Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design at the University of Alberta. Her community work is extensive and includes volunteering with the Food Bank, the Festival of Trees, Hope Mission, Edmonton General Hospital, Telus World of Science and also includes planning, organizing and managing several Girl Guide events, to name a few. Her proven leadership skills have led her to become the team lead of the FTC Robotics team. Alex considers her most significant achievement to be a role in which she believes she can make the greatest amount of change: an adult leadership position in a Brownie unit, where she strives to provide an environment in which the Brownies can flourish and grow. In addition to academic and extracurricular opportunities, Alex has a deep passion for nature and the outdoors, as well as camping, hiking, photography and most recently, beekeeping. She also enjoys painting, sculpting and creative writing.



Joyce Foster Memorial Scholarship

Leah

An honour student throughout high school and graduating with a BSc (Honours), Leah is currently enrolled in the Elementary Education After Degree at Concordia University in Edmonton. A 23-year member, Leah is currently a Pathfinder Guider and has traveled to Peru with her group and took part in a service project while there. The unit was interested in participating in the Edmonton Pride Parade, becoming the first unit in Alberta to walk in a Pride Parade. Leah was a founding member of the Edmonton Forest School Society, where she works on the Human Resources Committee. She started the library, collected initial donations, sorted, repaired and cleaned the books. As the volunteer librarian since 2012, she encourages daily reading and literacy for the students who attend and works on expanding the library's collection of indigenous books, as well as books representing the diversity of her community. Leah was also a founding member of the Waldorf Education Society of Alberta, sat on their board for several years, and continues to be their librarian and casino chairperson. Leah and her family are active, camping in the summer and cross-country skiing in winter. As a family, they built a "Little Free Library" which they then installed outside their home and write book reviews for the books inside. Leah is also an avid gardener.



Alberta Council Scholarships

Regan

Regan completed high school earning Honours with Distinction in grades 10 – 12, earned numerous citizenship and leadership awards, graduating university with a double major in History and Political Science as well as a certificate in Inter-cultural Learning. Currently, she is working on her Graduate Certificate in Tourism and Hospitality Management at Royal Roads University. Regan has been a member for 17 years, earned her silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and traveled interprovincially and internationally as a Pathfinder. Now a Ranger Guider, she enjoys watching Rangers go from followers to initiators and has worked diligently with the Alberta Council Youth Forum to set goals and take ideas for making Guiding better to Alberta Council. Devoted to community service, Regan volunteers as an Alumnae Advisor for the Pi Beta Phi women's fraternity as their Finance and Housing Advisor which involves weekly meetings and constant paperwork plus works with a young woman with special needs to build her skills in the community, focusing on confidence and communication. In her spare time, Regan has taught herself to play the fiddle, taken French courses, guided people on their first backpacking trips and taught herself to knit and quilt.



Alannis

Alannis was a youth member of Girl Guides of Canada for 6 years at which time her family relocated from Ontario to Aklavik. In high school, Alannis earned many academic and community awards. She completed her Undergraduate Degree and Master's degree with Distinction, submitting her thesis article to the International Journal of Indigenous Health Research. Alannis is currently attending University of Alberta in the Juris Doctor (Law) faculty. Working as a Guide Guider and until recently, a Brownie Guider, Alannis believes that Girl Guides provides opportunities for girls and women to become empowered and self-sufficient. Alannis has applied these principles throughout her life and is modeling them as she shows other young women from the North that their voices matter. An avid spokeswoman for youth and those with special needs, she submitted a proposal to the NWT Human Rights Commission and founded and worked for five years in the territorial north with the first Best Buddies Chapters, a social group for students with and without intellectual disabilities. An avid traveler, Alannis was selected for the Students on Ice Antarctica expedition, and while in university studied in Italy, the United Kingdom and Costa Rica. Most recently she has traveled to Norway with Arctic Frontiers.



