



ICE: Northern Ireland

Unit leadership 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 events) 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

Do unit leaders need to attend?

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

What do unit leaders need to do?

We ask that you promote the opportunity to girls who are eligible and share the application information with them. If any of your Guides apply, we will contact you to check that they are currently active in Girlguiding. We will also provide some unit leader updates throughout the programme to help you encourage and support the girls attending, however all admin will be handled directly between Girlguiding Midlands and the Guide's family/carers.

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

We hope that ICE will become a regular fixture in the Girlguiding Midlands calendar, so that 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 – talk to your local international adviser about the opportunities available.

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.

What does ICE cost?

ICE will cost £820, to cover all briefing activities and the trip, including food, accommodation, travel, and insurance.

Do Guides 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.

Do Guides 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 on their guiding journeys, and will take their levels of experience into account in our planning.

What makes a Guide suitable for this trip?

We are looking for Guides who are excited by the opportunity to travel and meet new people. We are not looking for your 'best' or most accomplished Guides, but ones who will enjoy and benefit from the experience.

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

Will I get updates about the trip?

Yes, we will share updates with unit leaders to help you support your Guide and keep you up to date.

How can I support my Guide/s participating in ICE?

It would be great if you could talk to your Guide/s about the trip, how it's going, any worries they may have, and what they are excited about! Some Guides may want to fundraise, so any advice or local leads you can provide would be great. You could encourage your Guide to talk to other Guides and share what they will be doing, perhaps with a Northern Ireland themed evening or talking about the trip afterwards. We know that leaders are busy people, so there are no particular expectations!

The dates of ICE aren't in school holidays for us!

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.



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