



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

April 2020

- [IGG's Camp At Home boosts spirits around the country](#)
- [Senior Branch 24 Badges in 48 Hours Challenge](#)
- [IGG features on RTÉ Home School Hub Extra](#)
- [National Good Turn Week](#)
- [Our members are supporting frontline staff](#)

Dear

In these extraordinary times we remain committed to keeping our youth members from age five to 30 **connected** and we are continuing to provide them with **non-formal learning opportunities**, albeit in new and novel ways.



Usually our girls meet face-to-face once a week at our Unit meetings. However, that is not possible at the moment. Our volunteer Leaders are being inventive about how to keep in touch with our members - organising **online meetings** with their girls, sending suggested **activities** to girls' parents or activity packs in the post with materials to make **crafts** and do other activities.

Some even dropped off Easter eggs to girls' doorsteps (while observing social distancing guidelines, of course) and we continue to share ideas on our **social media** channels.



Last weekend we organised our first ever **Irish Girl Guides' Camp At Home**. We encouraged all our members to get active and camp. This proved a huge success with thousands of our members camping at home - some outdoors in tents while others made makeshift dens or shelters inside. The Regional Development Officers (staff who support Units in the different areas of the country) compiled an [IGG Camp At Home Activity Pack](#), which is full of good ideas for camp activities and camp food.



Our members had great fun, with lots of parents getting in touch to say how much their families enjoyed the Camp At Home experience. We received over 500 **photos** from our members and you can see a selection of these on our [Facebook page](#).

Everyone is welcome to join our **Camp At Home**. We plan on having another Camp At Home weekend in the weeks' ahead, so keep an eye on our social media so you can join in the fun!



We were delighted that the Camp At Home weekend was featured 29 times on local **radio** stations and that the **Sunday Business Post** will be featuring it in the children's magazine they will be distributing with tomorrow's paper.



Last weekend also saw 114 of our **Senior Branch** members (aged 14-30) take part in a **24 Badges in 48 Hours Challenge**. The aim was to complete all 24 Ladybird interest badges in 48 hours. The weekend was a huge success with over 1,200 badges being earned by the participants.

Our **Interest Badges** are designed to allow members to develop their interest or skills in a specific area. They also encourage our members to increase their knowledge, change

attitudes towards and investigate a wide variety of topics. Our youngest to our oldest members complete Interest Badges as part of their programme.



By the end of the weekend 32 Senior Branchers earned the **Ladybird Diva Badge** by completing more than 24 Ladybird badges each while 67 others earned more than 10 badges each. Over 1,200 badges were earned in total.

Some of the badges were completed individually but many were done online via teleconferencing and, while they were working on the Europe Badge, **Maria Walsh MEP** 'dropped by' to tell them about life in Europe.

You can read [this blog post](#) written by three of the **successful Divas** and you can see lots of photos in this [Facebook album](#).

Many of our members are enjoying **RTÉ Home School Hub** and we were delighted to see our **Ambassador, Dr Niamh Shaw**, feature on the programme this week talking about her love of space. We highly recommend her autobiography, [Dream Big](#), which has recently been published by Mercier Press. We will be running a **competition** soon on our **social media** to win an autographed copy, so keep an eye out!



We were also thrilled to see four of our youth members appear on **Home School Hub Extra** on Earth Day demonstrating the different steps they take to care for the **environment**, including recycling, reusing, composting and litter-picking. From a young age our members learn to care for and protect the environment. They can earn **Environmental Awareness, Responsible Consumerism** and **Climate Action** badges.



Next week is our annual **National Good Turn Week** (27 April - 3 May) when we encourage our members to share their good deeds on social media with the hashtag **#GoodTurns**.

When girls enrol in IGG, they promise to do a good turn and think of others. This year we are calling on children and young people throughout Ireland to join us doing **acts of kindness**.

While our members would usually take on **community action projects** together, this year their good turns will, of course, take place either at home or close to home. There is always an opportunity for an act of kindness, no matter how small.

By carrying out good turns, it is hoped that young people will spread goodwill throughout the country, thereby **boosting everyone's spirits** and making a **positive impact** on individuals, families, communities and on society as a whole. IGG will also be donating our

Girl Guide cookies to hospitals throughout the country as a small Thank You to all our frontline staff for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice.



We have been delighted to hear of the different ways our members throughout the country have been **supporting frontline workers**. Mullagh Girl Guides in Cavan prepared patient care packs, which Senior Branchers and Leaders dropped off to patients in a local hospital and nursing home. Clodagh, a member of Cobh Brownies, made a **'Thank You Frontline Workers'** banner with her family, which they have placed in their front garden and Jessica, a member of Cú Chulainn Guides in Drogheda, baked goodies for frontline staff working in the local health facility where her mum works.



We are living in challenging times but it is **heartening** to see acts of kindness like these taking place throughout the country. It is good turns like these that lift people's spirits and keep us connected.

We hope you **stay safe, stay home** and **stay connected**.

Kind regards,

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](#).