



## FACT SHEET: Being a Unit Guider

**Girl Guides of Canada – Guides du Canada** is the leadership organization for girls and women in Canada, with 90,000 Members across the country. Guiding is bold, fun, energetic and empowers girls and women to face challenges with confidence.

Guides welcomes girls and women to join and be a part of the following groups:

- Sparks – ages 5 and 6
- Brownies – ages 7 and 8
- Guides – ages 9 to 11
- Pathfinders – ages 12 to 14
- Rangers – ages 15 to 17+
- Adults – as leaders, mentors, team members and more

Each of these groups offer the best of what Guiding is today – dynamic programs, choice, and leadership opportunities

### What We Offer

For girls, Guiding is an accepting environment with diverse and exciting programs and activities that offer the chance to discover new interests, learn valuable leadership skills and make lasting friendships. Guiding gives girls the tools and resources they need to achieve greatness.

For women, Guiding is a chance to make a difference in the lives of girls and young women. It's a place for personal growth, mentoring and travel opportunities.

- Guiding is unique in the breadth of its focus and offers a variety of activities for today's girls – from sports, camping and science to eco-activities, global awareness fashion design and community projects. Guiding has something for everyone.
- Guiding offers the widest range of activities of any extracurricular program for girls or of any volunteer experience for women. Our exciting programs enable girls and women to challenge themselves with the emotional safety that can only come from an all female environment.

## **General Info on Being a Leader**

No experience is necessary, just a desire to work with girls and have fun. We provide training, mentorship and lots of resource material to help you provide great experiences for girls.

Units run from late September until early May of each year taking a break over Christmas and Spring Break. Each unit is run by a team of 2-3 women who share the responsibilities of planning and leading the activities in the unit. The leadership team is responsible for running a program each week for the unit.

A registration process is required to become an adult member and work with girls. This includes;

- Membership Application
- Interview
- Reference check
- Criminal Reference Check
- Membership fee (\$60)
- Orientation to Guiding
- Safeguide (risk management) training

## **Why Charge a Membership fee to Volunteers?**

Girl Guides of Canada is a membership based organization. Your Membership Fee support all levels of the organization including the operation of the office in Whitehorse, support for adult training and also helps cover liability insurance for all volunteers.

## **What is the Time Commitment ?**

Some time commitments are specific to the age group you are working with and some are general for all leaders.

### General for all leaders

- New Leader Orientation and training (4 hours in September)
- Planning and running unit meetings (detailed below)
- Assisting with fundraising activities including the Christmas Bazaar and cookie selling in the spring and fall
- Attending District meetings (1-3 per year, one member of each unit leadership team must attend, all leaders are encouraged to attend)
- There are a number of other events organized by Yukon Council for adult and youth members to participate in during the year including; Remembrance Day, Thinking Day Events, parades, year end celebration and advancement ceremony, AGM and adult member social. Unit leaders are encouraged but not expected to participate.

## Age Group Specific

### Sparks – ages 5 and 6

Sparks meet for 1 hour each week and usually participate in one camping activity each year either a day camp or sleepover. Sparks participate in mall sales for mint cookies in the fall.

### Brownies – ages 7 and 8

Brownies meet for 1.5 hours each week and usually participate in one to two overnight camping opportunities each year. Brownies help sell crafts at the Bazaar.

### Guides – ages 9 to 11

Guides meet for 2 hours each week and usually participate in one to two weekend camping opportunities each year. Guides help sell crafts at the Bazaar.

### Pathfinders – ages 12 to 14

Pathfinders meet up to eight hours a month, spread over the month, each unit is different and tries to cater to the schedules of the girls. Pathfinders help sell crafts at the Bazaar.

## **How We Communicate**

We primarily use e-mail for communication. We also have a blog which we keep regularly updated. Check it out at [www.yukonguides.wordpress.com](http://www.yukonguides.wordpress.com). If you don't have an e-mail address or access to a computer we can print updates from the blog and mail them to you.

## **How to Join**

National Registration Week is September 12-20, 2009. You can join by contacting the Girl Guide Yukon Office at 667-2455 or [girlguides@klondiker.ca](mailto:girlguides@klondiker.ca) or stop by the office in the TC Richards building, 102-302 Steel Street. Office hours: Monday 3-6, Thursday and Friday 10-6 .