

Volunteer role information

District/division/county helper

Why Girlguiding?

Join our 80,000+ volunteers and supporters already making a massive difference to girls and young women. Volunteer for us and you'll become an inspiring role model for our young members and help empower the girls you work with to be their best.

Our helpers give their time flexibly at district, division or county level when an extra pair of hands are needed, or to share a skill or passion they have with our young members. No need to commit to regular meetings, and you don't need any prior guiding experience.

We believe everyone has something unique to offer. Whether you've got a specific skill, a passion or just sheer enthusiasm for young people and the desire to shape their lives for the better, there's a Helper role at Girlguiding for you.

Why we love this role:

This is an incredibly varied, and flexible role. You can take on as much or as little as you want, depending on your availability and skills.

This role is ideal for volunteers who are new to Girlguiding and want to learn more about different roles, to volunteers who have changed their personal circumstances and are unable to commit time on a regular basis or to someone who has irregular or unpredictable work patterns and might be able to offer blocks of their time but not regularly.

We're also looking for volunteers to share their specific skills, experiences and passions with volunteers and young members, helping them create guiding memories to last a lifetime.

This is a great opportunity to make a positive difference in your community, while having fun, learning new skills and meeting new people.

Whether you're an experienced member, leader, parent, carer, student, or someone new to guiding, you'll be our everyday superhero! You'll also play a key role in helping us sustain the work we do with girls and young women and our growth as an organisation.

Some of what you'll do:

As a district, division or county helper you might:

- Support Girlguiding events, projects and activities in your area. Whether it's helping on the day of events, doing research for projects, designing posters, or making tea and sandwiches for a local social event, you can get involved based on your interests, skills and availability.
- Be part of a volunteer resource pool that your leadership team can call on from time to time to support a unit short on adults. This can be one specific unit or different units across the area depending on where your help is needed. For example, if one of the adult helpers at a unit is unwell or away on holiday, you'll be called on to come in and save the day, by being the extra pair of hands needed to make guiding happen. Don't worry if you haven't been to a meeting before - you'll be supporting the leadership team and will never have sole responsibility for any young person.
- Provide extra adult supervision while away on residentials and give practical support to girls and volunteers. For example, you could be the designated minibuss driver or first aider.

- Be part of a skills pool at district, division or county level where you can share a specialist skill or passion with girls and volunteers. For example, you could run a one-off session teaching girls a skill (like dancing) to help them complete a badge or inspire them to try something new.
- If you have good DIY skills, you could provide practical support at venues like the unit meeting place or guide house, doing tasks like fixing leaky pipes or broken door handles.
- You may be asked to provide support across the different levels (district, division or county). For example, as a county helper most of your work will be at county level, but your leadership team may ask you to be an extra pair of hands at a district event.

What will we offer you?

- We'll give you a thorough induction to your role and Girlguiding so you're fully prepared before getting started.
- You'll get great support from your local commissioner who will oversee your involvement. You'll be able to discuss what sort of commitment you can give at the start and so that your commissioner can direct you to suitable opportunities.
- Volunteer no more than 10 times a year - including unit meetings, residentials, camps and events. If you'd like to volunteer on a more regular basis please speak to your commissioner about the roles you could do.
- You'll have lots of training opportunities both in person and online on our [Learning platform](#). You'll have the chance to make your CV sparkle by developing your existing skills and gaining new ones, for example in outdoor work and working as a team.
- We're flexible. We'll have complete respect for your time and the level of involvement you want.
- You'll have the opportunity to meet other volunteers and go to social events.
- We're committed to being an inclusive and impactful organisation where everyone is welcome and free to be themselves. Learn more about our [diversity and inclusion journey](#).
- If you have a disability or long-term condition, we'll [make adjustments](#) to deal with any barriers you may face.
- We have a clear [complaints procedure](#) and support to help manage problems or disagreements.

The [Girlguiding website](#) is full of information to help you in your role.

