

The Polaris Guide to the Senior Section



The Polaris Guide to Senior Section in Scotland!!

You can be a member of Girlguiding Scotland's Senior Section in many different ways.

Some you know:

Ranger Guide - Rangers can do almost anything; from being Young Leaders and Guiders, to going to international camps and visiting World Centres.

Young Leader - You could be working on the basic leadership programme called Making It Count, which can be used towards the Leadership Qualification. Then, at 16, you can work for the Adult Leadership Qualification. While having fun with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Young Guider - As a Guider you can gain the Adult Leadership Qualification and work with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and Senior Section. Guiders can take trainings in First aid, Child Protection, Communication and many more. Also until your 26th birthday you can take part in **all** Senior Section opportunities we're talking about in this leaflet.

And a couple you might not:

Lone Guiding - Lone Guiding is for you if you aren't able to commit the time to a unit, if you can't make the night that your local unit meets, if there's no unit locally or if health problems mean you can't make it to a meeting. It gives you the opportunity to be more flexible with your Guiding commitments and fit it into a busy lifestyle. You can be a Lone member of any section of Guiding: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers, Young Leader or a Lone Guider for any section. As a member of the senior section you may be a Guider with a local Rainbow, Brownie or Guide unit but need a support group to work on Senior Section projects, which is where Lone Guiding can help.

SSAGO - SSAGO is the Student Scout And Guide Organisation. The aim of SSAGO is to promote student scout and guide clubs and provide a forum for discussion on matters affecting affiliated clubs. SSAGO is officially organised by Girlguiding UK and its associate organisation of the Scout association.

The only requirements are:

- Be aged between 14 and 26 years old
- And be a GIRL!

Like Rainbows, Brownies and Guides you can make a **promise**. You make your promise when you feel ready to but sometimes you have to so you can complete awards and qualifications. For example Queen's Guide and the Leadership Qualification. The promise is the same as it is for Guides but Senior Section makes the additional promise to be of service to the community.

All Senior Section members have a programme they can follow called **Look Wider**. It is split into eight sections or octants; out of doors, community action, independent living, international, personal values, fit for life, creativity and leadership. Each octant has three levels which can be completed in any order. The levels increase in difficulty and if you complete all 3 levels you earn a certificate. To complete the Chief Guides Challenge you need to finish the first and second levels from all eight octants.

The best part of being a Senior Section member in Scotland is... **Polaris!** It is a forum for Senior Section members where your voice will be heard by those at the top of Scottish Guiding especially the Scottish Chief Commissioner. We meet twice per year in different venues around Scotland. One meeting is a residential in autumn and a day meeting in spring. Discussing issues relevant to Senior Section members - both within and out with Guiding. It is a fun way to meet other Senior Section members (and other Guiding people in a variety of roles) from all over. Polaris is *the* event not to miss in the Scottish Senior Section calendar!

Going Further With Guiding

There are many different things that you can get involved both within Guiding and as a representative. Things like:

In4mers - In4mers are peer educators who have attended a basic training weekend and are now able to run sessions on different issues for any section. There are extra topic trainings, one day trainings which provide background knowledge on a specific topic. After 18 months, and having run a few sessions, then In4mers can attend advanced trainings.

Innovate - Girlguiding UK's Forum for Senior Section. Innovate runs every 8 months as a two night residential, with almost 150 participants, in various locations in the UK. They run many different workshops from Association Projects to fair trade, tai chi and music. Once you have attended an Innovate event you can become part of the planning team for future events. Check the Girlguiding UK Senior Section website for dates and places, book early as places book up very fast.

British Youth Council - Also known as the BYC. It is a source of information for media, the Government etc. on the opinions of this age group. A variety of groups make up BYC and Girlguiding UK has the largest delegation. They meet twice a year and the Girlguiding UK delegation meets another twice a year to agree how they will vote. There is a BYC representative from Girlguiding Scotland, who reports to Polaris on BYC decisions and is in that position for three years.

