



Carolyn's Corner

This has been an amazing Guiding year so far - and I know everyone is looking forward to spring, camping and GM 2016!

Fall and winter have been busy for units with sleepovers, outings, camps, and enrolments. Some enrolments were full of tradition with candles and ceremony, others with such themes as Harry Potter, a garden party, and water theme (complete with lily pad 'laws' and a bridge to walk over. Registration is currently 450+ girls, up almost 50 from last year!

A big Prairie Valley **Welcome!** to our new Guiders. I know you will enjoy being part of Guiding, trying new ideas and activities, learning just how much you have to offer the girls in your units. Adult recruiting continues to be our focus and we need **your** help to spread the word about Guiding,

The Fall Mint Cookie campaign was a huge success – units sold all their cookies and were looking for more! Area worked with Province to bring in an additional 100 cartons. The Spring Cookie order is up over last year, too. Spring Sandwich cookies will be out soon - so let's get out there in the neighbourhoods and promote Girl Guides!

Thank you to all the Guiders and Girls who helped plan, organize and run another terrific Area Carnival - it is only with your help that these girl events can take place.

Fall/winter sleepovers and camps were held at Oak Hammock, Camp Nutimik, Camp Manitou, and Camp Arnes with more happening this month.

Area held a Spark/Brownie Event and over 130 girls attended to learn about literacy and earn the Literacy Challenge.

Our Area Annual General Meeting and Guider Appreciation Event is being held **Sunday, 17 April 2016**, at the **Kingswood Golf and Country Club** in La Salle - hosted by Sanford District. Plan to attend and celebrate the achievements of your sister Guiders.

Also, don't forget the Provincial Convention and Youth Awards Day, April 29 - May 1, 2016 at the Fort Garry Hotel. With the theme of 'Time Flies' it promises to be a great weekend of fun and friendship (and some training sessions too!).

I hope you enjoy this edition's 'Guider Spotlight' and the pictures of the Girls and Guiders.

Remember — Guiding's Great because of You!

Winter 2016 In this issue

Carolyn's Corner
Promoting Guiding
Prairie Valley Area Carnival
Guider Spotlight
Area Annual 2015
Guider Day
Units in the Spotlight
Area Literacy Event
Around the Area
Crafts & Camp
Upcoming events and
Important dates



We need Guiders!

Rebecca Earley

Prairie Valley Area already has an amazing team of Guiders, but we need even more! This Fall, Prairie Valley Area girls and leaders were out promoting Guiding in Morden, Portage la Prairie, at the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, and Red River College. We also promoted Guiding through advertisements at public libraries and daycares. As current members, we are the best publicity Girl Guides has. Tell your friends or parents in your unit that we need Guiders and encourage them to volunteer! Thank you to all of the Guiders and to Lori for all of the hard work as we try to grow our organization!

U of Winnipeg Recruitment



Isabelle takes advantage of a PR opportunity in Morden



Kim Houle with Pathfinder Lena and Guide Jasmine, presenting to Portage la Prairie Rotary Club

What I Have Really Learned From Guiding

Chelsey Kent



My name is Chelsey Kent. I am currently a unit Guider with the 157th Guides. In my now eight years as an adult member, I have been a unit guider in two guide units, a spark unit guider and a pathfinder unit guider. I have been a co-district commissioner, and braved it on my own for one year! I have held a position on provincial council as an elected member, and I have executed many fundraisers, guider events, camps and sleepovers... almost too many to count. Of course, I have learned a lot about the organization, about WAGGGS and about safe guide over the years. I have attended various OAL trainings, and wouldn't miss a provincial convention. But who have I really learned the most from? THE GIRLS!

Over the years as a leader, I have built a collection of great teachings from the girls I have had the pleasure to guide... and I would like to share a few with you...

We shouldn't share boogers!

The Sparks learn very early on... "I promise to share and be a friend" and when asked what kind of things we should or shouldn't share with our spark friends, one girl said "We shouldn't share boogers". You are right, we shouldn't share boogers!

While planning Guide camp... I learned that some eleven year old girls will suggest steak, chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, beef and barley soup and protein bars as menu items.

I've learned that the many stars in the night sky each represent girls in guiding.

