



## OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The office will close for the Christmas holidays at the end of the working day on Thursday 21 December 2023 and reopen on Monday 8 January 2024. The office team wish you all a fabulous festive break!

## GRAND DAY OUT – 29 JUNE 2024

Plans are well in hand for this **All County Fun Day** with over 1400 girls already expressing an interest in attending!! After listening to leaders concerns about the cost of coach hire, we are happy for units to travel to the event **by car share** and look forward to more of the county joining us.

Help is needed to organising the “music festival”, “relaxation” “dance” and STEM zones; if you have skills or contacts that can support these zones or can offer help on the day, please contact us on [events@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:events@girlguidingleeds.org.uk).

Leaders will receive event information before the beginning of January to help with planning. All information for the event will be collected electronically and final numbers and money (£17.50 per girl) need to be with County by 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## PIRATE BROWNIE CAMP – 26-28 APRIL 2024

Are you available anytime over the weekend to help on the Pirate Brownie Camp at Robin Hole.

Are you an experienced camper who can help with everyday jobs around camp or fancy your hand at running a catering team? Can you offer help with running the activities on site or run a camp fire?

We are looking to put together a team of leaders who may want to spend a day or the whole weekend with girls and leaders new to camping ... could you be part of the team? if so please contact us on [events@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:events@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

## JOIN OUR SPY ACADEMY – 24&25 FEBRUARY 2024

Are the girls in your unit(s) budding spies, do they have the skills to be in Mi5? The Spy Academy Weekend is for them! Please follow this [link](#) to register your unit's interest (more info will be sent) – it will be a completely virtual event with a range of great activities for Rainbows to Rangers. We look forward to seeing you then!

## HAVE ANY OF YOUR GIRLS GAINED THEIR GOLD AWARD?

Next summer we are holding a celebratory day for our young members who have gained their programme Gold Award. If anyone in your unit has achieved this since July 2023 (Rainbows through to Rangers) please let us know by completing the form [here](#). We can then ensure that they are invited.

## QUEEN'S GUIDE AWARD

Did you know the Queen's Guide award has changed? It's still the highest award you can work towards in Girlguiding but there have been some changes to what you need to do and it's now open to anyone aged between 16 and 30. By doing the award you will develop your existing skills, learn new ones and have fun while contributing to both Guiding and your wider community. Your achievement will be celebrated by Girlguiding locally and nationally and will also look great on your CV.

Leaders and Commissioners – with the new award everyone working on it will be looking for opportunities at unit, division and county level. They need to complete four projects across the themes of Girl, Growth & Retention, Volunteer and Diversity & Inclusion so you could have some keen volunteers to take on roles or help with events.

And in case you were wondering... yes it's still called the Queen's Guide – the name was granted in 1945 by the then Queen Elizabeth (the mother of Queen Elizabeth II) so the name is connected to the Queen rather than the monarch.

If you want to know more, please contact [queensguide@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:queensguide@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

## END OF TERM CHECK

As we come towards the end of term, this might be a good time to review your unit meetings and venue risk assessment while the term is fresh in your mind. This is an opportunity to add or change anything as needed as a result of anything that's happened over the course of the term. Don't forget to involve all of your leadership team in this and perhaps even talk to the young members in your unit about it to see if they have any suggestions of things to add.

## ACCOUNTS & MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Now is the time to start getting your 2023 accounts up to date to allow them to be independently reviewed in January. If you need any support, please contact your local commissioner or the county treasurer [treasurer@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

Just by way of a reminder membership subscriptions in 2024 are built up as follows:

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

There are grants available from region for support with the cost of living details can be found [here](#).

## COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Are you looking for a new challenge for 2024? We have volunteer roles within the county which could just be the thing you are looking for. This includes the following:

- Task & Finish group members for:
  - Spy Academy Virtual Sleepover weekend (24&25 February 2024)
  - Pirate Themed brownie camp (26-28 April 2024)
  - Grand Day Out (Saturday 29 June 2024)
- County International Adviser
- County Ranger Adviser
- Lead for Growth & Communications Team
- Chair and Finance Representative of The Trefoil Centre Committee (2 roles)
- Training Coordinator

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

## ARE YOU AGED 18-30?

...and want to get involved in more Guiding activities then Inspire is for you!

Inspire is a network of young women who are able to access all of the best parts of guiding; fun, friendship and learning new skills. Over the course of the year members of Inspire Leeds will have social meet ups, work with other members to run activities, support each other and also have the opportunity to access wider Guiding; for example international opportunities.

The next big thing on the Inspire calendar is the Spy Academy weekend which is a virtual event hosted over the Thinking Day weekend (24 - 25 February) Inspire members will be helping to set up and plan an array of fun activities for all members to enjoy and access!

If you are interested in helping at this event please complete this [form](#). If you want to join the Inspire Facebook group then follow this [link](#).

If you have any questions, please email Flossie at [inspire@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:inspire@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

## PEER EDUCATION

Aged 14-25 years and looking for a new challenge? Or do you know a young member who is? Why not considered our peer educator programme? Peer educators run sessions for all sections and will use your own experiences to bring important subjects to life. As the role is flexible, you can do it around your studies, or other commitments. You will need to attend training about the various themes, and you will be supported throughout by the county adviser. We would love to have a peer educator in every division! To find out more, contact Clare our new [peer education adviser](#) or apply to attend the region training [here](#).

## PROPERTIES

Robin Hole is now **accepting bookings** for your adventures in 2024. Dates are limited so make sure to get your booking in now! You can find out more about the county properties on our [website](#) or take the [virtual tour](#).

**Date for your diary:** We are changing the Robin Hole spring cleaning from the usual Saturday to **Monday 18 March**.

If you are free on a Monday and would like to come and help then please put the date in your diary. We would love to see you there.

**Do you work for a company that offers team building activity days?** Spending valuable time together away from the normal routine. Working together to complete a shared goal or just have fun together can have a profound effect on a team in many ways.

Are you looking for somewhere to carry out a volunteer day? Then look no further than our very own Robin Hole. There are always lots of jobs that can be undertaken both inside and out.

The benefits of an outdoor team building event will last long after your day has finished.

If you have a team and would like to get involved please email [robinhole@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:robinhole@girlguidingleeds.org.uk) and we can arrange a date.

## COUNTY SHOP UPDATE

The final date for collection is Thursday 14 December. You can continue to send orders throughout the Christmas break for collection or delivery in 2024. The next opening dates for the county shop are as follows:

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March



The shop will be open between 10am and 12.30pm on both days. Please try and pre order ahead, so we can make sure we have what you would like in stock. Don't forget that you can send orders to the shop at any time, which can either be sent out to you or collected.

There are lots of options for gifts for your unit team – car stickers, notebooks, pens, branded clothing.

## ESSEX INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE 2024

Essex International Jamboree is returning in 2024 and it promises to be an amazing event. For more information and the opportunities available visit their [website](#) or look here to [find the answer to your questions](#).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	LINK
Tuesday 12 December 7.30-8.30pm Zoom	Leader Development Programme Training – Celebrating every member <i>(This is the same training as the National trainings on the Learning Platform)</i>	Please ring the office if you would like to book onto this training
Saturday 24- Sunday 25 February (All members)	A virtual event with sleepover to celebrate Thinking Day. Join in the fun for just the Saturday or the complete event, the choice is yours! 	TBA
Friday 26 - Sunday 28 April (Brownies)	Pirate Themed Brownie Camp @ Robin Hole An opportunity for units to give camping a try, without the need for a camp licence. 	Info to be emailed directly to Brownie leaders
Week commencing Monday 10 June 2024 (All members)	Out & About Week 	TBA
Saturday 29 June 2024 (All members)	"Grand Day Out" - all section County Activity Day 	<a href="#">Expression of interest</a>