What qualifications do you need?

- You'll need to complete A Safe Space [Level 1](#) and [2](#) (our online safeguarding training) and have a current Girlguiding [disclosure check](#) for this role.

What skills do you need?

You'll need to be:

- ✓ **Committed to Girlguiding and its values:**
Caring, challenging, empowering, fun, inclusive and inspiring
- ✓ **Good at listening and communicating:**
To help volunteers deliver great guiding for girls

- ✓ **A team player:**
Approachable and enjoy working with volunteers and young people
- ✓ **Flexible:**
Although this is a flexible role, it's important that you communicate your availability with the leadership team so they can plan accordingly
- ✓ **Willing to learn and share your skills:**
Learning and sharing as you go will make sure you get the most out of your guiding experience

You don't need any previous experience - we'll give you the training you need to succeed in this role.

A day in the life...

As a district helper, I support the district leadership team by using my skillset as a photographer to capture some moments at local award ceremonies.

One time I was asked by a Guide leader to give the girls a talk about my career as a photographer and share some skills that I've picked up over the years. I thought nothing of it at the time, but a few weeks later I received a message from the Guide leader to say that my talk inspired some of the girls to complete the Photography interest badge. This made my day and reminded me of how much we have to offer our young people. I can't wait for the next opportunity!

A day in the life...

Before taking up my role as a division helper, I was a unit leader with two guiding groups (Brownies and Guides) in my area. Girlguiding has had such a profound impact on my life, starting from my days as a Brownie and I can't imagine my life without being part of the guiding movement.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has really changed the way in which we all do guiding, and I no longer have the time to commit on a full-time basis due to work and personal circumstances. I was really considering my future in Girlguiding and was heartbroken at the thought of calling it a day.

Thankfully I held on and was introduced to the division helper role by my commissioner. The flexible working style and breadth of duties allows me to contribute to my community in a variety of ways. Since starting the role, I have been asked by my commissioner to support at our local recruitment events and attend unit meetings to help the main leaders orient their new volunteers, which gives the leader more time to spend with the girls. I know that I won't always be here, and so I want to do the best I can to ensure our girls and young women get the same opportunity that I was given all those years ago.

A day in the life...

My partner is a Guide leader and often takes their unit out for residential camps. I don't have much guiding experience myself, but I do have experience driving larger vehicles like minivans. My partner is always busy with planning and doesn't have much time to organise transport for the girls and their camping equipment.

I saw this role advertised on the county website and thought it would be the perfect role for me to give them a hand with. As a county helper, I'm now the designated driver (when I have time!) for most camps in the county and I mainly help transport the tents, BBQs and other camping equipment. Most of my work is behind-the-scenes and the only time I interact with the girls is when I'm helping them to set up their pods, and even then, another adult leader is always in sight.

I've been on two camps so far and it's been a joy! It's fulfilling to know that I'm playing a key role in enabling these camps, which in turn contributes to the growth and development of the girls in our community.

Quick requirement check

1. Disclosure check: **yes**
2. A Safe Space Level: **1 and 2**
3. Attends meetings: **yes**

- This role is open to all.
- Uniform isn't mandatory.
- Girlguiding keeps a note of the length of service of each of our volunteers, and gives awards for long service. As this role isn't for regular helpers, it won't count towards your length of service.
- Subscriptions: As this is an optional membership role any decisions about membership will be made by your commissioner. Please speak to your commissioner if you have any questions.

We're keen to hear from volunteers of all backgrounds, abilities, races, sexual orientations, socio-economic backgrounds, and of all faiths and none. We also welcome volunteers of all ages 18+. We're flexible, and volunteering can be arranged to fit around a busy lifestyle. Girlguiding is committed to making reasonable adjustments to support disabled volunteers so they have access to the same opportunities and experiences as non-disabled volunteers.

Please note this is a volunteer role and does not form part of any contract of employment.