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**Girlguiding**

# Trainers' notes for the Young Leader Qualification

June 2014 update

These Trainers' notes give all programme Trainers an overview of the changes that have been made to the Young Leader Qualification so that you can support Leaders, Advisers or Commissioners to implement it.

## What is the Young Leader Qualification?

The Young Leader Qualification (YLQ) is part of The Senior Section programme, which also includes opportunities such as the Queen's Guide Award, The Senior Section Permit, Look Wider, the Chief Guide's Challenge and the Commonwealth Award. For more information about these other opportunities, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do?.

The YLQ is open to any member of The Senior Section aged between 14 and 18. It is designed to help Young Leaders take an active, positive part in running a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide unit, and is a great opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills.

All Young Leaders working towards the YLQ will have a supporter who will give advice and review the Young Leader's progress. This could be someone within the unit, a Leader of The Senior Section, another Leader or someone else who has experience of the YLQ. A Young Leader can choose her own supporter, or the local Adviser for The Senior Section or Commissioner can help her to find one. Please note that members of The Senior Section do not have to complete the YLQ to be a Young Leader.

## What are the benefits of the YLQ for Young Leaders?

The YLQ enables a Young Leader to build skills in leadership, communication and team working, all of which will be impressive additions to her CV. It supports her development as a Leader, allowing her to become more involved in the Leadership Team and feel like a valued member of the unit. It will also hopefully develop her enthusiasm for guiding and encourage her to become an adult member of Girlguiding.

## Why have changes been made to the YLQ?

In 2013 a review of the current YLQ took place. We recognised that there was a low uptake for the qualification and we were concerned that this meant Young Leaders were not receiving adequate support to enable them to grow and develop in their role. In order to strengthen the leadership journey for young women in guiding, we needed to ensure that Young Leaders were effectively supported and integrated into their Leadership Teams.

A Task and Finish Group consisting of Young Leaders, Advisers for The Senior Section and Leaders was recruited. It was agreed that the existing syllabus of the YLQ needed to be rewritten to make it more accessible for 14- to 16-year-olds (the most common age group completing the YLQ). The need for an official workbook to provide additional support for Young Leaders as they work through the YLQ was identified. It was also agreed that

support should be offered for Leaders who have Young Leaders in their units, whether or not they are completing the YLQ.

The new syllabus, workbook and Notes for Leaders were piloted with Young Leaders and members of The Senior Section.

## What has changed?

The previous YLQ contained two modules: Your role in the programme and Your role in Girlguiding. The new syllabus breaks down the themes of the YLQ into six modules.

1. **Module 1: Go! and sectional training** - focuses on the Girlguiding membership system (Go!) and learning more about the section the Young Leader works with.
2. **Module 2: Leadership** - looks at different leadership styles and when the Young Leader should use them, for example with girls of different ages.
3. **Module 3: Planning** - allows the Young Leader to demonstrate how well she understands the programme for the section she volunteers with. It will help her to make sure that the programme is right for the range of ages and abilities in her unit, that all girls take part in planning the programme, and that the activities are enjoyable for the girls.
4. **Module 4: Working with girls** - allows the Young Leader to demonstrate that she understands the girls she works with and provides the best opportunities for them to grow and develop.
5. **Module 5: Local guiding** - looks at the structure of guiding in the Young Leader's local area and how it supports her.
6. **Module 6: Your role in guiding** - allows the Young Leader to show that she understands the Promise and Law, and her commitment to guiding.

Each time a Young Leader completes a clause of the YLQ, this should still be signed off in her *Look Wider and More* record book (order code 6110), which has been updated to include the new syllabus. The clauses can be signed off by the Young Leader's supporter, her Leader or members of the unit, as appropriate.

A downloadable *YLQ workbook* is now available for Young Leaders at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do? > Young Leader Qualification. It provides further information for each of the modules and clauses of the YLQ and a place for them to make notes and record their progress.

There are also *Notes for Leaders* for those who have a Young Leader in their unit, whether or not they are completing the YLQ. These notes provide information about the YLQ and how to support a Young Leader through the YLQ in a unit setting. They also offer guidance on encouraging a Young Leader to play an active role in the Leadership Team and details of other opportunities available to members of The Senior Section. You can find the *Notes for Leaders* at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) > Members' area > Building your skills > Becoming a Leader > Young Leader Qualification.

