

Girlguiding Leeds County Commissioner

As you are hopefully aware, Girlguiding Leeds now has a new county commissioner. Anne Esslemont has officially taken over from Louise as commissioner from 1 December.

Anne is a Rainbow, Brownie and Guide leader in Roundhay and is also a trainer and mentor. She has held a number of roles at division, county, region and national level over the years and hopes to use this experience to benefit the county.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Louise who has been our county commissioner for the last five years leading the county through Covid and the recovery afterwards. We are enormously grateful to her for all the time, effort and enthusiasm she has put into the role. A lot has been achieved under her leadership, both things that you will have seen and work in the background that you may not be aware of. The county will continue to build on everything she has done.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are currently looking for people to get involved at a county level in the following ways (see below for more information):

- County camp 2026 task and finish group
- Adventure & Events Team Expertise Pool
- Adventure & Events Team Ideas Pool
- Thanks & recognition team lead

If none of these opportunities are quite right for you, but you have another idea for something you would like to do at county level, please get in touch – cc@girlguidingleeds.org.uk

County Camp 2026 Task & Finish Group

Leeds County Girlguiding are pleased to announce that the next County Camp will take place at Bradley Wood from Friday 22 to Monday 25 May 2026. Filled with many exciting activities, it will be a fabulous weekend so make sure you save the date!

As we start to move into the planning phase, we are on the lookout for keen volunteers to join our event management team to help make the County Camp happen. If you have ideas, enthusiasm and are an excellent team player, we'd love to hear from you.

Some of the exciting roles that we are recruiting to include:

- Service team leader
- Health & Safety team leader

- Activities lead
- Entertainment lead
- Marketing and Communications lead
- Administration lead
- Merchandising lead
- Catering lead

To find out more about the roles and the County Camp, please come to our first meeting which is to be held on Thursday 9 January 2025 from 7.30pm at the Trefoil Centre.

We look forward to seeing you!

Adventure & Events Team Expertise Pool

As part of the new structure of the Adventure & Events Team, we are looking for people who have expertise in a particular activity that they are willing to share by running sessions for units and/or by providing advice.

We will keep a list of those who have registered to be part of the pool and will contact you as and when units let us know they'd like to do the activity. An example of this would be those who have a Girlguiding climbing, walking or narrowboating qualification or a national governing body instructor qualification for another activity. If it's an activity that doesn't require a qualified instructor, just enthusiasm and experience then that counts too.

If this describes you and you would be happy to be part of the pool, please contact adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk with details of the activity, your experience and qualifications.

Adventure & Events Team Ideas Pool

Also as part of the new structure of the Adventure & Events Team, we are looking for people who have ideas or would be happy to be consulted on ideas for future county events and initiatives.

This includes people who would be happy to run activities with their units to collect ideas from our young members. By joining this pool, you are not committing to being involved in the planning and running of the events (although you will be given the opportunity to get involved if you'd like to).

Please contact adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk if you'd like to join this pool.

Thanks & Recognition Team Lead

Our Thanks & Recognition Team are responsible for reviewing nominations for the county recognition pins and other awards, as well as developing other ways we can appropriately thank our volunteers and recognise their achievements.

The team lead will lead this team chairing their termly meetings and will also be part of the Valuing & Developing Members Team.

If this is an area you are passionate about, please contact development@girlguidingleeds.org.uk to let us know you are interested and to tell us what you could bring to the role.

County Training Coordinator

We are looking for one or two people to work with our training team to help plan and deliver the annual training programme for the County. The training coordinator(s) identifies the training requirements for all volunteers across the County and makes the necessary arrangements to find a suitable date, location and trainer so that these can take place.

The role could be managed by two people, dividing the role into 'essential training' and 'skills & opportunities':

- The **Essential Training (First Response and safe Space) Coordinator** will help with understanding and ensuring the county's current and future needs for mandatory training requirements for volunteers is met.
- The **Skills & Opportunities Coordinator** will help with understanding and ensuring current and future needs for any other training for the county's volunteers is met.

These roles do not involve delivering training, although it would give you an overview of what is involved if you are thinking about your Girlguiding Training Qualification. The administration of bookings and booking venues is handled by our office.

Going Away With - International

Thinking about going away on an international trip with your unit? If you already hold the Going Away With licence (modules 1 to 4) and have led a Girlguiding residential lasting two nights or more, you can complete module 9 – travelling abroad. Please see the [Girlguiding website](#) for more information.

If you are interested in completing this, we have added a new course to our training events which will cover all you need to complete this module. It will be held at the Trefoil Centre on **Saturday 29 March** from 9.30am – 4.30pm (including breaks). To book, please go to the [training section of our website](#).

Lloyds Bank Treasurers Accounts

Information from HQ for units with Lloyds Bank Treasurers Accounts

We are aware that Lloyds bank is communicating with charitable organisations – including Girlguiding units – about changes to treasurers' accounts in the new year. Part of the changes include moving to a community account, which charges a monthly fee of £4.25.

Girlguiding headquarters have been in touch with Lloyds, who have confirmed that excepted charities are exempt from this change. The majority of Girlguiding units are excepted charities – you can find out more about this on our website: [Charitable status | Girlguiding](#). This means that the vast majority of Girlguiding units who currently use a Lloyds bank treasurer's account should be able to apply to continue using a fee free treasurer's account.

If your unit has been contacted by Lloyds bank, and told that you will be moved from a treasurers' account to a community account, and you are either: an excepted charity or a registered charity with an income of under £250,000 then we recommend contacting Lloyds as soon as possible. You can get in touch with their community account telephone line on 0345 300 0075. Excepted charities should refer to [our website](#) to prove their status. If you are a registered charity then you are likely to need to provide evidence that your income is not more that £250,000 annually.

If you have any issues, or there are any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Girlguiding membership systems team on 0800 999 2016.