Scottish Youth Parliament - This is the collective national voice for young people in Scotland and is also known as SYP. They meet at least 3 times per year and discusses issues affecting young people in Scotland. There is strong support for SYP from all parties in the Scottish Parliament. There are 2 places for Girlguiding Scotland.

Awards in Guiding

As Senior Section you have the chance to go after the biggest awards in Guiding.

Queen's Guide Award - The ultimate achievement in Guiding open to any Senior Section member. The Award will normally take three years to complete from the date of commencement and has to be completed by her 26th birthday. The Queen's Guide Award is one of the few times when you must make your promise before it can be completed. The award has five areas which are Service in Guiding, Expedition, Personal Skill Development, Community Action and a Residential Experience.

Duke of Edinburgh Award - It is open to anyone aged 14 to 25, not just Girlguiding Members. There are three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has four aspects: Service, Physical Recreation, Skill Development, Expedition (from 2 days for Bronze to 4 days for Gold), and a commitment to participate in each activity regularly for a period of time (from 3 months for Bronze to a year for Gold).

See the World with Guiding

One of the best parts of Guiding is the chance to meet new people and see new places.

Without leaving the country:

Training and Activity Centres - Also known as TACs. There are eight spread across the UK; Netherurd in Scotland, Foxlease in Hampshire, Blackland Farm in Sussex, Waddow in Lancashire, Hautbois in Norfolk, ICANDO in London, Broneirian in Wales, Lorne in Northern Ireland. There are opportunities to work at the centres as volunteers or paid staff as activity instructors, camp assistants, house assistants or shop staff. You can attend open events and trainings at centres as individuals or groups. The jobs and events are advertised in Guiding magazine and on centres' websites. All the centres are available for hire for residential or camps.

Outdoor Adventures - Going to camp as a participant or leader at unit, district, county, country / region or national level. Help, training and qualifications are available for Camp and Holiday leading, Health and Hygiene, and Catering. Also there are activity qualifications in Walking, Climbing, Boating and Campfire Leading.

Take part in archery, canoeing, survival skills, campfires, toasting marshmallows, hikes, and many, many more.

With the possibility of leaving the country:

International camps - Go to a whole range of countries as a leader or a participant. They are an opportunity to meet Guides and Scouts in other countries. International camps are unforgettable experience. The chance to go on joint trips with other organisations, e.g. Scouts.

Getting Away Internationally IN Guiding - Also known as GAINING. It is a training scheme to assist you in planning international trips

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - Also known as INTOPs. Residential selection weekends held in the UK for GOLD projects.

Guiding Overseas Linked with Development - Also known as GOLD. They run community development projects for Girlguiding members aged between 18 and 30. Recent trips include Belarus, Hungary, South Africa, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Uganda.

World Centers - The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has four World Centers; Pax Lodge in London, Our Chalet in Switzerland, Our Cabana in Mexico and Sangam in India. You can go for events, a unit trip or a holiday. There are opportunities for members to spend some time working there. Events and vacancies are advertised on the centers' websites.

Contact

Girlguiding UK	www.girlguiding.org.uk
Girlguiding UK's Senior Section site	www.girlguiding.org.uk/seniorsection
Girlguiding Scotland	www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk
Polaris	www.polaris-scotland.org.uk
WAGGGS	www.wagggsworld.org

External Organisations

Duke of Edinburgh Award	www.theaward.org
Scottish Youth Parliament	www.scottishyouthparliament.org.uk
British Youth Council	www.byc.org.uk

World Centers

Pax Lodge, London	www.paxlodge.org
Our Chalet, Switzerland	www.ourchalet.ch
Our Cabaña, Mexico	www.ourcabana.org
Sangam, India	www.sangamworldcentre.org

Training and Activity Centers

Blackland Farm, Sussex	blackland@girlguiding.org.uk
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