Live in the moment

While learning about Mental Illness, one first year guide taught me that "your past, your parents and your grandparents help you become who are today" and "you don't know how long you'll live for... you have to live in the moment." I've also learned that eleven year old girls can be very wise beyond their years.

During one of the first sharing circles of the year, one Pathfinder introduced herself and proclaimed "... and I don't know what life is anymore." Some days, neither do I!

Lamas are bae

I have learned that "lamas are bae," that Harry Potter is still cool, and that some kids really like math. I have learned that my 2 hours a week at each meeting, is possibly the most important 2 hours that I spend in my entire week. I have learned that kids know more than we give them credit for, and we need to embrace that to help these beautiful young souls, become beautiful young leaders!



Prairie Valley Area Carnival

Pat McBeth

Prairie Valley Area did it again!! Congratulations Guiders and Girls from all districts of the Area. There were new Guiders, seasoned Guiders, Trefoil members, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers all looking after games, doing face painting, helping to set up and helping to take down. You all helped to put on a fantastic fun Family Day. Thank you to many Guiders who arrived at 8:30 and were still there at 3:30 helping to close down. Thanks also to the husbands who were there to help hugely with the heavy lifting.

Jars, jars and more jars. Would you believe that you put together an amazing 677 (give or take a few) jars for the jar bar. I am sure we have never had that many before. The lineups were a little chaotic for a while. The goldfish were a great draw. Many little ones kept returning hoping to get one to take home.

Then there was the amazing selection of cupcakes for the cake walk. On Friday I was a little concerned we might not have enough cupcakes to keep the game open all day. Silly me. This is Girl Guides. You ask and parents, Guiders and Trefoil members respond in a huge way. It was absolutely terrific.

There was a super turn out of families. You all must have done a great job of advertising it to your girls. We were super pleased with the overall attendance.

A special thank you to Paul from the St. James Civic Center. He made sure we had everything we needed. He was so impressed with everything that he invited us back next year.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! To all who participated.



Carnival Committee:

Carolyn Titterton
Pat McBeth
June Milloy
Joyce Riddell
Sherry Thom



Guider Spotlight

Get to know the amazing women in our Area!

Audrey Pattie

How long have you been involved in Guiding? I think I was 8 when I started as a Brownie, I've never left, I have been a Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder, Ranger, Brownie Leader (Tawny Owl), Guide leader, Pathfinder leader - very briefly, Spark leader, District Commissioner, Co-District Commissioner, deputy area commissioner, Area Commissioner, member of Provincial Executive, Backpatter Editor, member of Camp committee, safe guide assessor and I am a Trainer, I think that's everything.

What made you want to be a Guider? It came next - natural step, I had been helping in units as a third year pathfinder and thru Rangers

What is your favourite Girl Guide memory? Travelling to Churchill as a Pathfinder I think.

What are your hobbies? Reading, Quilting, One-Stroke Painting, Card Making

Do you volunteer with any other organizations? If so, where? I am part of the Altar Guild at my Church and I am part time Nursery helper.

What do you love about being a Guider? The girls of course, and the friendships

Do you have a daughter in Guiding? If so, how has being a Guider impacted your relationship? No daughter, but I am a guiding daughter. My mom and I are really close and I think the connection of guiding has really helped that.



Cordelia Yaworski



What made you want to be a Guider? To share my knowledge and experiences with the girls in an organization that I enjoyed as a girl, and still enjoy being a member of.

What is your favourite Girl Guide memory? Receiving my All Round Cord and Canada Cord, and visiting Pax Lodge and Our Cabana.

What is your favourite Guiding tradition? Camping in tents, campfire songs, and vanilla Girl Guide Cookies.

What are your hobbies? cross stitching, painting, travelling, baking, and making peorgies

What do you love about being a Guider? Seeing girls try new things, learn new skills, help the younger members, and grow as a person as they move to higher levels of Guiding.

How has Guiding connected you to your community? By participating in service projects with my units as a girl, I continue to volunteer as an adult in and out of Guiding. In May 2015, I received the RM of Macdonald Volunteer Service Award.