Anita

A 13-year member, Anita has been in every branch of Guiding and is currently a member of a TREX unit. Outside normal program work, she has gone white water rafting in the mountains, scuba diving, camped at a local camp and participated in a nationally sponsored trip to Switzerland. In addition, she is a member of the Alberta Council Youth Forum and a member of the Camping Committee. Having received various academic excellence awards for various grade 12 classes, Anita is currently attending the University of Alberta in the Elementary Education faculty. Anita has earned her National Lifeguard Certification, Water Safety Instructor and several other swimming achievements at various levels, as well as First Aid, CPR and Wilderness and Remote First Aid training and is currently working on the Silver Level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Anita is deeply passionate about community involvement and is currently part of the Cold Lake Youth Council, acting as a voice for the youth in her community. She has been a member of the student council at her school and teaches swimming lessons. Anita's interests include cross country running, curling, reading, exploring, listening to music, camping, working out and spending time with friends and family.



Kellie

Enrolled in the Bachelor of Elementary Education program at the University of Alberta, Kellie graduated from high school with Honours, where she took welding for three years as one of the only female students. She has been a member of Girl Guides of Canada for 16 years and has participated in many events including an international camp, traveling in Europe and attending the Ignite Inspire Innovate conference as a delegate. Active in the leadership community of her high school she was vice-president of the student council and was selected to attend the Canadian Student Leadership Council in New Brunswick. Currently a Guider in a Brownie unit, Kellie provides many opportunities to teach the girls to be active in their communities, including visiting seniors and making sock snowmen, collecting garbage and participating in the Yellow Fish Road Project. In her spare time, Kellie works as a tutor and enjoys watching her students grow and encourages them even more by hosting reading competitions with prizes. She enjoys a wide range of indoor and outdoor hobbies including camping, kayaking, hiking, outdoor cooking of gourmet meals, baking and making professional level coffees with everyday equipment.



Emily

Emily has been a member of Girl Guides of Canada for 13 years and traveled to Peru with her Ranger unit, where they participated in a service project with 150 Peruvian girls. Graduating from high school with Honours in grades 10 and 11, and with Distinction in grade 12, she graduated with a French immersion diploma. Recently, Emily earned a certification from the government of France confirming her bilingualism. Emily is attending the University of Alberta in the Environmental Studies program. With community work focusing on the environment, she has participated in garbage cleanups as a fundraiser, Capital City Cleanup - a 16-week program, tree planting and a Highway Cleanup Project. Emily restarted her high school's environmental club to raise awareness of the negative impacts of society on the planet and initiated projects such as recycling posters, selling scrunchies made from reused fabric, organizing clothing swaps, getting recycling for her school and restoring school gardens. Emily is currently a Junior Leader in a Brownie unit and a youth representative on the Edmonton Area Council. She loves music and plays multiple instruments. Emily is a member of the rowing team and has started playing soccer.



Rebecca

Having completed her degree in Chemical Engineering with Honours, Rebecca is now in her first year of a Bachelor of Education, After Degree Education program at the University of Alberta. A member of Girl Guides for eight years, she is currently a Pathfinder Guider and Area Program Adviser. Rebecca has participated in many different service projects through her Guiding experience including the Great Canadian Shore Cleanup, the Yellow Fish Road program, Days for Girls to prepare sustainable menstrual products, the MEOW Foundation and SAIT Chemical Engineering Committee as an industry advisor providing current industry and hiring trends for graduates. Rebecca states that “nothing tests leadership skills like taking a group of 30 Brownies on a tent camping trip.” She has been on the front line of changing to virtual meetings, providing engaging online sessions and inspires the team to think of creative new program events. Loving outdoor activities of all kinds, Rebecca is a runner completing her first half marathon in May, enjoys hiking, biking 200 km in the month of August, walking, skiing and snowshoeing. She also enjoys knitting, sewing and needle crafts, and is interested in local politics, having participated recently in the Prepare Her program offered by Ask Her YYC.



