

Getting parents involved



**Don't have enough help at unit meetings?
Worried your unit may have to close due to lack of volunteers?**

Ask your parents and carers for help.

Here are our top tips for getting help from your parents and carers:

Get to know your parents

Talk to your parents and find out a bit about them. They may not be able to volunteer regularly, but you might discover they have skills they could share at a meeting or could help with unit administration, such as, accounts.

Parent rota

If you are struggling to meet the necessary adult:child ratios for your unit, try introducing a parent rota. Whilst each parent may not feel they can commit to helping every week, they may be comfortable with helping one per term or once a month.

Grown-ups in guiding

This challenge was designed as a fun way of introducing new adults to guiding, so they can experience what our meetings are like. You never know, you may find a budding new leader and, even if you don't, you've had a bit of help along the way.

Flexible guiding

Don't feel you have to run your unit the same way as it's always been run. The way people work and live has changed over the years, and it may be helpful to adapt from the traditional method of guiding so more people can volunteer to join in. See our Flexible guiding flyer for lots of ideas.

Ask for help

Finally, don't feel you can't ask for help – if you can't run your unit without more support, it may have to close. Contact your parents, ask if they can help or if they know anyone else who can. The more people who spread the word, the better.

Did you know...?

35% of parents say they don't volunteer because they've never been asked

We've provided a template for an email you could send to your parents, but feel free to adapt it or write your own:

Dear Parents and Carers, We'd like to ask for your help!

*1 [As you know, Girlguiding is run by volunteers. We are currently running a recruitment campaign to encourage new volunteers to join us and we would like your help to spread the word.

Please talk to friends, families and contacts, and share our social media posts, telling them about Girlguiding and how they could get involved too.]

*2 [As you know, Girlguiding is run by volunteers. Unfortunately, we do not have enough adult helpers to run our unit meetings safely, so we would like to introduce a parent rota.

Please let us know when you will be able to help. We would expect this to be for a maximum one meeting a term.] We know from experience that volunteering is enjoyable and rewarding. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, develop life skills and make a difference to the lives of our young members.

Please help us continue to grow and offer our young members opportunities and experiences they will never forget! To find out more, go to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/opportunities-for-parents/>

Thank you for your support. Best wishes