Pat McBeth

I have been involved in Guiding as a Guider for 28 years. I was never in Guiding as a girl but did help out in units for a couple of years before Doreen Pattie suggested I become a Guider. I was helping out at a Guide Camp my daughter was attending when I realized I was having as much fun as she was. That was when I became a Guider. I have so many wonderful memories in Guiding that it is really hard to pick just one. The most recent great moment would have to be enrolling my granddaughter. One of the funniest was at Caddy Lake when a young Spark told her friend that the old lady (me) found a leech for her. We all had a good laugh over that one.

One of my favorite Guiding traditions, which seems to occur everywhere, is Campfire. Singing is definitely not my forte but at a campfire it is just contagious. A lot of the same songs no matter where you are.

I also volunteer full time at the Christmas Cheer Board from the end of October to the middle of January. It is a very busy but very rewarding experience. On occasion I also help out at curling events or at Celiac Assoc. events with my husband.

Guiding gives much more than it takes. I love interacting with girls of all ages, being amazed by their enthusiasm, energy and eagerness do more of everything. Through Guiding I have met people of all walks of life. This has allowed me to connect with so many different aspects of our local community as well as the larger community around us. When I moved to Ireland I was amazed at how real the sisterhood of Guiding actually was. With one short email I became part of a new Guiding experience. It was so wonderful to make new friends as soon as I arrived in a different country.

Through Guiding I have made many cherished life long friendships. I would never have guessed 30 years ago when my daughter joined Brownies that Girl Guides would become such a meaningful part of my life. The opportunities in Guiding are endless. Everyday can bring something new.



Area Annual 2015

*Portage la
Prairie*





Guider Get Together

Unique Corral, September 2015



1st LaSalle Saves a Dog!

1st LaSalle Guiding Unit had a special guest November 17th at our meeting....Koda and his owner Katie visited us from Save a Dog Network (look it up on facebook). Our girls made jean dog toys to give to all the rescue dogs that Katie and her team save! I had some girls who were scared/nervous at first, but they showed me how brave they were and Koda was so gentle it was amazing! Please, please please if you can get them out to your unit it's an amazing night. After Koda was gone we made a felt puppy!

<http://www.saveadognetwork.ca/>



Ever been to a Maker Faire?

Kitty S. - 250th Pathfinders



Ever been to a Maker Faire? When my fellow Pathfinders and I went, we were astonished by all the cool stuff that was there. We got to do anything from making our own animation, to witnessing 3D printing. Ever hear of a piano made of bananas? How about a circuit made out of play dough? All part of the Maker Faire!

Now you're probably wondering 'What is this *Maker Faire* you keep yammering on about?' Well, on Saturday November 7 the Millennium Library turned 10, and to celebrate, had a Maker Faire.

The Maker Faire is basically a really awesome science fair! You can thank our leaders for ever so kindly giving us the privilege to letting us go to this event.



Sparks & Brownies Literacy Event



Prairie Valley Area Girl Guides hosted a literacy event for 140 Sparks and Brownies on January 13th. Girls aged 5-8 participated in activities to help them earn the National Literacy Challenge badge.

Activities included storytelling, alphabet bead craft, mad libs, making a book bag and an alphabet game. One of the challenges was to bring books to donate to other children who may not have their own books to read at home. Our awesome girls donated 231 books! Westgrove school was the school selected in our area to receive the books. We hope the students enjoy them and it encourages their love of reading.

Thanks to the Guiders who brought their girls out to the event and to the 250th Pathfinders for running the stations - well done girls! *Michelle Barclay and Debra Halligan, Event Coordinators*





402 Sparks



Brownies: Love Yourself Challenge



1st Morden Pathfinders at the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre



1st Winnipeg Guides



157 Guides & 400 Pathfinders

Around the Area



27th Guides



1st Brownies & 266 Sparks

Here's Great Poncho for those Cold and Windy Campfires!

