



How can I find out more?
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How do I become a Leader?

Wondering what you need to do to become a Leader? The path to leadership gives you the skills and knowledge to provide a safe and exciting program for your Guides. You will be supported every step of the way.

There are Guide Units in almost every part of Australia. We welcome women from every background and with all kinds of skills, abilities and ambitions to be Leaders.

You need to gain the GGA Leadership Qualification — most new Leaders do this within six months. This program includes a structured induction and then six modules (*five for Assistant Unit Leaders*):

- Being part of Guiding
- Being part of Guiding in Australia
- Being a Leader of your Unit
- Delivering the Australian Guide Program
- Being Safe
- Managing your Unit (*Unit Leaders only*).

The modules contain a mix of practical activities, training, online webinars and reading. The main support material is the Leader's Handbook.

You will have a Learning Partner to guide you through the qualification process and to design a Learning Plan which is just right for you. Your District Leader, other Qualified Leaders and Trainers will be on hand to assist you.

Once you are qualified you will be able to attend training in the outdoors (abseiling, canoeing etc.) and other areas to expand the opportunities you can offer your Guides.

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Guiding for Adults

What is Guiding?

Just heard about Guiding or maybe you were a Guide in the past and want to know what it's all about today? The next few pages explain all you need to know — and how you can get involved as an adult.

Guiding is all about girls learning in a fun and challenging way. Girls and young women:

- develop self-awareness, self-respect and self-confidence
- think for themselves and make their own decisions
- acquire leadership skills and work with others in teams
- make friends, meet new people and have fun
- appreciate the environment and enjoy the outdoors
- learn about the world, its people and cultures
- serve others in their community, and
- take action on issues that are important to them.

The Guide Promise

I promise that I will do my best
 To be true to myself and develop my beliefs
 To serve my community and Australia
 And live by the Guide Law

Guiding is part of the world's largest girls-only volunteer organisation with over 10 million members in more than 140 countries. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) provides a platform for debate and decision-making about issues that affect girls and young women.

One of the things which makes Guiding unique is its foundation on a firm set of values, called the Promise and Law. Every member agrees to live by the Promise and Law.

Nearly 30,000 girls and women are members of Girl Guides Australia — the largest organisation for girls and women in Australia.

Each state has its own Girl Guide organisation and Guide Units can be found from Tennant Creek to Sydney to Mount Isa — almost everywhere in Australia.

The Guide Law

As a Guide I will strive to:

- Respect myself and others
- Be considerate, honest and trustworthy
- Be friendly to others
- Make choices for a better world
- Use my time and abilities wisely
- Be thoughtful and optimistic
- Live with courage and strength



"I've had the time of my life, camping, travelling, canoeing and singing. As a Leader, I've travelled the world, met amazing people, found myself through helping others and made life-long friends."

Lisa Goldsworthy, SA

What do Guides do?

Guides are aged between five and 17 years and meet weekly (during term-time) in small groups called Units. Girls in Guide Units are divided into patrols of five to eight girls.

- Each Unit is run by a team of Unit Leaders, Assistant Unit Leaders and Unit Helpers.
- The Units are organised in larger groupings called Districts.
- Guiding is inclusive and girls are welcomed from all racial, ethnic, religious and socio-economic groups.

Girls plan their program of activities and challenges under the guidance of their Leaders. With younger girls the input from the Leader is quite high, but as the girls move into older age groups they begin to take much more responsibility in planning their meetings.

- For younger girls the focus is on having fun! Their meetings are full of games and activities – the best way to learn at this age.
- For older girls, fun is still important, but they begin to undertake more formal challenges and have a say in their program of activities.
- Teens focus on learning new skills and achieving goals through a structured and progressive recognition program. By this stage they work independently and within patrols to complete challenges, activities and plan special trips and events.

Meetings might include anything from surfing to party planning and from circus skills to bush survival. Leaders are encouraged to provide some opportunities for their girls outside the Unit meeting. The girls help to choose where they go — maybe a hike, a day out, an attraction such as the zoo or an indoor camp. For older girls, it might be an outdoor camp or a more adventurous outdoor activity.



How can I get involved as an adult?

Thinking of joining Guiding but not sure if you have the time to commit regularly or the skills to be a Leader? There are many ways to support Guides and many rewards whatever you choose to do.

By volunteering you can:

- Make a difference to girls' lives.
- Learn new skills, develop and extend your existing ones.
- Gain recognition through achieving Girl Guides Australia (GGA) leadership qualification.
- Access training in a wide range of areas.
- Give your CV a boost by developing management and leadership skills.
- Develop lasting friendships with other Leaders and youth members.
- Take action on issues which affect the lives of women in Australia and overseas.
- Have lots of fun!

You could be a:

- Unit Leader or Assistant Unit Leader — complete the GGA Leadership Qualification and be responsible for the Unit functioning and work with the girls to plan their activities, achieve their goals, and have fun.
- Unit Helper – work in a Guide Unit helping to provide fun activities for the Guides and supporting Leaders.
- District Leader – lead Guiding in local area, supporting youth and adult members.
- Other volunteer roles – flexible roles for those who cannot commit to regular meetings including being a treasurer, fund-raiser, caterer or helping put together websites – almost anything which makes use of your skills!

Leaders must be female, aged 18 years or over and abide by the GGA Code of Conduct. All Girl Guide volunteers must meet the requirements of their State legislation regarding police checks and working with children checks.



"Serving Girl Guides over the years has been very fulfilling. I enjoy helping girls develop an appreciation for different cultures. Another one of my favourite aspects of being a leader is teaching girls how to care for the environment."

Rose Marie, a Leader from NSW and National Volunteer Award Recipient