

# GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

## BACKGROUNDER



**Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada** is the original activity-based leadership organization for girls and women in Québec. Guiding is bold, fun, energetic, and empowers girls and women to face new challenges with confidence.

### Mission








Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada enables girls to be confident, resourceful and courageous, and to make a difference in the world.

### Promise

I Promise to do my best,  
To be true to myself, my beliefs and Canada  
I will take action for a better world  
And respect the Guiding Law

### Law

*The Guiding Law challenges me to:*

-  be honest and trustworthy
-  use my resources wisely
-  respect myself and others
-  recognize and use my talents and abilities
-  protect our common environment
-  live with courage and strength
-  share in the sisterhood of Guiding

### BRANCHES

**Sparks** – ages 5 and 6

**Brownies** – ages 7 and 8

**Guides** – ages 9 to 11

**Pathfinders** – ages 12 to 14

**Rangers** – ages 15 to 17+

**Adults** – as leaders,  
mentors, team members  
and more

### The Guiding Advantage

For girls, Guiding is an accepting and inclusive environment with diverse and exciting programs and activities that offer the chance to discover new interests, make lasting friendships and learn valuable leadership skills such as teamwork and decision-making. Guiding gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve greatness.

For women, Guiding is a chance to get involved and make a difference in the lives of girls and young women in their community. It's a chance to impart wisdom, a place for personal growth, an opportunity to travel, an opportunity to network with like-minded women, and a place to develop leadership qualities even further.





With over 90,000 members strong and growing across Canada, we welcome all girls and women in Québec.

## What We Offer in Québec

Guiding in Québec is unique in that it offers leadership programming specifically designed for girls, led by women, focused on the fundamentals of female leadership, such as confidence, determination, perseverance, and independence. As an extracurricular program for girls, Guiding enables girls and women to challenge themselves with the support that an all-female environment offers. Its innovative, age-appropriate projects are geared towards personal growth and provide our women just as many opportunities to learn new skills as it does our girls.

## Our History

*In the last 100 years, over 7 million Canadian girls and women have been connected to Guiding*

-  In 1909 girls in England demanded to take part in a Boy Scout rally by storming the Crystal Palace in London. Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, was impressed and asked his sister, Agnes, to create a program just for girls.
-  By 1910, the Guiding movement had reached Canada and the first unit was formed in St. Catharines, Ontario.
-  By 1912, there were units in every province including Québec.
-  In 2010, Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a trailblazing organization advocating for girls and women.

## Did You Know?

We are the only organization in Québec that offers comprehensive capacity-development programming in an all-female environment.

Famous Girl Guides from Québec are Céline Dion, Elisha Cuthbert, and former Governor General Jeanne Sauvé. Other well known Canadian Girl Guides include former Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Roberta Bondar (Canada's first female astronaut), Karen Kain, Margaret Atwood, Feist, and Sarah McLachlan.

## Cookies

Girl Guide cookies provide our main source of funds and benefit Girl Guides at all levels. Revenue from the sale of both Classic and Mint Girl Guide cookies is used for the purchase of program supplies, rental of meeting halls, camp subsidies, and other unit activities chosen by the girls. At other levels, revenues are used to develop and implement program resources, and to support special events, leadership development training and international and interprovincial travel. All members are expected to take part in the sale of Girl Guide cookies.

## Badges

Proficiency badges symbolize girls' achievements during their years in Guiding, however, Guiding in Québec includes much more than badges as there are many pins, crests, and other symbols of recognition that girls and adults can earn and wear. Although badges have been a part of girl programming since the inception of Guiding they have evolved with the girls. Some of the badges today's Girl Guides can earn are: cyber citizenship, environmental conservation, media and image, money wise, photography and web design, fashion and interior design, finance and technology, engineering, and community safety.

## Uniforms



Girl Guides of Canada is a uniformed organization for both its girls and women, making them instantly recognizable as part of the same dynamic organization. Its contemporary design was developed in consultation with girl members in Québec and across Canada. Its versatility allows the girls and women to participate in a wide range of activities such as planting trees in a community garden, volunteering at local charities, engaging with local politicians, or canoeing down a river.

## Camping

Québec Council owns and maintains the beautiful Camp Wa-Thik-Ane Girl Guide Camp, offering residential and tenting facilities for the use of our members. Camping is one of the activities that our members enjoy the most and is a classic cornerstone of the Girl Guides of Canada program. Especially in this technological age, camping provides an environment in which girls can connect with each other and nature without distractions. It teaches girls valuable life skills and gives them confidence in their own abilities.

## Québec Girl Guides Go Global

In the past two years, Québec Girl Guide groups have travelled to the following sites and countries:

-  Guiding World Centres: *Pax Lodge* in London, England, *Our Chalet* in Adelboden, Switzerland
-  Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands, New York, and Oregon

## Québec Girl Guides Making a Difference

In December 2013, Girl Guides from Deux-Montagnes helped to brighten up the holidays for seniors in their community by preparing and delivering baskets of baked goods and homemade blankets.

Last year, Girl Guides in Lennoxville organized a toiletries drive to benefit a local women's shelter.

Hundreds of Québec Girl Guides have participated in "Yellow Fish Road", an initiative where participants paint yellow fish around manholes to encourage the community to think about the relationship between our actions and the environment.