



## ***Girl Guide Connections***

*This month's news:*

*September 2019*

- [Round-up of this summer's overseas adventures](#)
- [Former Chief Commissioner Jillian van Turnhout awarded a Europe Region medal of service](#)
- [A new Guiding year begins for 550 Units across Ireland](#)
- [Irish Girl Guides' Programme - what's it all about?](#)
- [Senior Branchers raise €2,752 for Women's Aid and Focus Ireland at Electric Picnic](#)

Dear

We hope you had a good summer!

In recent weeks we have welcomed back to these shores over 400 Irish Girl Guides (IGG) members from a number of **overseas adventures** - England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Croatia, Switzerland, Lithuania and India. One of the groups included 39 Senior Branch members and 11 Leaders who went to **Sangam World Centre** in Pune, India. It was a real educational and cultural experience and they are going to use their new knowledge to develop a new badge for IGG members on responsible consumerism. The badge is supported by Irish Aid's Development Education department.

As well as exploring the area, meeting local people, going on hikes and shopping for saris, the group members took part in **community action projects** in local schools and retirement homes. It was a life-changing experience for all who took part.



You can read several members' accounts of the trip in the [news section of our website](#) as well as blog posts about other Girl Guide summer adventures.

Four IGG Leaders recently attended the **16th European Guide and Scout Conference** in Croatia where they delivered a presentation on IGG's **partnerships** with various organisations, including Trócaire, Aer Lingus, Engineers Ireland and European Movement Ireland. There was great interest amongst the other Guiding organisations in the way we work with our partners to achieve our mission.



During the conference former IGG Chief Commissioner, **Jillian van Turnhout**, was awarded a **medal of service** in recognition of her outstanding service to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting at European level. She is the first IGG member to receive this award!

## **A New Guiding Year**

September is the start of the Guiding year when our 11,000 members aged 5 and over

resume their weekly meetings. These hives of activity take place in schools, parish halls and community centres throughout the country. By doing the IGG **Journey Programme**, girls develop **confidence, independence, teamwork, leadership** and other essential life-skills through a variety of indoor and outdoor challenges.

Girls greatly enjoy getting together in a safe girl-only space to try new activities, make new friends, go on trips and, as they get older, to camp and go on overseas trips.



**Leaders** of all ages from 18+ enjoy fabulous opportunities too. As well as developing teamwork, communication and leadership skills, they also have the opportunity to represent IGG at national and international events, such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

As we begin the Guiding year, we wish to thank the 1,800 female volunteers across Ireland who enable the girls to have a variety of educational and fun activities on a weekly basis.

**THANK YOU** to all who volunteer with Irish Girl Guides.



### What is the Irish Girl Guides' Journey Programme?

Think of Guiding as an exciting expedition – each Leader ensures that her Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides and Senior Branch members are supported through their leg of the journey. This ensures that the girl can travel great distances as she develops and grows to her full potential.

In essence, each stage of the Journey for Ladybirds, Brownies and Guides has three components: Compulsory Challenges, Choice Challenges and Interest Badges. When these challenges and badges are earned, the girls achieve their Journey Badges.

**Ladybirds (age 5 to 7)** complete their Discover, Grow and Fly Journey Badges.

**Brownies (age 7 to 10)** complete their Detect, Investigate and Explore Journey Badges.

**Guides (age 10 to 14)** complete their four Journey Badges - Pathfinder, Voyager, Innovator and Trail Blazer.

**Senior Branch members (age 14 to 30)** get to be the inventors of their own programmes. There are three pathways to choose from and girls/young women can gain awards, pins and badges as they progress. If a girl completes the Pathway A

Overall Awards, she will gain her Gaisce – President's Awards as well. This partnership between Gaisce – President's Award and IGG ensures that the skills developed through Guiding can be recognised by external organisations.

The role of the **Leader** is to mentor, support and empower the girls throughout their Journey. And in doing so, each volunteer can gain qualifications and experience in new and exciting activities.

And finally ... well done to our Senior Branch members who volunteered at **Electric Picnic**. By stewarding and salvaging tents afterwards, they raised a whopping €2,752 for **Women's Aid** and **Focus Ireland!**



In our next edition, we will have news about our **Girl Guide Cookie Project** in partnership with **Alison Cowzer** of Dragon's Den and East Coast Bakehouse.

Yours in Guiding,

*Fiona Murdoch*

Communications Officer  
Irish Girl Guides

**What we do ....** The **Irish Girl Guides** began in 1911 and continues today, as a registered charity, to offer girls and young women a safe space to develop life skills

while exploring our inter-connected world and learning to become responsible global citizens. Learn more [here](#).