

LOUISE'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new guiding year, I hope you have all had chance to get a little break over the summer and recharge your batteries. Over the holidays, we have had many members attending residential events, days out and activities and everyone has had an amazing experience. Our properties have been busy and it's great to see everyone enjoying the outdoor opportunities we have available in Leeds. Plans continue in the background for our county events and opportunities that are available over the next few months. Lots of leadership, 1st response and safe space qualifications have been completed and I'm sure lots of planning meetings held. On behalf of Girlguiding Leeds and myself, I would like to say a huge thank you for your continued support and commitment. Hope to see some of you on my travels over the coming months –
Louise

HAVE FUN, BE SEEN, SPREAD THE WORD

Have you heard about the county wide initiative to recruit new volunteers? Have a look at the [recruitment toolkit](#) on the county website to see how you and your unit can get involved. Each unit has a recruitment ready pack that can be collected from your division commissioner.

BEAR HUNT BADGES

These have arrived and are available to purchase from the county office. The form can be located [here](#) on the website. 30pence from the sale of each badge will be donated to Leeds Hospital Fund Charity.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

As you are probably aware, membership subscriptions are paid each February for every volunteer and young member in each unit. The county levy for next year's subscriptions was agreed at the trustees meeting in July. This means that the 2024 per head figures are as follows:

National:	£31.00
North East England:	£6.60
Leeds County:	£8.00
TOTAL:	£45.60 + any division levy

You will notice that this is a significant increase on the 2023 county levy. In recent years, the income from the levy has not covered our expenditure which means that we have been using some of our reserves. Our reserves are now at a level where we cannot continue to do this to the same extent. The 2024 levy is set at a level which will cover our budgeted expenditure if our membership numbers remain the same as in 2023. The breakdown of how this money will be used can be obtained from your local commissioner.

Membership subscription survey – The current annual subscription process has been running for a while and HQ are aware that it can be improved. To find out more about how it works for you, HQ are looking for your views and suggestions. Please complete the survey by 20 September and tell them what you think. NB: this won't affect 2024 subscriptions. [Take the survey](#).

PROPERTIES UPDATE

Robin Hole is looking forward to welcoming our members for their autumn and winter adventures. There is a **tidying day being held on Friday 15 September**, if you are free (even for a couple of hours) please let Audrey know robinhole@girlguidingleeds.org.uk. Refreshments will be provided, but if you are staying all day you will need to take some lunch with you.

We are also in need of support with The Trefoil Centre. Currently the centre is managed by one volunteer – this is just not sustainable and we are in urgent need of additional people to support. Please email trefoilcentre@girlguidingleeds.org.uk to discuss how you can help.

COUNTY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for a new challenge for the new academic year? We have volunteer roles within the county which could just be the thing you are looking for. This includes the following:

- Chair of Trustees
- Growth Team Lead
- Peer Educator Coordinator
- Treasurer support for our properties

If you would like to find out more or apply for any of these exciting roles, then head to our [website](#).

LEADER'S FACEBOOK GROUP

Did you know we have a Facebook group which is open to all volunteers across the county? It is a great place to keep up to date with news, and also share ideas with other members. You can find the group here. Please note that members must answer all of the entry questions, and will not be allowed access to the group until this information is completed, even if they have been invited by another member.

SAVE THE DATE

A Grand Day Out – Saturday 29 June, all County activity day – further details to follow, but please save the date!

VALUING & DEVELOPING MEMBERS

Why not book a Peer educator to run a session with your Brownie, Guide or Ranger unit? We have Peer educators in the county trained to run sessions on: Think Resilient, Breaking Free and Safe the World (see [here](#) for details of each topic). Email development@girlguidingleeds.org.uk to request a session. (Please give us as much notice as possible and ideally a choice of dates to increase the chance of us being able to get a Peer educator for you.)

If you have a Ranger or Young Leader who you think would make a great Peer Educator then why not encourage them to book on the [next training](#)?

We are looking for a new peer education coordinator for the county to support our current peer educators, coordinate bookings and encourage more people to become peer educators. If you think this would be a

good role for you then please complete the form on the Girlguiding Leeds website. We'd ideally like to have someone in place before half term so it would be great if you could send in your form by the end of the month.

FINANCE, STAFFING & RISK

Have you had any success in applying for grants for your unit or been rejected but had some useful feedback? If so, we'd love to hear from you as we are hoping to put together some guidance to support others. Please email development@girlguidingleeds.org.uk with anything you are happy to share.

As we get into the new term, just a reminder about reviewing your unit meeting risk assessment. If you haven't already used it then this might be a good time to try the pre-filled template available from the Girlguiding [website](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	LINK
Monday 18 September	Deadline for receipt of Recognition Pin applications	Link
Monday 18 September Zoom	Young Leader Zoom	By invitation to YLs
Thursday 5 October 7.30 -9pm Zoom	LDP Mentor Training	Link
Tuesday 10 October 7-9pm Trefoil Centre	Going Away with Training	Link
Saturday 21 October 10am – 3.30pm Zoom	New Leader induction including risky business and doing our best from the Leader Development Programme trainings	Link
Tuesday 7 November 7.30-9pm Zoom	Leader Development Programme – Managing your unit accounts	Link
Monday 27 November 7.30-8.30pm Zoom	Leader Development Programme – Effective communication for leaders	Link
Tuesday 12 December 7.30-8.30pm Zoom	Leader Development Programme – Celebrating every member	Link
Week commencing Monday 10 June 2024	Out & About Week	TBA
Saturday 29 June 2024	A Grand Day Out - all County Activity Day	TBA