



ICE:

Northern Ireland

Parent/carer FAQs

What is ICE?

ICE stands for International Community Experience. It is an international-style trip to give Guides a taste of what it is like to travel with Girlguiding.

What does ICE involve?

The Guides who are selected for ICE will attend a series of briefing events (including a day and overnight event) to help them get to know each other. The adventure will culminate in a four night, five-day trip to Northern Ireland between the dates of 6-12 April 2026.

The dates for ICE aren't in our school holidays!

We have tried our best to pick a date that matches the school holidays for the majority of education authorities in the Midlands region, however we know that some schools and areas will vary. Please make sure that you check the dates for your Guide's school before committing.

Will my Guide's unit leaders go on the trip?

No – ICE has its own leadership team selected by Girlguiding Midlands.

What if my Guide is too young/old to apply?

ICE is becoming a regular fixture in the Girlguiding Midlands calendar, so members who are currently too young will have opportunities to apply in the future. Guides who are too old for ICE are in the age group eligible for region international trips – ask your unit leader about the opportunities available.

What does ICE cost?

ICE will cost £820 per Guide, to cover all briefing activities and the trip, including food, travel, accommodation, activities, and insurance. We intend that briefing activities will include a day, and a sleepover, subject to budget and availability.

Does my Guide need to fundraise for the trip?

We encourage Guides to fundraise, as fundraising is an important part of international trips and a great skill to develop, however it is not a requirement.

What does the actual trip involve?

We will travel to Belfast and stay for 4 nights in a Girlguiding activity centre. We will take part in adventurous activities, explore the local area, and learn about the environment and our surroundings in the process.

Do Guides need to attend a selection event?

No. There are 24 spaces available on the trip. If we receive more than 24 applications, we will allocate spaces via a ballot:

- Applications will be placed into a ballot for their Girlguiding county. For each of the 11 counties, two entries will be drawn.
- If there are 2 or fewer applications for a county, those applications will be allocated a space.
- If a county does not have enough applicants to fill their allotted two spaces, all remaining applications (from all counties) will be placed in a ballot for the unfilled spaces, plus the additional two spaces not allocated to a county.
- Priority will be given to Guides who have not been on a previous ICE experience with Girlguiding Midlands, however previous participants are welcome to apply.

If fewer than 24 applications are received, all applicants will be allocated a place.

Does my Guide need to have experience of camping or other residentials?

No! It would be great if Guides do have some experience of residentials, whether that's a Guide camp or a Brownie holiday, but it is not required. We know that Guides have had different experiences in their guiding journeys and will take their levels of experience into account in our planning.

I have another question

If you have any other questions or queries not answered here, you can contact us on midlands.headoffice@girlguiding-midlands.org.uk

Expected payment schedule

Deposit	15 June 2025	£150
Payment 2	15 July 2025	£115
Payment 3	15 August 2025	£115
Payment 4	15 September 2025	£115
Payment 5	15 October 2025	£115
Payment 6	15 November 2025	£115
Payment 5	15 February 2026	£95