Ashly

Ashly has been a member of Girl Guides of Canada for 14 years, starting with Sparks bringing her to now as an Adult Member. During this time, she was a Junior Leader and as a member of a Ranger unit, she completed her Bronze, Silver and Gold Chief Commissioner Awards and participated in an international trip to France, Switzerland and Italy. A member of the Honour Society from grade seven through graduation, Ashly completed her education in the French Immersion program and is currently attending Mount Royal University in the Bachelor of Nursing program. Working at the age of 15, Ashly worked 20 – 30 hours per week while remaining Honour status grades and focused on providing excellent customer service while fostering meaningful connections with regular customers. Throughout middle school she took part in leadership, planning and executing school celebrations and activities including dances, assemblies and the Terry Fox Run. Ashly enjoys the outdoors, camping, hiking, swimming, hammocking and relaxing by the fire. She collects beautiful things of nature such as crystals, rocks, feathers and seashells. Ashly enjoys making memories with her friends and family through scooter rides, locked rooms, picnics and movie nights; she also likes crafting, painting and cross-stitch.



Laura

Laura is currently attending the University of Calgary in the Zoology program. A member of the Honour Society throughout high school, Laura also earned various science awards and was a two-year Alberta Schools Athletic Association Mixed Curling City Finalist. Having received her Canada Cord and the Bronze Trailblazer Leadership Award, Laura is working to complete her Silver and Gold by the end of this year. Laura proposed the idea of a District Thinking Day Carnival to her district council and helped



plan the theme and activities, created the schedule and on the day of the event, helped set up and run activities. As a member of the Eco-Club, she worked to bring forward environmental initiatives around her school and the surrounding community through events and clean ups. Laura has been a volunteer member at the Calgary Folk Festival for the past three summers as part of the Environment Crew. Laura is completing the Ranger program and is a Junior Leader with Brownies and Guides. Passionate about the field of science, she has been mentoring a junior high student for the past year. Laura enjoys astrophysics and general space science activities with peers, various topics in STEM, curling, playing the piano and playing the flute in her school band.

Victoria

A 21-year member, Victoria has participated in every branch of Girl Guides and has been an adult member for seven years. As a youth member she visited Our Chalet, Our Cabana, Pax Lodge and Sangam WAGGGS World Centres. She also traveled around Canada to experience differences in ways of life and history in Whitehorse, Halifax, Victoria, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island as a youth member. Victoria attended Alberta Girls Parliament for four years, attended Guiding Mosaic and volunteered



at a WAGGGS World Centre. Completing high school with Honours, Victoria has completed two semesters of her Bachelor of Nursing Degree Post LPN through Athabasca University. Victoria believes in giving back to society and currently participates in Friends of Kananaskis Country which involves hiking throughout the seasons to ensure safety and cleanliness of trails for people and wildlife. Outside of Guiding, Victoria has been a coach for community basketball, and she has taken on a new leadership role as Preceptor within the Nursing field, mentoring nursing students and monitoring their ability for readiness to enter the field. Victoria enjoys an active lifestyle, cross-fit training, mountain biking, hiking new trails, enjoying a book beside the fire, experiencing new cultures, and tasting local cuisine.

Training

Submitted by Rose Ward, Alberta Council Training Adviser

Over summer, Guiding has not been able to meet face to face. Many of the trainers felt that although we could not be in the same room, we could meet face to face. The journey into the virtual world became a goal for many trainers. Trainers across Canada took the challenge to create fun and interactive sessions that would be virtual. More trainers worked with National to create other sessions like virtual campfires, virtual challenges, virtual coffee time and so many more.

In May, a team of Trainers started working on making the Commissioners' Workshop a virtual affair that all could participate in and have fun sharing. The Commissioner sessions were well attended by a number of Guiders, not just from Alberta Council but from across the country. The trainers made these sessions fun, interesting and geared towards the position of District or Area Commissioner. Many participants have since sent notes of appreciation to the Trainers.

Training Stats: Did you know Alberta Council Trainers trained over 920 hours this past year and total participation was over 4300? Trainings consisted of face to face, telephone, and webinar trainings. Many Trainers and Guiders got online very quickly after the shutdown in March and made it possible for Guiders, Trainers and Girls to connect virtually.

