

Ypres 2027



Celebrating 100 years!

1st Overslade Guides and Rangers are visiting Ypres, Belgium in July 2027 to take part in the 100th Anniversary of the Menin Gate and will be taking part in the Last Post ceremony during the visit. This badge has been designed to help raise funds for the trip and we hope you enjoy the activities, some of which can be linked to skills builders and UMAs.

Order via email:

overslade.washington@outlook.com

The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, located in Ypres, Belgium stands as a solemn tribute to the thousands of British and commonwealth soldiers who perished during WW1 in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

Unveiled in 1927, the memorial bears the names of over 54,000 fallen soldiers, each a symbol of sacrifice and bravery. Its striking architecture and inscriptions make it one of the most recognised war memorials in the world.

Every evening the 'Last Post' is played at the gate, a poignant ritual that has continued uninterrupted since 1928 ensuring the memory of the fallen endures.

This challenge badge is split into 5 sections:

- Belgium food
- World War One
- Remembrance
- International Guiding
- International politics & geography

Rainbows: Complete **ONE** challenge from each section plus **ONE** additional.

Brownies: Complete **ONE** challenge from each section plus **TWO** additional.

Guides, Rangers and adults: Complete **TWO** challenges from each section plus **TWO** additional as well as research the Last Post Association and hold your own Last Post service.

BELGIUM FOOD

Belgium is renowned for its rich culinary traditions, which reflect a deep connection to the country's history and regional diversity. From its famous chocolates and waffles to the hearty stews and fries, Belgian cuisine is a delightful blend of French, Dutch, and German influences. This module will explore Belgium's food culture, examining the origins of beloved dishes like moules-frites (mussels with fries), and the world-class Belgian beer scene. By understanding the historical significance of these dishes, we can gain insight into the cultural practices and social gatherings that have shaped Belgium's culinary identity over the centuries.

- Belgium is famous for its waffles (Liege and Brussels). Create your own Belgium waffles with various toppings, like whipped cream, fruit or syrup. Research the differences between Belgium waffles and those from other countries.
- Learn about the history of Belgium chocolate and why it is so famous. Try making simple chocolate truffles or chocolate dipped fruit.
- Discuss the significance of Belgium Beer (older age groups), find out about its history, culture and craftsmanship. Create a non-alcoholic mocktail inspired by Belgian ingredients like apples, cherries or berries
- Set up a Belgium Market in your meeting space showcasing products like cheeses, chocolates, fruits and other Belgian foods. Roleplay being a market vendor and buyer.
- Research a famous Belgian dish like Moule-Frites (Mussels & Chips) or Stoofvlees (Beef Stew). Cook a dish or make a poster explaining the ingredients, history and how it is prepared.
- Research how different regions of Belgium celebrate their festivals through food. Recreate a food related tradition.

WORLD WAR ONE

World War I had a profound impact on daily life, especially in terms of food rationing, which became a harsh reality for many families across the warring nations. With resources diverted to the front lines, citizens faced shortages, and ration cards were introduced to ensure fair distribution. At

home, people also found comfort in writing letters and maintaining communication through cyphers—coded messages that protected military strategies from enemy interception. The war also left an indelible mark on the landscape, with war memorials such as the Menin Gate in Belgium becoming symbols of sacrifice.

- Research food rationing during WW1 and create a ration book or a meal plan for the week based on WW1 rationing. Discuss how people managed to get by with little to no ingredients.
- Learn basic codes and cyphers from WW1.
- Research some of your local war memorials and share with your unit before visiting the National Memorial Arboretum / Cenotaph / Women at War Memorial / Edith Cavel memorial.
- Find out about the Menin Gate, it's meaning and history. Discover who is listed on there, are there any links to girls in your unit?
- Discuss how families were affected by the war. Research your family and create a family tree.
- Research the different roles women played during the war (eg. Nurses, Factory Workers. Spies). Present a short play to share the story of one of these women.

REMEMBRANCE

This module helps girls grasp the importance of Remembrance Days, focusing on how these observances honor the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers who have served in global conflicts. Through exploring the history and traditions associated with these days, learning about the deep emotional and societal value of remembering those who fought and died in wars. The module encourages reflection on the broader consequences of conflict, emphasizing the impact on individuals, families, and communities worldwide. By understanding the significance of these commemorations, girls will not only gain insight into the past but also appreciate the role of remembrance in promoting peace, unity, and global solidarity.

- Make a paper poppy or poppy wreath as a symbol of remembrance. Learn about the significance of the poppy flower after WW1 and what it represents. Older girls could knit or crochet a poppy.
- Find out the meaning of Remembrance Day and the Unknown Soldier. Take part in a one-minute silence and discuss why remembrance is important. Share thoughts or write reflections about why we honour those who fought in wars. If possible attend a Remembrance Day parade / service.
- Find out why we wear poppies and research the work of the Royal British Legion. Hold a fundraising event to highlight what you find out.
- Learn about the famous 'In Flanders Field' and write your own wartime poem.
- Create an art project that symbolises peace or remembrance. Use materials like clay, paint or collage to express what remembrance means to you.
- Research the role of the Red Cross during and after WW1. Learn how humanitarian efforts continue in conflict zones today.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDING

During World War I, Girl Guides played a crucial role on the British home front, contributing to the war effort in numerous ways that showcased the resilience and resourcefulness of young women. Guides were involved in collecting produce, knitting comforts for soldiers, and volunteering in hospitals, canteens, and schools. Some even participated in secret intelligence work, offering support in ways that were both unexpected and vital. The war provided the Girl Guides with an opportunity to expand and prove their potential, demonstrating that young women were capable of making significant contributions to national service. Many Guide companies worked directly with organizations like the Red Cross and other charities, providing a structured and organized way for girls to offer their help while fostering a sense of duty and community spirit. Through these efforts, the Girl Guides not only supported the war effort but also empowered a generation of women to take on roles of responsibility and leadership.

- Find out about the work Girlguiding did during WW1 and make a scrap book page of what it would be like to be a member at that time.
- Find out how many countries had Girlguiding in 1914 and colour in the uniform from the era from 2 of these countries.
- Play traditional games from different countries where Girlguiding is active and discuss its origin and significance.
- Learn about World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the role it plays on the global stage and the work it does with the United Nations.
- Research a cultural celebration where Girlguiding is practiced. Recreate this through song, dance and food.
- Establish a pen pal exchange with a Girl Guide or Girl Scout from a different country to learn about each other's traditions and daily lives.

International politics & geography

Understanding global politics and geography is crucial for becoming informed and engaged global citizens. This module offers a closer look at how countries interact on the world stage, examining the dynamics of diplomacy, trade, conflicts, and alliances. By exploring political systems, international organizations, and geographical factors that influence global decisions, you will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of nations.

- Host a geography quiz about countries, capitals and famous landmarks around the world. Include questions on both well known and lesser-known countries to broaden knowledge.
- Create your own map of a country or continent highlighting important cities, rivers, mountains and borders.
- Discuss a current or past global conflict (such as WW1) and its causes. Design a newspaper front page announcing the start of the conflict you have researched.
- Go on a virtual trip visiting famous landmarks around the world. Make a passport and draw your favourite 3 landmarks inside and create some passport stamps.
- Play an international themed Kims game.
- Learn about flags around the world, design your own unit flag.

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That looks great and we are happy for your 1st Overslade badge to be produced.

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Sarah Goodstadt

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