



## Welcome to Girlguiding taster session

**Aim:** To introduce potential or new volunteers to Girlguiding in an accessible, fun and engaging way (especially for those with no previous guiding experience).

**Objectives:** During this event, potential volunteers will:

1. Find out what Girlguiding is and what it offers girls
2. Explore the different volunteer roles available through Girlguiding and what becoming a volunteer with Girlguiding involves
3. Understand what opportunities are available for volunteers in guiding
4. Meet new people and network with local volunteers who will be able to support them going forwards (Commissioners, Advisers etc)
5. Have their questions about Girlguiding answered.

**Set up:**

- Room set up will depend on the space you have available, but try to avoid a formal boardroom style.
- Table of resources, posters, leaflets or maybe a display showcasing local guiding
- Name badges - first names and role if appropriate
- Refreshments
- Sign in sheet
- Signage might be helpful if you're in a big venue
- Fire instructions and info on facilities e.g. toilets
- Any handouts you'd like to give volunteers: some areas have made up 'Warm Welcome' packs containing key leaflets and local information to give. Our new warm welcome toolkit might help you here - search 'warm welcome' on the website
- If you're planning to do recruitment checks on the day you'll need access to a computer and Wi-Fi

This template example has been made for a two hour event, but you can adapt to it to fit the type of event, venue, time, capacity, or where participants are on their volunteering journey.

## Session timetable

Time	Activity	How?	Resources needed (to be filled in)	Objective	Comments
5 mins	Welcome speech	Lead Volunteer		1 and 2	Thank everyone for attending, explain what the event is about and give a brief introduction to Girlguiding and volunteering opportunities in your area.
10 mins	Icebreaker	Activity run by event team		4	This could be something as simple as asking attendees to say their name, why they're interested in volunteering with Girlguiding and to share something about themselves.  Or depending on time, space and audience you could try something fun like a 'speed talking' session or an active icebreaker like 'Me too!' - see below for these activities.
10 mins	What is Girlguiding?	Lead Volunteer		1 and 5	Overview of Girlguiding. You might find it useful to use some/all of the new induction video 'Welcome to Girlguiding' during this section.  Some areas have used quizzes or true & false games as a fun way to introduce Girlguiding.
20 mins	This is Rainbows/ Brownies/ Guides/ The Senior Section	Volunteer or young members		1,4 and 5	Break into four groups. Participants rotate every 5 mins with resources on display from each section e.g. free Trading Services posters, section resources.  Someone with knowledge of a section can then give a brief intro into the section. Remember to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age range</li> <li>• What girls do - you could include some local examples</li> <li>• What girls achieve from being involved</li> <li>• Why you enjoy volunteering with this section</li> </ul>

					<p>Running a small event? One person could walk participants around four stations representing each of the sections or you could give a talk.</p> <p>Some areas have found it useful to run welcome events alongside a group meeting so participants get the chance to see guiding in action.</p>
15 mins	Guiding in your area	Lead Volunteer		1,2,3,4 and 5	<p>Talk about guiding in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The numbers - how many girls, volunteers, waiting list, groups</li> <li>• All the fun that happens</li> <li>• Volunteers needed</li> <li>• Volunteer opportunities and benefits</li> </ul> <p>You might find it useful to have a map showing where groups are based or where you're looking to open new groups.</p>
15 mins	'Just the Job'- activity looking at different guiding roles	Volunteer		2 and 3	<p>Work with the group to match the role title to the role description.</p> <p>You might find our film about flexible volunteering useful during this session, as it features volunteers talking about the range of roles available.</p> <p>You could also run a 'speed talking' session - see more information on this below.</p>
5 mins	Opportunities for volunteers in your area	Lead Volunteer		2,3 and 5	<p>Explain the opportunities available. You might find it useful to have the 'role description' available for each of the roles you're recruiting for. Role descriptions are available on the Girlguiding website.</p> <p>Make sure you also explain that there are wider roles and opportunities too - in case the ones being highlighted don't match a participant's skills and interests. You might find it useful to ask participants to write down any skills or interests they'd like to share with guiding.</p>

10 mins	Opening a new group	Lead Volunteer		2 and 3	If you're looking to open a new group(s) in your area you could explain where and the process for opening a new group alongside the support available to do this.
10 mins	Why volunteer?	Whole event team		3 and 4	<p>Give an overview of some of the benefits of volunteering. A volunteer attending could talk about their own experience here.</p> <p>Don't forget to mention some of the wider opportunities available e.g. GOLD, Advocate, peer education, international opportunities, and so on.</p> <p>Some areas have spoken about or had Trefoil Guild reps attend too.</p>
15 mins	Fun!	Whole event team		4	<p>If you have time and space you could run an activity that shows the fun of guiding, like a team builder balloon tower, a fun game or even marshmallow toasting!</p> <p>You could do a reflective activity like 'You're my star' (from Free Being Me - see below for instructions), or just have some time to chat.</p>
5 mins	Thank you and feedback	Lead Volunteer			<p>Say thanks to participants and those who made the event possible.</p> <p>Explain the next steps of joining or continuing on guiding journey.</p> <p>You could also use a feedback form to ask participants about the roles or groups they're interested in or skills they have to share.</p>

## Activity examples

### Speed talking

Duration: 10 mins

Directions:

1. Split the group in half. Ask each group to form a circle, with one smaller circle inside another bigger circle.
2. Each person is given x amount of time to tell their partner their name, why they're interested in volunteering and something about themselves. This could be something silly like 'if I had a superhero what superpower would I have?' or it could be asking them to share a skill or interest they have. You could put current volunteers on the inside circle, ensuring that every participant speaks with a current volunteer.

### Me too!

Duration: 5 mins

Directions:

1. One person stands in the middle and makes a statement such as 'I have a brother'. If this is true to someone else in the room they shout out 'me too'
2. They then move to be the first to link arms with the original person. The first one to link arms is the winner and makes the next statement.

### You're my star (from Free Being Me)

Duration: 10 mins

You'll need: star shaped cards and pens

Directions:

1. Give each participant a star shaped card and ask them to write a positive message that they'd like to share with others, encouraging them to celebrate who they are
2. They could add on the back something they would like to do once they've joined Girlguiding.