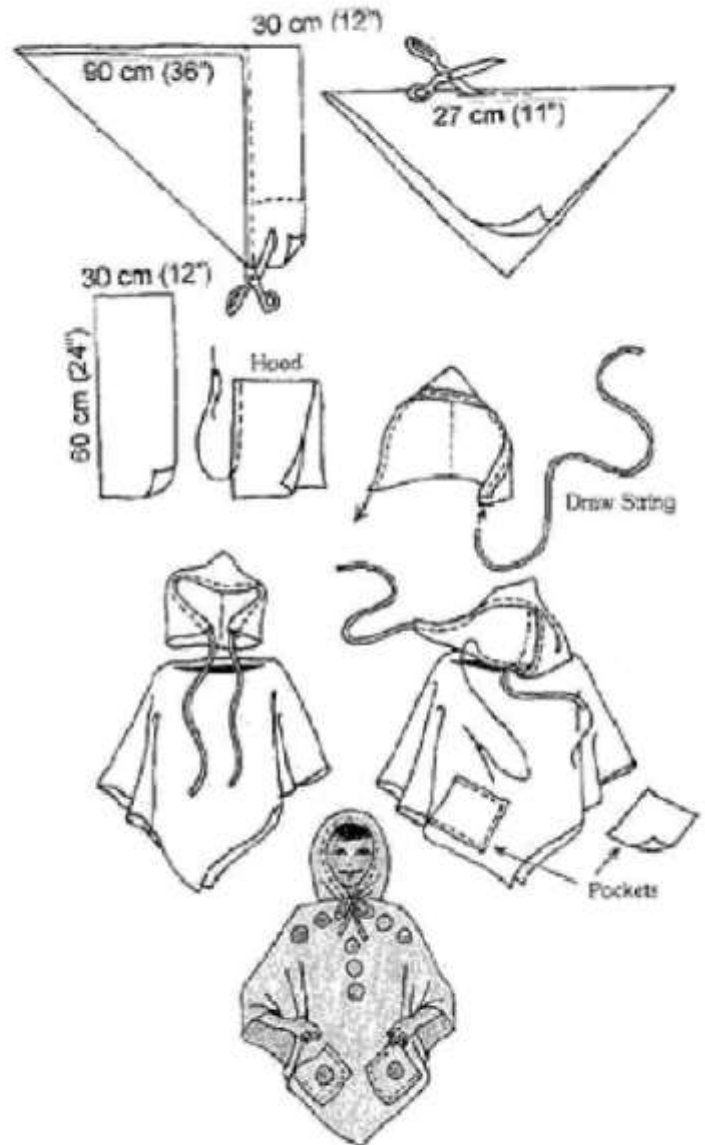
— submitted by Lori Baldwin

Materials

- old blanket or new fabric 90 cm by 120 cm
- drawstring (heavy skate lace, thick cord or something else suitable)
- scissors
- thread
- pins
- sewing machine

Make Your Poncho

1. Make a square for the main body of the poncho by folding the fabric diagonally and cutting off the excess strip, as shown. Save the strip for the poncho hood.
2. Cut a neck opening about 27 cm wide. Be careful not to make the opening too big.
3. From the strip of fabric, cut a piece large enough to form a hood (about 60 cm by 30 cm). Fold it in half. The fold forms the top of the hood.
4. Sew one side of the hood to form the back seam.
5. Sew a casing around the front edge of the hood, through which a drawstring can be run.
6. Sew the bottom edge of the hood to the neck opening, being careful not to sew the casing shut.
7. If you wish, finish the edges of your poncho with blanket stitch, a fringe, or hem.
8. With leftover fabric you can add a pocket or two.



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

March 2016

- March 12** Guide Badge Day
- March 19** Indoor Camp Skills Training - OAL Residential or OAL Adventure

April 2016

Save the Date: Spring Area Residential Camp

Join us for the Spring Area Residential Camp on **April 8th - 10th**, 2016 at Gimli Bible Camp. We are looking for Core Kitchen staff for the weekend. If you are interested please contact Cobie Romance cobiesdaisy@yahoo.ca

Final numbers are needed by March 16th



- April 6** 'Swaps and Traders' Area Training
- April 17** Area Annual Meeting & Guider Appreciation Event
- April 29 - May 1** 2016 Provincial Convention

May 2016

- May 1** Youth Awards Day
- May 4** Year End Finances Area Training
- May 27 - 29** Outdoor Camp Skills Training - OAL Tenting or OAL Adventure

Find Event Details at:

<http://www.girlguides.ca/web/MB/>