



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada



FUN FACTS

INNOVATIVE GIRL PROGRAMS: SUPPORTING GIRL GREATNESS

Guiding's contemporary programming reflects the needs and interests of today's girls. From camps and international trips to badges such as Streetwise, Eating Local, Fashion and Career Awareness, we're offering girls more of what they want.

- **Young Advocates Fund** encourages girls to become active members of their community and the wider world by developing leadership and advocacy skills while planning and implementing their own social change initiatives.
- **Girls United Challenge** gives girls tips and strategies to stand up against bullying, support each other and create a safe and caring Canada for their peers.
- **'Canadian Girls Say...'** is a groundbreaking project that helps girls identify the issues they care about in their communities through photography.
- **Girl EmPower Challenge** offers age-specific activities to help girls learn about healthy, equal-non-violent relationships.
- **Love Yourself Challenge** builds and encourages healthy self-esteem and positive body image. Girls explore aspects of body image, self-esteem, and health and nutrition.
- **Girls for Safer Communities** aims to increase awareness about the safety concerns of girls and women while mobilizing girls to become leaders in their communities.
- **Tree Planting Grants** give girls the tools they need to affect change and improve their environment by coming together to green their communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1909 Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, organized a Scouting Rally at the Crystal Palace in London. To his surprise, a large number of girls also showed up demanding to take part. The girls had been practicing Scouting by signing up with only a first initial and last name. Impressed Baden-Powell asked his sister Agnes to create a program for girls. This was the beginning of Guiding.
- Lady Mary Pellatt, of Casa Loma, was Canada's first Chief Commissioner. She paid the first employee's salary, and hosted the first Girl Guide camp on her farm near Credit River, Ontario.
- In 1917 the value of Guiding was recognized by the Canadian Government with an Act of Parliament approving the Constitution of the Canadian Girl Guides Association as it was then known. The name was changed in 1961, again by Act of Parliament, to Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada.



Fun Facts: Girl Greatness Starts Here

CELEBRITY GUIDES

- Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut and former Girl Guide, juggled Girl Guide cookies in space.
- Some other well-known former Girl Guides include: Margaret Atwood, Sheila Copps, Elisha Cuthbert, Celine Dion, Feist, MP Hedy Fry, Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean, Karen Kain, Sarah McLaughlin, Dini Petty, Dina Pugliese and Mary Walsh.
- Queen Elizabeth II was a Girl Guide.

BADGES

- In 1938, Girl Guides earned badges in Astronomy, Bee Farming, Carpentry and Fire Brigade.
- To earn the Handywoman badge, girls had to complete tasks such as re-making a mattress, laying linoleum, installing a window pane, and splicing a rope.
- To earn the Carpentry badge, girls had to construct two separate joints, construct a box without a lid from a piece of wood 12 inches square and state its capacity, invent and construct a simple arrangement for fastening a door or a gate, and know the nature and common uses of six kinds of wood.
- The Fire Brigade badge was earned by knowing how to deal with shock, hemorrhage, asphyxiation, burns and scalds, unconsciousness from accidents, fits and fainting, and know fire prevention, fire extinction, and rescue work.
- Current badges focus on community involvement and healthy living, and include Cultural Awareness, Peace, Cycling, and Snowshoeing.

UNIFORMS

- The original uniforms were sewn by each individual Girl Guide based on a common pattern.
- The famous neck scarf was introduced in the 1960's and can be used as a sling, or tourniquet in emergency situations, demonstrating the Guiding motto "Be Prepared."
- Originally, badges were sewn on the sleeves of uniform shirts. In 1964 sashes were introduced to hold badges so uniforms could be passed down or given away.
- The 1987 uniform was designed by well-known Canadian fashion designer Alfred Sung.
- In 1988 pants were introduced. At that time, dresses were still an option but were eliminated when the current uniform was designed in 2000.
- In 2009 over 300 girls from across the country participated in the 2060 Uniform Challenge designing uniforms for future generations. Over 30,000 online votes were cast to choose the six winning designs.