

Guiding Conversations



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Getting ready for the new programme

Introduction

The Girlguiding programme is what girls do in their unit meetings and in their own time - it's their badges, awards and activities. It also describes how we support every girl to achieve her potential and be a powerful force for good in the world. The programme for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and The Senior Section is changing. We have spoken with leaders, girls and parents about how to continue to be our best and what programme change is needed to do this. The resulting new programme will be revealed on 21st July 2018. We'll change over to it completely at the beginning of the academic year in 2019. This guiding conversation aims to help you to think about how you can best support leaders to understand and implement this change in their units from summer 2018 to summer 2019.

How to use this Guiding Conversation

As a commissioner, you can use this practical tool to:

- Explore your leaders' understanding of the new programme and their attitudes towards it.
- Tell them where they can find the latest information on the new programme.
- Help them to start thinking about how programme renewal will work in their unit.

It includes background information and questions to help people discuss it at district or division meetings. By using this resource, we hope your leaders and you will feel excited about the new programme and confident about the information available to support you with this change.

Why the change?

Girls' lives have changed, and we want to continue to be there for them. We spoke with volunteers, young members and parents to find out what they want. They asked for a programme that is challenging, exciting, has variety and which appeals as much to the oldest girls as the new joiners. They said we need a programme that demonstrates a clear journey through the sections, with a structure that gives girls more choice about what they do and with user friendly materials. So, we're acting on their ideas.

What's new?

The new programme will be structured around six core themes across every section. Together, they provide fun and stretching experiences, offer balance and variety, and help girls to take a lead in guiding. They make up the package of skills girls have told us they need:

Our programme

THEMES AND ICONS



KNOW MYSELF



EXPRESS MYSELF



BE WELL



HAVE ADVENTURES



TAKE ACTION



SKILLS FOR MY FUTURE

ANNIVERSARY BADGES



RAINBOWS



BROWNIES



GUIDES



RANGERS

INTEREST BADGES



UNIT MEETING ACTIVITIES



SKILLS BUILDERS



THEME AWARDS

× 6 + CHALLENGE =

GOLD AWARDS



1. **Know Myself:** Girls get to know who they are, and their role in Girlguiding and the wider world. It's where our Promise sits.
2. **Be Well:** Girls look after themselves and others' physical and mental wellbeing.
3. **Express Myself:** Girls get to showcase and develop their creativity; learn to communicate better with others.
4. **Take Action:** Empowers girls to make a difference and use their voice to help their local community and the wider world.
5. **Have Adventures:** Girls get out and explore the outdoors and nature.
6. **Skills For My Future:** Provides the building blocks for girls to become independent and successful in life.

Within each of the themes, girls will be able to choose from a range of fun unit meeting activities, skills builder badges and interest badges that enable girl-led guiding. We're also going to introduce awards for themes, membership anniversaries and gold awards for each section.

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The Senior Section

In the new programme, the Senior Section will be changing. We spoke to more than 4,000 girls and because of their recommendations we are transforming The Senior Section. It will now be known as Rangers and is for 14-18-year-old girls. As part of the new programme, girls can continue to grow with us from Rainbows right up to Rangers. They'll have a clear route to follow, while having fun, making friends, learning new skills and building a sense of independence.

Instead of being part of the new section, girls aged 18-25 will be supported to take on challenges that help them become the women they want to be. Challenges such as peer education, the Queen's Guide Award, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Guiding Overseas Linked with Development and unit leadership roles.

What's staying the same?

- The Promise and Guide Law will stay the same - they're the beating heart of our movement.
- We will continue to follow the guiding method, based on the Five Essentials.
- There will still be badges and awards to celebrate achievements.

- And there will still be flexibility for each unit to make it their own.
- The core programme will not fill every single meeting - there will still be space for traditions, games, parties and trips, events with your district or division, and for the excitement of the first sleepover, holiday or camp!
- Most important of all, we are keeping the fun! This will not feel like school, as it is learning by doing.

Our route

- **November 2016 to summer 2017:** we explored plans for the new programme together. Since November 2016 over 26,000 of you have participated in testing resources as they've been developed.
- **Summer 2017 to summer 2018:** a year of development, trying new things and testing. 15,500 girls helped to test the unit meeting activities (UMA).
- **Summer 2018 to summer 2019:** The new programme is revealed! It includes a range of new resources to help you do what you do best, plus the learning and development tools to support you to do it. This year is a changeover period. You'll still be able to use all of the current programme while you get to grips with the new one. But by September 2019 we'll be switching over to the complete new programme. Training opportunities will be available as soon as we reveal the new programme in the form of webinars, e-learning and face-to-face training in your local area.

Discussion points

Get everyone talking at your district/division meeting with the following questions:

1. What most excites you about the new programme? What do you think your girls will love the most?
2. What were your initial thoughts and feelings when you heard there was going to be a new programme? Has anybody been involved in testing the activities in development? What was their experience?
3. How much do you feel you know about the new programme? Do you know where to look for the latest information about it?
4. What are your biggest concerns or worries about the new programme?
5. What do you think might get in the way of you delivering the new programme?
6. How can we help and support each other with programme change?

Thinking about the Five Essentials

Five key ideas tie together everything we do:

- 1 Working together in small groups
- 2 Encouraging self-governance and decision making
- 3 A balanced and varied girl-led programme
- 4 Caring for the individual
- 5 Sharing a commitment to a common standard

They apply to all young members and adult volunteers. Think about the Five Essentials when planning and running activities, as well as in your relationships with girls, and adults in Girlguiding.

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Key areas for commissioners to consider

- Ensure all volunteers, including unit helpers, young leaders, etc., in your district know how the programme is changing, when it will be revealed and where to find the latest information. What processes can you put into place to spread this information?
- Start considering how you will support leaders through the changeover year in 2018/19 and follow up with them to help them embed the new programme in their units.
- Consider how you will encourage volunteers to make use of the training opportunities that will be provided throughout 2018 and 2019 on the new programme. Who might want to access in-person training, e-learning or webinars? Find out what plans might be emerging locally for training opportunities.

Area action plan

As part of, or following, your discussions, why not put together a new programme action plan for your area? You might also want to think about how you will monitor any actions, so you can share what others are doing.

Top tip

What if you are unsure how to answer a question, or an issue raised during a discussion? Provide a 'question box' for participants to use. This will allow you time to respond accurately and appropriately to any queries. It could also help you to identify any training needs for your area. You can email questions to ourjourney@girlguiding.org.uk and we'll respond.

Further information

The most up-to-date information on the new programme is on the Girlguiding website, including:

- [General information](#) on the new programme
- Regular updates in Discover, grow - so make sure your email is up to date on GO!
- Information for [leaders, trainers and volunteers](#)
- What other [members are saying](#)

Email your questions to ourjourney@girlguiding.org.uk