



## ***Girl Guide Connections***

*This month's news:*

*June 2020*

- Guiding continues to flourish, thanks to our dedicated volunteers
- Bronze and Silver Gaisce - President's Award candidates complete their Adventure Challenge
- Sustainable camping and living
- International Guiding - despite lockdown!
- IGG Chief Commissioner issues statement on racism
- Free Being Me is boosting the body confidence of a whole generation
- Check out our magazine and keep an eye on our social media for fun activities for children and young people during the summer!

Dear

Our volunteers have been doing a fantastic job over the past few months finding all kinds of ways of keeping our youth members engaged in **Guiding** activities. Some have sent girls in their Units crafts and activity packs in the post, some have WhatsApped or emailed ideas to parents while others have held online meetings with girls.

We love the ladybird stones this Ladybird from Bray, Pippa, painted recently at home (our Ladybird members are aged five to seven).



It's been fabulous to see the way so many activities have been adapted for **online** use. There have been online bake-offs, quizzes, scavenger hunts, campfires and, given the success of our first Camp At Home in April, we decided to run another one in early June. Our Senior Branch members led the way on this and many completed their **Gaisce Adventure Challenge** in unusual ways as they couldn't get out on the hills to hike!

[Camp Echo](#), firstly, saw 130 of our Senior Branch members take part in a sustainability-themed weekend on the June bank holiday weekend. Many of our members who are completing their **Bronze and Silver Gaisce - President's Award** used the weekend to complete their Adventure Challenge. Some participants took on the ultimate challenge of virtually climbing **Carrauntoohil** or **Ben Nevis** (either by going up and down stairs 480 times or by climbing a nearby hill over and over). You can read how they managed to do it in this [blog post](#).



Many members involved made short videos to promote **sustainable camping and living**. These were used during our Camp At Home weekend for the rest of the organisation. You can see some of these on our [You Tube channel](#).



Our Camp At Home weekend saw hundreds of girls and young people throughout the country taking part in a **Sustainable Camp At Home** to tie in with World Environment Day on 5 June.

Participants took part in a variety of sustainable activities, including litter picks, planting seeds, tie-dying T-shirts and practising campcraft skills. Any young person or family will enjoy a **Camp At Home** and all are welcome to take ideas from our [Sustainable Camp At Home activity pack](#).



You might also pick up some ideas from browsing all the great photos in our [Facebook album](#). And if you've never tried eating **s'mores** (a Girl Guide favourite of toasted marshmallows eaten between chocolate digestive biscuits), you really need to make up for lost time now.

[Watch our video](#) to find out the best way to make them!

It has been a difficult time for everyone these past few months and we greatly appreciate the **time, dedication, enthusiasm** and **commitment** shown by our **volunteers**. We hope they will take the summer months to rest and recharge before Guiding resumes in the autumn.

Usually at this time, many of our members would be heading off on camps or tall ships voyages either here or overseas but, sadly, with the current Covid-19 restrictions, these have all had to be cancelled this year. However, that has not stopped our ever imaginative **International Committee** who recently organised a **Go Global Challenge** for all our age groups.



This saw participants finding the five Guiding World Centres on a world map, taking part in an international quiz, creating the **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts** (WAGGGS) flag from recyclable materials and cooking an international dish.

The winner of the Ladybird section, Faith from Kinsale, said her favourite part of the challenge was making Chinese lanterns and listening to the WAGGGS World Song many, many times!

Given the alarming tide of **racism** surging across the world in recent weeks, our **Chief Commissioner Amanda O'Sullivan** issued a statement describing how racism is a learned behaviour and that, just like the other eight forms of illegal discrimination in Ireland, it can be unlearned.



**"If we want to create a better world, it's up to all of us – black, white, everyone – to step up and advocate for it,"** she says. **"We all need to speak up against injustice in the places where we are."**

You can read Amanda's full statement on [our website](#).

We would also highly recommend viewing [this powerful video](#) by our **Free Being Me body confidence ambassador Emer Foley** who says, "It's not enough to be quietly non-racist. Now is the time to be vocally anti-racist."

Find out [here](#) how the Free Being Me programme we rolled out across Ireland with the Catholic Guides of Ireland is boosting the confidence and body image of a generation of girls and young women. We are hugely grateful to Emer for helping us promote the Free Being Me message.



For more than 75 years we have produced a **magazine** called *Trefoil News* for our volunteer Leaders. Following lockdown, we decided that, for the first time ever, we would produce a [Special Girl Edition of Trefoil News](#).

This proved to be a huge success with many parents and volunteers getting in touch to let us know how much their daughters appreciated receiving a copy in the post and enjoyed doing the **activities**. These activities are suitable for all children - you don't have to be a Guide - so please feel free to use the ideas with your own family.

We hope you will have a good summer and will enjoy some **rest** and **relaxation**. We will be continuing to share ideas for **fun activities and challenges** for children and young people on our **social media**, including a weekly #STEMSaturday challenge.

Please do **follow us and spread the word** to any young people and parents you know.



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](#).