



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

May 2020

- [National Good Turn Week](#)
- [IGG members support frontline workers](#)
- [Taoiseach Leo Varadkar quotes a Girl Guide](#)
- [Our members get creative to complete their Bronze and Silver Gaisce - The President's Award](#)
- [Join us for Camp At Home! 5-7 June](#)
- [Boost your confidence by completing a Skills Summary!](#)

Dear

We hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and well.

Our members are as busy as ever doing their **Guiding** activities at home. Our volunteer Leaders are sending them programme ideas, challenges and activities. Some units are also holding meetings online. Over 10,000 **Interest Badges** have been purchased to date during this time to recognise the work our members have completed. When a girl completes a badge, she learns a new skill and increases her knowledge and interest in a specific topic.

When girls enrol with Irish Girl Guides (IGG), they promise to complete service to others. We often talk about doing a good turn for others. Once a year we hold a **National Good Turn Week** where we encourage our members to complete a good turn everyday.

This year (25 April - 2 May), we were so proud of all the different ways our members lent a hand at home and in their communities. Some girls made home-made masks to keep their families safe while shopping. Others made baked goods and delivered them to friends and family within their radius while others wrote postcards and sent them to those they haven't been able to spend time with recently. One Unit put together care packages for their local hospital for all those patients there because of Covid-19. Niamh from Ballina (pictured right) has been busy helping her mum make scrubs for **frontline workers**.



One of our Drogheda members couldn't believe her ears when, during his speech on 1 May, **An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar** referred to a letter she had sent him!

In the letter, Rachael had wondered when she would next be able to visit her grandparents and when she would be able to return to school. He was evidently moved by the fact that she finished her letter asking him to stay safe and well.

While IGG has had to cancel trainings, events, camps and trips away since public health rules have deemed it necessary, our volunteers have done a fantastic job using their **ingenuity** and **creativity** to come up with alternative plans. It really is a testament to their **passion, resilience** and **commitment**.

We have a number of **exciting online events** coming up, including an online Family Quiz, a Go Global Challenge where our members will hear about International Guiding experiences and about Guiding in other countries around the world. There are also a number of trainings planned for Leaders for the coming weeks.

Our Senior Branch members (aged 14-30) will have their own special weekend event called **Camp Echo**. Members will join in a celebratory Birthday Bash to mark the **100th birthday of Senior Branch** - not how it was originally planned, but a wonderful celebration nonetheless.



IGG supports young people doing their **Gaisce - President's Award**. If our members complete their IGG programme, they automatically will have completed their Gaisce award as well. Camp Echo will ensure that our Bronze and Silver Gaisce participants complete the Adventure section of their challenge. They will virtually climb mountain peaks, create their own campsite at home for the weekend and will complete challenges that will encourage them each to do their best and step outside their comfort zone. The weekend has been designed and planned by a team consisting of a number of Gold Gaisce participants and other IGG Senior Branch members and Leaders.



Our last **Camp At Home** was such a success that we have decided to run another one the weekend of **5-7 June**. Many of our parents expressed their gratitude after the weekend as it had lifted spirits, and also allowed everyone involved to learn something new and have great fun. Our next camp will have a **sustainability theme** to tie in with World Environment Day (5 June) and we hope children, young people and families around the country will join us. You can create a makeshift shelter or den indoors or outdoors, [make s'mores](#), complete sustainable challenges and have fun!

Keep an eye on the [News section of our website](#) and on our social media for further information nearer the time.

We are busy putting together a **resource pack** with lots of tips and ideas for holding an environmentally-friendly Camp At Home.

We will be encouraging everyone to share their Camp At Home photos on social media with the hashtag **#IGGCampAtHome**.



Something else we have been encouraging our members to do and which we would recommend to everyone, especially young adults, is to complete the **Skills**

Summary that was developed by the National Youth Council of Ireland in partnership with Accenture and Spunout.

The [Skills Summary](#) is an easy to use online tool that measures the skills people gain by participating in **non-formal education**, such as volunteering, youth work and other out-of-school opportunities. like Guiding. It helps people assess their **interpersonal skills** and identify their **strengths**, and then communicate the value of these essential skills to future employers.



It also helps people improve **interview skills** and gather endorsements to help develop a **winning CV**. And it helps users test their **drive** and **resilience**, which are essential qualities, and not just for the workplace.

The spread of Covid-19 has provided a stark reminder that we often can't control the circumstances of our lives. But we can control how we react to them. Resilience helps us regain control and finding our **inner strength** gives us resilience.

Having drive and resilience helps us work well under pressure, cope with stress and stay **optimistic**. You can find ways to deal with mistakes in a positive way and take on challenges, even if they seem impossible at first.

Our youth members and volunteers develop **confidence, resilience, teamwork** and **skills** by taking part in a variety of challenges and activities in a safe environment. Check out our [Guide Skills = Life](#) [video](#) to see how those skills can help swing a job interview your way!



We wish you great **resilience** and **inner strength** in these unsettling times and if you, or anyone you know, would like to start **volunteering** with us, please don't hesitate to drop an email to info@irishgirlguides.ie or call us at 01-6683898. We'd love to hear from you!

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](#).