**Note:** On page 28 of the new *Look Wider and More Record Book*, please be aware that Module 5, clause a of the Young Leader Qualification (YLQ) is incorrect and should read as follows: a) Discuss with your Leader or supporter the structure of guiding in your local area. A correct pdf version of the YLQ syllabus in full is available to download from [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do? > Young Leader Qualification.

## Does the YLQ still count towards the LQ?

As with the previous YLQ, many of the clauses of the new syllabus automatically count towards the Leadership Qualification (LQ), which is open to members aged 16 and above.

Any evidence a Young Leader gathers as she progresses through the clauses of the YLQ should be kept together for her to use as evidence for the LQ, should she go on to complete it. This could include blogs, photographs,

examples of activities, or notes from meetings the Young Leader has attended. It doesn't have to be neatly typed up - rough notes are fine.

The overlap between the modules of the LQ and those of the new YLQ is shown below.

Leadership Qualification	Where covered in the Young Leader Qualification
Module 1, part 2a	Module 3, part a
Module 1, part 2b	Module 3, part b
Module 1, part 2e	Module 2, parts a, b and c
Module 1, part 2f	Module 1, part b
Module 1, part 3a	Module 3, part ci
Module 1, part 3b	Module 3, part cii
Module 1, part 3e	Module 3, part d
Module 1, part 4a	Module 4, part a
Module 1, part 4c	Module 4, part d
Module 2, part 1a	Module 6, part a
Module 2, part 1b	Module 6, part b
Module 2, part 3a	Module 5, part b

## Where can I find the new YLQ resources?

*Look Wider and More* - available to buy from [www.girlguidingshop.co.uk](http://www.girlguidingshop.co.uk) and local volunteer shops (order code 6110).

*Notes for Leaders* - available to download from [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) > Members' area > Building your skills > Becoming a Leader > Young Leader Qualification.

*Young Leader Qualification workbook* - available to download from [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do? > Young Leader Qualification.

## Questions

### Can a Young Leader who is working through the previous syllabus continue to do so?

Yes, she can continue to complete the syllabus she is working on rather than transferring to the updated syllabus. Alternatively, anything that she has previously completed can be transferred to the new syllabus.

### Do local Commissioners still sign off the YLQ?

Yes, a Young Leader should check everything through with her supporter. Her local Commissioner will then sign off her record book to confirm that the qualification has been completed. After this, the local Commissioner should arrange for the Young Leader's badge and certificate to be presented to her.

### Do Young Leaders completing the YLQ still have a supporter?

Yes, this hasn't changed. For further information about supporters, please see the *YLQ workbook* or *Notes for Leaders*.

### **Are the YLQ badge and certificate still the same?**

The certificate was updated in 2013 when the updated resources for The Senior Section were launched. The badge remains the same and is available from County Badge Secretaries.

### **When can a Young Leader begin her LQ?**

When she reaches her 16th birthday. If a Young Leader decides she would like to become a Leader, she should be put in touch with her local Commissioner, who will ensure that she is registered for the LQ and assigned a Mentor to support her.

### **If a Young Leader has completed the YLQ, has she already completed any elements of the LQ?**

Yes, please see the table above, which maps the YLQ to the LQ. This table is also available to download from [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do? > Young Leader Qualification.

### **Local members of The Senior Section have just bought copies of *Look Wider and More* that don't contain the updated syllabus. Do they have to buy new copies?**

No, the updated syllabus and sign-off pages are available to download from [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do? > Young Leader Qualification.

### **Does a Young Leader completing the YLQ have to use the workbook?**

No, the workbook is an additional resource to support Young Leaders through the qualification where they feel it would be beneficial. It does contain lots of useful information, however, so we would suggest that everyone has a look at it.

### **Can a Young Leader use clauses of the YLQ to sign off other areas of The Senior Section programme?**

Yes - for example, Phase 3 of the Community Action Octant, the Leadership Octant and parts of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. For more information about The Senior Section awards and qualifications, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection) > What can I do?.