Upcoming training events:

Multi-Facet: Vision 2021

This event will now be virtual. We are working with Trainers to ensure this is a great experience for all Guiders. There will be more information coming very soon, please watch GuidePost for updates.

Trainers Workshop 2021

This event will be virtual this year. We are planning a fantastic event for all Trainers and Trainer Candidates. More information to come in GuidePost.

Watch the Guide Post or check the calendars on the Alberta Girl Guides website or National website for more trainings coming your way.

Camping

Submitted by Leslie Jones, Alberta Council Camping Adviser

Most of us have been moved to Virtual and Anytime meetings for the time being but when we move back outside, plan to take your unit out to a park or nearby campsite. Gather rocks and sticks and make some trail signs. Talk about first aid and follow by putting together a first aid kit and playing a game with first aid scenarios. The girls can come up with their own ideas of emergencies or minor injuries. Plant some unnatural objects along a trail and have the girls point them out to you.

Rally Day Camp

The camping advisers are planning a rally day with a camping theme in May. We are inviting all units in Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Yukon to join us! We will provide a camp in a box for each branch of Guiding, a schedule to help plan your day and a virtual campfire to download. There will also be a crest that can be ordered after the event. Please stay tuned for more details.

Please feel free to contact us at any-camping@girlguides.ca

Safe Guide

Submitted by Chris Haydon & Twyla Jenkins, Alberta Council Safe Guide Co-Advisers

Although meetings throughout September and most of October were outdoors, assessors were happily acknowledging countless forms for campfire cooking events, five canoe days, two horse events (a ride and a grooming session), numerous camp skills events for girls to hone their skills at shelter building, axe and knife safety, hikes, biking, and a day at the Wolf Dog Sanctuary, to name a few.

A Ranger unit built wooden stools for themselves and another did some woodworking at the Cold Lake base.

We also heard of many green level events, such as: snow shoeing, community cleanups, and discovering parks in their town/city.

As we write this on November 15, numerous cities in Alberta are facing new protocols which require more thinking outside the box. With the colder weather some green activities to consider are:

Indoor Green Level activities: (when your stage allows)

Museums, zoos, wall climbing or skating.

Outdoor Green Level activities:

Snowshoeing, skating, tobogganing, snow tubing, ice fishing, cross country skiing, a winter nature hike, tracking, compass work, or orienteering, building a quinzee, shelter or snow fort, playing tag or Fox and Geese.

Outdoor Yellow:

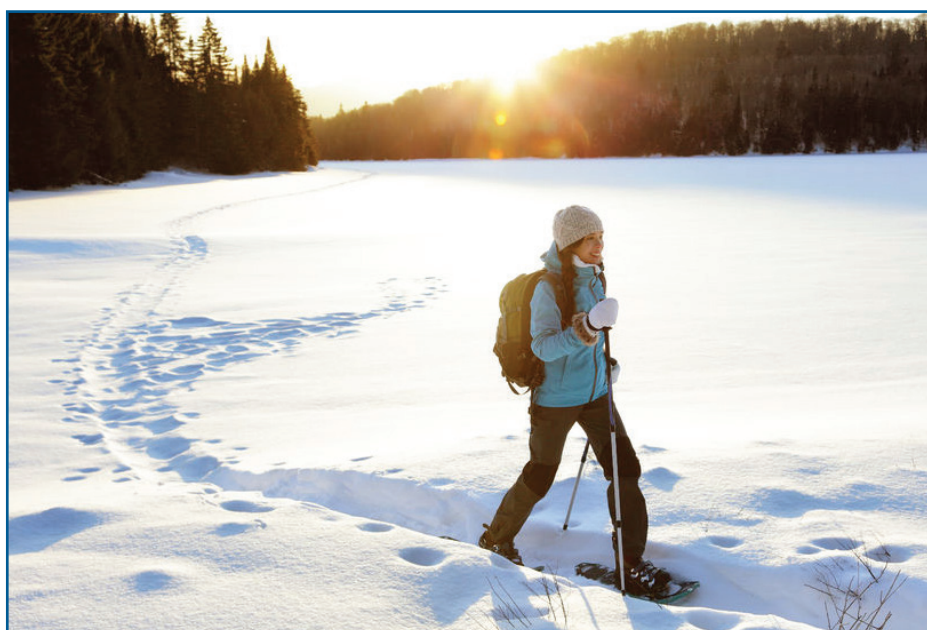
Dog sledding at Canmore

Outdoor Yellow Conditional:

Downhill skiing or snow boarding

The dedication, determination and creativity of Guiders shone through brightly as so many took great advantage of this year's warm fall. As of mid-November, 140 sets of forms have been submitted.

