

February 2009

World Thinking Day, February 22nd 2009

What's so important about February 22nd? Well for most people it may just be an ordinary day, but for 10 million girls and women worldwide, it is a day for celebration. Each year on February 22nd, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world celebrate World Thinking Day. This special day marks the joint birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell who founded the Guiding and Scouting Movements. World Thinking Day reminds the girls that they are all part of a global organisation supporting girls and young women, providing opportunities and helping them to develop new skills.

Each year a theme is developed for World Thinking Day and for 2009, girls worldwide say: "stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases". It is a fascinating opportunity for our members to learn about the dangers of disease in a fun and safe environment. They will take part in varied activities that will increase their knowledge of the dangers and teach them how to spread the word to their families and friends.

The Irish Girl Guides will be holding events all over the country. In particular, Barry Andrews, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs will be getting into the spirit of the day. He will be joining the Ladybirds, Brownies and Guides in Ballybrack, Co. Dublin on Sunday 22nd for their Thinking Day celebration.

Other groups will have celebrations in their own localities and some may hold a Thinking Day ceremony in their local church or place of worship. They will all raise money to go towards the World Thinking Day Fund which enables WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) to reach even more girls and young women across the globe.