

## **Introduction**

Badges have been part of the girls' programs since the inception of Guiding. A badge is a symbol or sign of membership or participation in an organization. The proficiency badges symbolize girls' achievements during their years in Guiding. The Canadian Guiding Badges & Insignia resource includes much more than proficiency badges as there are many pins (badges with clasps), commemoratives, and other symbols a girl could earn or wear. Adults wear badges and pins too, to signify their membership in Guiding.

## **Organization and scope**

This resource is organized by Guiding age groups, such as Sparks, Brownies, Guides and so on. Within each Guiding group, the badges are listed alphabetically. The descriptive entry is made under the most recent name of a badge. Cross-references from previous names direct the reader to the entry.

Brownie and Guide badges can be identified further by style changes over the years. For more information, see the introduction to these sections.

## **Images**

Coloured images are provided to aid in the identification of badges. Note that the images are not to scale, nor can we guarantee that they are consistently sized.

## **Other Notes**

The Guiding blue colour is consistently referred to as reflex blue, introduced formally in Graphic Standards Manual, 1984. Some references may refer to this colour as open blue.

## **Legend**

How to read the badge entry:

Each badge is described by up to six numbered entries. These numbers refer to the following descriptions:

1. Catalogue number – each badge and pin has a unique number.
2. Earliest reference – earliest official print source located which refers to the badge. Most often, badges appeared in Rules Policy and, Organization (title varies) (British) until 1941, and from 1941 Policy Organization and Rules (Canadian). These publications are referred to throughout as POR. In more recent years, badges appear in the girls' program books. Both the word program and programme have appeared in various Guide publications. We have used "program" in the text, unless we are referring to a Guide publication title that included the alternate spelling. All other references used are listed throughout the publication by full title and date of publication. When a badge design (symbol) was changed or a badge was re-introduced after a break, the new date and reference are provided.
3. Dates in use – reflects the range of years for each badge or style of badge. Dates are as accurate as can be established. Because reference publications such as the POR were not published each year, it is difficult to determine accurately the actual dates a

badge was in use, especially during earlier years. A date with a question mark denotes this uncertainty.

Other circumstances render the dating of badges problematic. Sometimes stocks of discontinued badges were depleted before new badges were ordered. These local practices may result in badges appearing on uniforms or in collections in a timeframe outside that listed in this publication.

To ensure consistency, the start date is the date when each badge appeared in an official publication. For badges introduced during a pilot program, the start date is the date the new program was introduced to the general membership. Dates may appear to overlap, as one badge can be discontinued or replaced by a new badge during the same year.

4. Description – each variation of the badge is fully described for shape, colour, material and symbol. Variations in symbol or size are noted. Each description is accompanied by a scanned image in colour, or a black and white image taken from one of the program books if no badge was available to scan. See the description of the styles and accompanying notes under each section.

5. Former name and name variations – reflects name changes, to provide more information on a badge. For badges with name changes, but consistent symbol, this field reflects the name used during the time period described. When badges were combined or split into new badges, this change is noted with the approximate end date for the badge. In general, this field is not intended to show program progression. However, if a badge became part of the program for another age group, this change is noted. For example, the Canada Cord is noted under Pathfinders as formerly a Guide award until 1979.

6. Subsequent name – reflects name changes. The information in this field is used in conjunction with the information in Field 5 to track the history of a badge. When an existing badge was combined with others to create a new badge, this change is noted as “became part of”. The date shown is the approximate introduction date of the changed badge.