Well done everyone!



Veterans' Week Service Project

Submitted by Veronica Hoffman, Alberta Council Public Relations and Communications Adviser

With Veterans' Week and Remembrance Day looking a little different this year due to the pandemic, many units have turned to supporting our Veterans through various service projects. This year the 108th Brownies, 106th Guides, 73rd Pathfinders, and 17th Rangers from Blackfoot District in Calgary collected items for the Veterans Association Food Bank, donated 20 boxes of Chocolatey Mint Girl Guide Cookies, and wrote 116 letters for the Veterans!

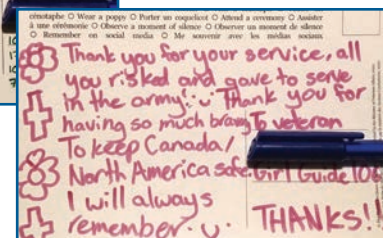
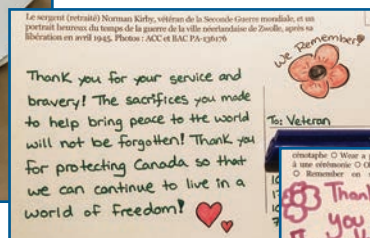
The Veterans Association Food Bank shared this message:

"Our thoughtful community showed up big this week! A parcel of cards written to Veterans by Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers was given to the Veterans Association Food Bank for distribution."

Thank you to the 108th Calgary Brownie Unit, 106th Calgary Guide Unit and 17th Calgary Ranger Unit for thinking of our Veterans. They also donated 20 boxes of Girl Guide Cookies!

We are excited to include these letters in our Food Hampers to Veterans! This will mean so much to them. You've made us and this community so proud. THANK YOU!"

The 17th Rangers also took part in the flag party at the Field of Crosses Sunset Ceremony on Sunday, November 8, 2020 and then helped take down the Field of Crosses on November 12, 2020



Everything she wants to be.



World Thinking Day

A Very Special Day and How it Started

Submitted by Janet and Geoff Allcock, Alberta Council Archives Committee

In the early years of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, independent national Guiding Associations were setup, but as the First World War came to an end a need for international cooperation was felt. Lady Baden-Powell founded an informal International Council in London in February 1918 in order to find out where Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting had survived during the years of turmoil.

In 1920, two leaders from each known Guide country were invited to the British County Commissioners Conference held in Oxford. They decided that they would hold an International Conference every two years.

In 1926, at the 4th International Conference, the delegates decided to inaugurate a special annual day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world should think of each other and express their thanks for our international Movement. They called it Thinking Day and chose February 22 as the date because it was the birthday of both Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement, and Olave Baden-Powell, who was World Chief Guide.

A Birthday Gift

Six years later in 1932, the 7th World Conference took place in Bucze, Poland. A Belgian delegate pointed out that a birthday usually involves gifts, and suggested that girls could show their appreciation on Thinking Day by fundraising or making a donation to help their sisters around the world. Olave Baden-Powell wrote a letter to all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts later that year to tell them about this idea and to ask them to spare a penny to help support Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

Much later in 1999, at the 30th World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, delegates from around the world changed the name of the day from Thinking Day to World Thinking Day, to emphasise the international aspects of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

Since 1928 Thinking Day has been celebrated with birthday parties, get-togethers, and parades. I am sure when I write this (November 2020) that World Thinking Day 2021 will be quite different, but I hope that it involves some fun and a cake – even if it is made up of individual cupcakes.

