

Message from the County Commissioner

As our volunteers, you are all part of the Girlguiding Leeds team. The county could not exist without you and everything you do is appreciated – so, *thank you!*

Don't forget there is always support available if you need it – talk to the other volunteers in your unit team and if they can't help or you need further advice or help then contact your division commissioner. Your division commissioner will either be able to help directly or will put you in touch with relevant county advisers.

It's also worth a look at the members area of the Girlguiding Leeds website to see if the information you need is there.

If you have ideas of what the county could be doing to better support volunteers or young members, then please do get in touch to tell us – we can't promise to be able to do everything, but are always willing to listen to suggestions. Please email cc@girlguidingleeds.org.uk with your ideas.

New Members of the County Team

We're delighted to welcome the following volunteers to the County Team:

County Treasurer

Lisa Dainty-Wall has taken over the role from Marion, who stepped down in September.

Lisa is happy to provide support if any units need help with preparing their accounts for annual review. Please contact her on treasurer@girlguidingleeds.org.uk if this is something you would find useful. We will then arrange sessions at venues around the county to suit.

Thanks & Recognition Group Chair

Audrey Morrall will now be leading the Thanks & Recognition Team.

Part of the role of the Thanks & Recognition Team is to review the nominations for county awards – don't forget that anyone can nominate people for these awards via the form on the county website. Have a look to see if there's someone you'd like to nominate.

[County Recognition Pins Award Form - Girlguiding Leeds](#)

Feedback about Unit Trips

To make it more useful, we'd like to update the 'Things to do' section of our website with some extra ideas. We'd specifically like to include places to visit that may enable young members to achieve the adventure badges of height, land, water, sport and snow.

Therefore, we'd love to hear from you about where you have taken your units on trips, particularly places that you have been able to visit during unit meeting times.

Please drop us a line to resources@girlguidingleeds.org.uk

What's happening in 2025...

We are looking forward to another year of fun and adventure, so please take the opportunity to make a note of what will be on offer this year:

CHALLENGES

Rhinos Challenge – launching this month, we are introducing a new challenge to coincide with an exciting event hosted by the Leeds Rhinos.

Taking inspiration from the Leeds Rhinos rugby league team and their community and charitable work, this challenge will include sport & well-being, community & charity work, and environmental awareness (particularly endangered species, such as the white rhino).

This challenge has lots of links to the programme, specifically Be Well and Take Action.

WalkOut and WalkAbout – the aim of this challenge is for the county to collectively walk as much of the Leeds Country Way walk as possible with units / divisions each doing a section.

A volunteer from each division will be needed to help plan their section of the walk with support from the Adventure & Events expertise team.

White Ribbon Challenge (Girlguiding North East England) – this challenge has been designed to develop a call to action to help champion lasting change on the issue of abuse of women and girls. Please see the [NEE region website](#) for full details.

COUNTY EVENTS

Family Fun with Leeds Rhinos – Saturday 14 June – take part in a celebration of Girlguiding hosted by our partners at Leeds Rhinos rugby league club at their Headingley Stadium.

We have been invited to attend an afternoon of fun and activities, followed by a parade on the pitch which will include all sections, prior to the afternoon's rugby match. Any young members who completed the associated challenge will also have the opportunity to collect their badge.

The Rhinos have extended the invitation to families too, so they can join in the fun and watch the match at a significantly reduced ticket price.

Out and About week - (date TBC) – be part of the county wide initiative to be seen out and about in Leeds to have fun and help promote Girlguiding.

Plan to hold events or activities outside of your usual meeting place and/or take part in this year's Out and About Week challenge – *Walk Out and Walk About*.

(This was originally planned to be the week including the 14 June, but we are planning to rearrange to avoid a clash for units wanting to do both this and the Rhinos event.)

Constructive Careers – (date TBC) – Constructive Futures wish to engage and inspire girls about the Construction Industry. They would like to run an event with us for a group of girls and young women aged 14+ who wish to work in construction, introducing them to mentors, and giving them careers advice and support.

If successful, there will be further opportunities to engage with Constructive Futures to bring activities for unit meetings and run events that introduction construction to our young members.

If you know a young member, including Young Leaders, who may be interested please contact Davina at Davina.scholefield@girlguidingleeds.org.uk

REGION EVENTS

Saturday 1 March – Bridge 2025 youth network event for 14 to 30 year olds.

Saturday 29 March – Railway Challenge event for all sections at Hopetown, Darlington.

Saturday 7 June – Rainbow animal adventure.

Saturday 21 June – Brownies through time @ Beamish.

Saturday 28 June – Pennine Way 60th anniversary challenge for all sections.

Saturday 27 September – Monopoly Challenge for Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders, Inspire, adult members and Trefoil.

You will be able to find out more details about all of these via [the Girlguiding North East England website](#) either now or once bookings open.

We will also post details to our members Facebook group.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

For all county run learning and development opportunities, please see the [training section of our website](#) for full details.

New opportunities may be added during the year, so keep an eye out in Snippets and on the website. We also occasionally receive invitations to other counties training courses and post details of these to our members Facebook group.

Included in this year's programme:

Inspire and Ignite bite-sized zoom sessions:

- **Introduction to Girlguiding Leeds** – Wed 15 Jan, 7–8pm & Mon 20 Jan, 7–8pm.
- **Being part of a county/division team** – Fri 14 Feb, 7–8pm & Sat 22 Feb, 10–11am.
- **Being a mentor** – Tues 8 Apr, 7–8pm & Sat 26 Apr, 10–11am.
- **Leaders supporting young leaders** – Sat 3 May, 10–11am & Fri 16 May, 7–8pm.

Going Away With module 9 (international) training:

- **Going Away With – International** – Sat 29 Mar, 9.30am–4.30pm, Trefoil Centre.

Going Away With sessions for those planning their first residential:

- **Going Away With** – Mon 17 Feb & Wed 29 Oct, 7–9.30pm, Trefoil Centre

New Leader induction days:

For those working on the Leader Development Programme – these days include the compulsory training requirements of the qualification.

- **New Leader Induction** – Sat 8 Feb, 10am–3.30pm, Zoom & Sun 11 May, 10am–3.30pm, Trefoil Centre.