



Step into Guiding



Step into Guiding – spreading awareness of Girlguiding and showing what we do to parents, your community and prospective volunteers, to increase membership of girls and adults.

This booklet contains exciting ideas for your unit, district, or division to try between 13 May and 9 June and beyond. Don't forget there's Volunteers' week and The Big Help Out to get involved in too! We know you'll have lots more ideas we'd love to hear about them for future initiatives.



There is a badge available for everyone who gets involved with Step into Guiding activities. The girls and adults (female or male) attending an event could receive the badge. Please make your own decisions regarding when, who and what activities need to be completed to gain the badge.

Note: References to “adults in this pack represents parents, guardians, or adults known to the leaders, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers. Adults can be substituted with “friend” of the current members if your need is for girls not adults.



Exciting things to try in your unit

Amazing women – discover the history of some amazing women and plan an evening around them. Invite the adults and/or the general public to attend the meeting. Here are some amazing examples of great women – Ada Lovelace (1815–1852), Margot Fonteyn (1919 – 1991), Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836 – 1917) Ann Lister (1791 – 1840), Mary Seacole (1805 – 1881) Violette Szabo (1921 – 1945).

Hold a **bake-off style** competition with adults as guest judges.

Bird/insect evening – use adults to help make bird feeders, bug hotels, bee feeder etc – find a local expert who could come and talk to you about the local environment.

Book evening where girls share their favourite story/ poem/ author, and adults share their favourite story from their childhood or one they enjoy reading to their own children. Come dressed as their favourite book character. Have an age-appropriate quiz or play a wide game matching author to book, collect characters from a story/book/novel.

Bring an adult to a meeting – let the girls decide on the theme of the evening and let the girls lead it or get the girls to bring an adult to the meeting and everyone does the same activity lead by the leaders.



Day camp – play wide games and learn outdoor skills.

Escape room challenge – solve clues, puzzles e.g. to get the combination to unlock a treasure chest. Collect gold coins/tokens to swap for the treasure. Adults can join in; help supervise or just be a part of the evening and have fun!

First aid evening – girls learn basic first aid. Visiting adults can help with bandaging or be the casualty. Do scenarios: what would you do if..... You might have an adult who is a nurse or have access to a first response trainer who could help.

Games evening – play a mixture of board games and traditional guiding games (Hedgehogs, Cat & mouse, NSEW, Sleeping lions, Duck, duck, goose). Adults can play along – have a go and have fun!



Garden to table – grow something to eat evening. Decorate pots and plant seeds with help of adults. Watch them grow and then cook (if needed) and serve on a special evening.

Increasing diversity – do any of your members know girls from different backgrounds who traditionally may not have thought of joining us i.e. children with disabilities, different cultures & religions who might come along and share stories, activities or experiences with your members? Why not invite them to come along? Look out for our new Girlguiding Midlands resource pack coming out later this year – “Sparkle Day” in partnership with The Newlife Charity for Disabled Children.



Internet safety event – invite an expert to share information with girls and their adult. There’s some great activities from [WAGGGS](#) and great age-appropriate advice about [online safety here](#). Remember to follow [Girlguiding’s digital safeguarding policy](#).

Invite an adult to help at 3 meetings –
Week 1 – the adult will complete the same activity as their invitee.
Week 2 – ask the adult to work with/support a group of girls with an activity.
Week 3 – maybe do a bit more, depending on how confident the adult is. The adult gets a [certificate](#). The girl gets a badge.

Just 2 more – does your unit have the capacity and can run safely if you were to offer 1 or 2 more girls on your waiting list a place?

Make something at a unit meeting (with adults /visitors) which they can keep and has the Girlguiding logo on it.



Outdoor evening – cooking outside (s ’mores, lemonade pancakes), cooking in a can, colander, singing, wide game, etc. Get adults to join in and have fun!

Pamper evening – who doesn’t like being pampered? The girls can treat their significant adult or each other and their friends to a very special night out.

Share your culture – adults come and run a night educating on their culture – try new foods, explore items, play games etc.

Share your skill night – ask adults who have a unique skill come and teach it to the unit – why not have several and have drop in stalls to circulate around.