World Thinking Day ...continued



The 2nd Spruce Grove Brownies at a Torchlight parade in 1986



Westlock District Thinking Day party complete with cake in 1986



150th Meadowlark (Edmonton) Guides show off their Thinking Day cakes in 1974



3rd St. Albert Sparks participate in a Torchlight Parade in 1992



The 1st Swan Hills Company celebrated Thinking Day and the 75th Anniversary of Guiding with this elaborate display of their pennies.

Cemetery Tours and Poppy Bunting in Wapiti Meadows

Submitted by Alyssa Currie, Wapiti Meadows District Guider

As a District Guider, I develop resources for our Unit Guiders in Wapiti Meadows. These women do incredible work for our members and this year, more than ever, I'm striving to make planning their meetings a bit easier. I hold a degree in History and my day job is managing a public Archives, so I love combining these passions with Guiding whenever I can. This fall, I wanted to focus on programming that would teach our members about local history - especially the achievements of local women - and promote Remembrance.

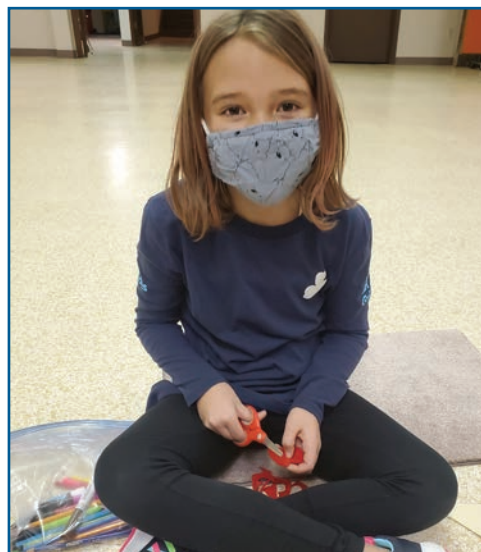


As we began our Guiding year outdoors, I developed a series of tours at a somewhat unconventional meeting location: the Grande Prairie Cemetery. These tours introduced the Cemetery as a public space for remembrance, but also for enjoying nature and historical research. Each unit that participated visited the graves of twelve “Wonderful Women of Grande Prairie” and learned about their contributions to our area’s history— from Veterans to teachers, nurses to artists, business women to community organizers. All units also completed a historical scavenger hunt and discussed how the visit had changed our perceptions

of the cemetery. “Not as many zombies as I expected!” proudly declared one girl.

For our Ranger unit tour, we connected with the owner of a local funeral home who demonstrated how to maintain headstones and then led us in a service project cleaning Veterans’ graves. Each girl demonstrated care and attention to the project as they removed years of wear.

As November loomed, our District began discussing Remembrance Day. Our units usually participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies across the city and surrounding communities; however, with the ongoing pandemic, we were looking for alternatives to honour those who have served while conforming to Girl Guide protocols. I suggested a joint effort.



Wapiti Meadows District partnered with the South Peace Regional Archives and Grande Prairie Museum to create a collaborative “Poppy bunting” display. The Archives and Museum staff created an Instant Meeting kit for units containing locally focused Remembrance

activities provided by the Archives and craft supplies provided by the Museum. Fourteen Guiding units signed up to participate, totaling nearly 200 girl members.

Throughout the first week of November, units learned about WWII female Veterans and War Brides from the South Peace, as well as the symbolism of the Poppy. Each member then had the opportunity to create a Poppy flag that was used to decorate a Remembrance bunting at the Grande Prairie Museum. In total, our district created over 30 meters of bunting! Although we couldn't gather together, our District's Remembrance Project was a great way to stay connected.

I'm so thankful for the support of our District council, and for all our units for their participation in these events. Seeing the results and hearing the feedback from our unit leaders reminds me why I continue to love my role in this organization.



Grande Prairie Museum
Remembrance Day Display



Girl Guides

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

The deadline for the submission of articles for the next edition of Blue-Print is January 15, 2021. Send your submissions to any-blue-print@girlguides.ca