



Connecting your community

What you'll find out:

- How Girlguiding is structured.
- About different types of community-based activities.
- How units can support local areas.
- How you can connect with other young leaders.

From our youngest Rainbows to our most experienced leaders, everyone in guiding is part of a UK-wide and global community. Together, the millions of people involved in Guiding and Scouting around the world make up the largest community of girls and women ever! And closer to home, guiding is an important part of all our local communities.

Who supports you

Guiding starts with a unit – a group of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers. But beyond your unit, there are wider communities where more and more groups come together. For example, groups of units come together as districts, and districts come together as

divisions. Take a look at the diagram below to see how it all fits together – or check out the [structure of Girlguiding webpage](#) for more information. And remember, at every level there will be different volunteers to help you with your role.

Local teams: leading guiding from the ground up

Each level of Girlguiding is led by a volunteer called a commissioner. They have a team around them, and support leaders and other volunteers to make guiding the best possible experience for members in their area.

They organise events to help volunteers to learn and grow, including county days, district or division meetings, arrange training courses (like first aid), and run fun activities with the units.

Want to try out a local activity or event? Your young leader coordinator or local commissioner can help you – just make sure you copy in another adult when you [contact them](#). If you know their names, you can find them on the GO directory. Otherwise, ask your leaders for help.

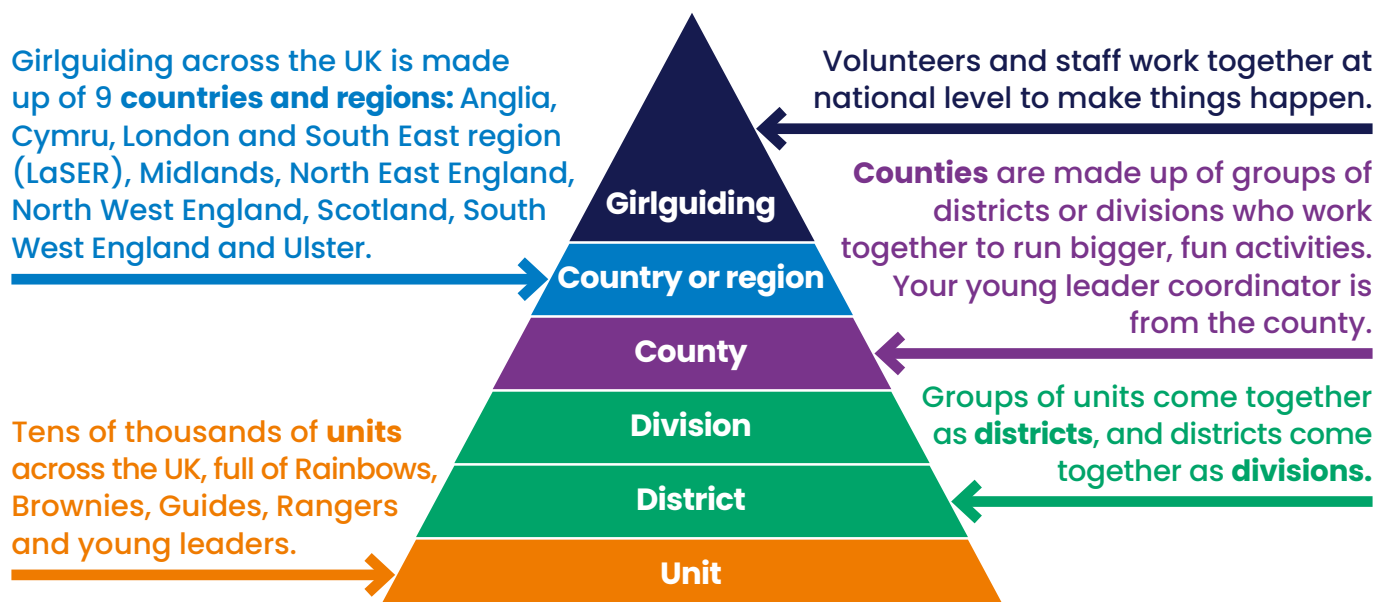
Girlguiding across the UK is made up of 9 **countries and regions**: Anglia, Cymru, London and South East region (LaSER), Midlands, North East England, North West England, Scotland, South West England and Ulster.

Tens of thousands of **units** across the UK, full of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and young leaders.

Volunteers and staff work together at national level to make things happen.

Counties are made up of groups of districts or divisions who work together to run bigger, fun activities. Your young leader coordinator is from the county.

Groups of units come together as **districts**, and districts come together as **divisions**.



Headquarters: volunteers and staff together

Girlguiding has a headquarters in London which is led by the board of trustees and is run by our most senior volunteer, the chief guide, alongside the chief executive, our most senior staff member. Staff and volunteers at headquarters work together to support all volunteers and create amazing resources, opportunities and experiences for all girls. Find out more about [how Girlguiding is run](#).



Structure quiz

1 What level is Girlguiding North East England?



2 What volunteer role supports the local unit leaders – including putting on training events and fun days, and agreeing to trips?



3 If you have a question about your unit that you can't ask your leader about, who could you ask?



4 True or false, a team of volunteers can run a local area?



5 True or false, Girlguiding has an office in London for staff to work at a national level?



Answers: 1. country or region, 2. district or division commissioner, 3. young leader coordinator, 4. True, commissioners can have a team of volunteers and staff to support them, 5. True, and you can get a badge just for visiting!

Community queens

Exploring your local area, supporting community events and taking part in social action has always been a big part of what makes Girlguiding special. Here are some examples from other young leaders about how they, and their units, have connected with their local community.

Exploring your area

- Go geocaching in the town centre – it's fun to find those hidden surprises.
- Go litter picking in the local parks.
- Go to a local event or organise one.

Supporting community events

- Run a fundraising stall at a community gala.
- Take part in a Remembrance service or parade.
- Go to an activity session at a local library, community or religious centre – there's lots going on in local communities where you can make friends and give something new a try.

Social action

- Pick a local charity or cause and run a fundraiser – ceilidhs and discos are always popular.
- Write to your local MP or council member about a local issue that's important to you.



What is social action?

In a nutshell, [social action](#) just means taking action for other people to make a positive difference. It's about helping other people and giving something back.

Remember, it's important to connect with your community in ways that work for you. If you don't like crowds, avoid big fundraising events, something like litter picking might be better. There's something for everyone.



Community connections

How does your unit connect with the community at the moment? Can you think of any other things your unit could do?



Connecting with other young leaders

Have you ever met any other young volunteers outside of your unit? Having someone to talk to and exchange ideas with can help you (and them) become a better young leader.



Here are some examples of ways to connect with other young leaders:



- Go to training and events in your local area, either face-to-face or online.
- Find opportunities for young volunteers at local campsites or events.
- Join young volunteer groups on social media.

Use the [opportunity finder](#) to help you make connections with other young leaders across the whole of the UK through fun opportunities.



Amazing!

You've discovered all about connecting with your community. Good luck with taking what you've learnt out into the world – you've got this!