

Community Service Program

Girl Guides Western Australia

Information for

Students and Parents



GUIDES WA 2007

fun, friendship, adventure!



Who is a Community Service Student with Guides Western Australia?

A student in Years 10, 11 or 12, who is interested in working with Guides and developing leadership skills, whilst completing the required 20 hours of community service.

Community Service Students will be responsible to the Chair of Youth Program Committee of Girl Guides Western Australia, who will place them in a Unit after consultation with the student, the school and the Unit Leader/s.

Community Service Students should:

- Have a keen interest in leadership and enjoy working with younger girls. Their attitude and example will set the standard for the girls they work with in the Guide Unit.
- Become a willing member of the Unit leadership team, assisting and helping the adult Leaders. They will be involved in planning activities for the Unit meeting, plus extra events such as camping and excursions. Unit Leaders will assist students to assess any activities or games they have provided for part of a Unit meeting.

What do Guides do?

Girl Guides Western Australia provides a weekly program that enables girls 5 – 18 years have fun and develop confidence and community responsibility. In a non-competitive environment, with outdoor activities highlighted, they choose their own challenges and learn to be leaders.

During school term time, Guides generally meet on a weekly basis. At meetings, girls work in small groups called Patrols. They progress through challenges, earn badges based around a spread of indoor and outdoor pursuits and develop leadership skills.

Camps are run on weekends or during school holidays and offer the chance to enjoy the outdoors and do activities such as boating, abseiling, outdoor cooking and campfires.

Why Girls Only?

Guides is a girl only organisation and its composition is deliberate. Research shows that in a mixed group for outdoor and other physical activities, girls tend to assume a subordinate role and do not compete with boys for a leadership role.

Guides provide an environment where leadership, physical skills and friendship can be developed in a female only group. Research shows that girls from single sex schools have a greater sense of self worth and self confidence, tend to be more independent and are more positive about their own sex.

Guides gives girls the chance to reach their potential in a safe, supportive environment that demands their best efforts and celebrates a developing sense of confidence and responsibility.

Role and Duties of a Community Service Student

- Have a high standard of personal conduct.
- Make a commitment to the Unit (and District, and Region) with which they are working. This commitment may change depending on your circumstances. It may not necessarily be a weekly commitment
- Plan games and activities as part of the Unit meeting, as personal skills develop. Be prepared to self assess their efforts. Discuss the success or failure of activities with the Unit Leaders.
- Take part in Unit outings, camps or excursions.
- Participate in District or Region events, as time the commitment allows.
- Attend workshops and trainings to learn new games, skills, songs, and activities. These may be at District, Region or State level. This will give the opportunity to meet other Community Service Students where networking and swapping of ideas can occur.
- Follow the direction of the Unit Leaders in the Unit.
- Wear the appropriate clothing, such as a supplied Guiding shirt and name badge, to the Unit meeting and be are reliable and punctual, setting a good example to the Guides.
- Keep a record of progress and achievements and activities undertaken



Guides and the School Curriculum

The Australian Guide Program is a deliberately graduated program that takes girls through various stages of learning that mirrors the stages of their development. The skills they learn are in step with the school curriculum.

Guides helps to:

- Build resilience
- Promote social and emotional wellbeing
- Contribute to physical and spiritual well being
- Provide opportunities for students to adopt and maintain a healthy, productive, active life
- Enhance connectedness with the wider community
- Give opportunities for a wide variety of challenging contexts and environments
- Enhance enjoyment of life

Knowledge and understanding of the Australian Guide Program

The Australian Guide Program is a values-based, leadership and life skills program.

Girls grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members through fun, friendship and an active awareness of the outdoors.

This program is delivered through an interactive planning process based on four elements and seven fundamentals.

Elements of the Australian Guide Program

The Australian Guide Program encourages the girl to develop her SELF in the areas of PHYSICAL development, PRACTICAL skills, and in relationships with PEOPLE.

Fundamentals of the Australian Guide Program

Code of conduct in the ***Promise and Law***

Active awareness of the ***Outdoors***

Community development as ***Service***

Building peace through ***World Guiding***

Sense of belonging through ***Guiding Traditions***

Life skills through ***Leadership Development***

Team-working skills through the ***Patrol System***

In the Australian Guide Program, there is plenty of opportunity for Guides to plan their own activities and challenges. Community Service Students can assist Patrols and the Unit Leaders with ideas and suggestions for activities, help with the planning and have great fun.



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