Spare capacity – speak to other leaders locally to see if they have places for girls on your waiting list who may never get a place with you – let’s not lose these girls!



More adventures in the community

Contact your local **after school club** and arrange a visit. With permission, do an activity with the children or hand leaflets to parents/guardians as they pick up their children.

Approach a local large employer to see if they can support you with anything in kind i.e. materials for decorating your meeting place, help with repairs/maintenance. After helping us they may want to get more involved! Look out for a new Girlguiding Midlands resources pack coming soon to help you progress with **corporate volunteering**.

Contact local schools (who run **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**) and let them know that we welcome D of E volunteers. Let's invest in the leaders of the future.

Hold a **design an outfit** evening using 'trash' (bin bags, newspaper, crisp packets) with invited parents/ their friends to help out. Have a catwalk at the end of the evening to show off their creations – you could ask a local dignitary or community figure to judge.



Hosting a fundraiser evening or event and asking adults to help out with a stall or game.

Contact your local **National Trust** property and see if you can run an event there.

Hold a **picnic in the park** as a unit/division or county (remember to have a back up plan for poor weather). Use a local park where the public can see the girls in uniform having fun.



Create a recruitment table for your district or division.

Showcase what Girlguiding is about – display uniform badges old and new, programme cards, and badge books. This is likely to draw people in who used to be a Brownie, Guide or ranger – have games to play, and lots of things to do to keep them with you for a while.

Take your recruitment table to local events – to attract both volunteers and girl members. Why not try Pride, family events, county shows, agricultural shows, local fairs or your local junior parkrun?

Take along a laptop and show videos showcasing Girlguiding.



Proactive recruitment

Create a division Facebook group for all volunteers in your division and share ideas and events completed or coming up – remember to follow the [social media community guidelines](#) and [digital safeguarding policy](#).



Flexible guiding – How flexible can you be with your meeting times? Would people be more inclined to volunteer to run a new unit once a month on a Saturday or Sunday for 3 or 4 hours? Who knows – why not discuss with your waiting list parents. There's suggestions on the [Girlguiding website](#) about other ways to work flexibly with volunteers, and a [great video](#) too!

Invite all parents on Go who have registered an interest in their daughter joining to a meeting. At the meeting do some fun activities (including the adults) and then let the adults know that if we had more leaders to open new units their daughters would get places sooner – can they help? If they can't, do they know people we could approach?

GLAM (Guiding Links Across Midlands) units

If you have lots of girls on your waiting list don't forget to direct them to the GLAM units who run meetings online and will look after these new girls until you have a place locally for them.

Parents can find out more and register by emailing:

- E-mail: glambrownies@girlguiding-midlands.org.uk
- E-mail: glamguides@girlguiding-midlands.org.uk
- E-mail: glamrangers@girlguiding-midlands.org.uk



Hold a volunteer recruitment **poster competition** – ask your girls to create a A4 poster to promote volunteering with your unit (with the Girlguiding [enquiry link](#)). Then put it in an unusual place that can be seen by lots of people and take a photo. Run a mini competition to see who can get it in the most unusual place.

Create some **social media** posts and schedule them throughout Step into Guiding month – why not book onto our [social media for growth session](#)? There are posts and images ready created for you in the [recruitment toolkit](#) on the Girlguiding website.



Useful people & resources to help you

Your county
or division
growth co-
ordinator

Girlguiding's
recruitment
toolkit available
on the Girlguiding
website

Girlguiding
Midlands' Stay
with
Girlguiding
resource



Come start with us videos

Girl recruitment videos

Volunteer recruitment videos



When you've finished



We'd love to hear all about how you got on using the ideas in this Step into Guiding pack. Please complete [this form](#) to let us know what you've tried, what went well and what you'd like to see in the future.

Order your badges using our [online shop](#) – there's an option to pay by cheque at checkout. Remember you can order badges for all girls and adults involved in Step into Guiding – even your expert visitors!



To pay by cheque

Use this drop down menu to change "Secure online payment" to "cheque"

Then place your order

Please put your name and membership number on the back of your cheque so we can match it to your online order.

Send your cheque to:

Girlguiding Midlands
21 Lower Church Street
Ashby de la Zouch
LE65 1AB