



24 May 2024

Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME | default : "volunteer" }}

With volunteers week approaching, I have been reflecting on what it means to be a volunteer and the challenges that working in such a unique way can bring. It can be easy to forget, given the administrative changes we are going through, that we all have the same purpose - to deliver great outcomes for girls and women. We continue to make a real and positive difference to people's lives today and to lives in the future as we create a place that helps people build confidence and skills.

For our celebration and social on 8 June, we want a chance for us all to come together and honour how we are working towards this same purpose. With that in mind, a date within volunteers week was specifically chosen to celebrate and thank our volunteers. Tickets are still available to [book](#) if you want join in.

[Big help out](#) takes place 7-9 June, also within volunteers' week. Get involved and shout out about how amazing Guiding is and recruit new volunteers.

Whilst we think of our volunteers, nominations to attend Girlguiding celebrates are open. If you know of someone who is just awesome show your appreciation and let them know by [nominating](#) them how.

Take a little bit of time to remember that we are making a positive difference, and, as long as we are, then it is worth the effort.

Yours in guiding

Sam

Girlguiding Bucks county commissioner

cc@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

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Volunteer information

Successful competition hikes 2024

The sun shone and 159 walkers gathered to take on the challenge of this year's competition hikes.

On a glorious day teams from across the county set off to walk 5km, 10km or, for the most energetic, 20km! Girls tested their map reading skills to navigate around their chosen route and to visit all the check points in the shortest time possible. The winning team in each event picked up the coveted boot trophy. The event team's control room was on call to support some teams needing an a bit of help, but all arrived back to Ellesborough safely. The winning teams were:

5km – [1st Stoke Mandeville Brownies](#)

10km accompanied (for younger teams) – [2nd Marlow Guides](#)

10km – [2nd Princes Risborough Guides](#)

20km – [Buckingham Rangers](#)

Rainbow Ramble

Our Rainbows from around the county were not left out of the action . They enjoyed taking part in the Rainbow Ramble - a challenge to walk 3km with their Rainbow friends to earn the special edition badge. 160 completed the challenge - well done Rainbows!

Duke of Edinburgh

The competition hike also provided an excellent opportunity for girls working towards their DofE award. 6 girls and 4 leaders donned their walking boots and used the hike to extend their map reading skills and get to know each other. They even made new friends - stick buddies that helped them through the walk! The two teams did great and got back with plenty of time. Well done!

Congratulations to the winning teams but also to everyone who took part.
Also a huge thanks to the volunteers who made the event possible.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of this event and we hope to have lots of entries and some surprises to celebrate. Look out for information later this year!



Bucks Uniformed Youth (BUY)

We are looking for volunteers from Girlguiding Bucks to be our voice and ears at Bucks Uniformed Youth (BUY). This organisation brings youth charities, like Girlguiding, together from across Buckinghamshire in order to work better together, access funding opportunities, have a stronger presence, and share resources. For instance, did you know that BUY has a minibus available that Guiding units could make use of if needed? BUY also organises stands at the Buckinghamshire county show where we showcase just what Girlguiding is all about to the general public.

The group is a useful and meaningful connection for Girlguiding Bucks so please consider if you could represent us at their meetings. Please email

ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Recruitment resources

We know that lots of you are often looking for professional, branded resources to support you with recruiting new volunteers to your units and, or areas.

Did you know that there is a range of downloadable resources including images for social media, adverts made for magazines, leaflets and more? Some of which are completely editable.

You can download from the selection of resources from the Girlguiding Anglia [website](#).



Leader information

Leader development programme

Thanks to our amazing members, Girlguiding is as popular as ever. This means that many of our units have long waiting lists for girls who want to join in and be able to do anything!

In order to be able to offer more places for these girls, we need more volunteers training to become leaders, and more mentors ready to support them. Recently, Girlguiding launched a new way for volunteers to become leaders by introducing the new leader development programme (LDP). This is a self-led, flexible learning journey that will equip every leader with the same level of skills. However, to ensure the success of new leaders, we need experienced volunteers to step up as mentors and support potential new leaders through this process.

We want volunteers, leaders and commissioners to have a better understanding and to feel more confident about the new new programme, so we are offering informal **air and share** sessions to get to the bottom of what you'd like to know about the programme.

- **Wednesday 5 June** - Stokenchurch Scout and Guide HQ
- **Thursday 20 June** - Ellesborough Guide Centre,
- Both sessions will be **7.30-9.00pm**

If you, or anyone you know may interested in becoming a new leader or a mentor for those on the programme, then book your place on a session or find out more by emailing lit@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

You can find also out more about the LDP on the [Girlguiding website](#) or the learning platform.

Photographs of girls

It is always great to see photos our our girls having amazing opportunities through girlguiding. However, it is really important that all leaders are aware of which photo permissions each girl is signed up for.

Just a reminder that if you are adding photos of girls to our members facebook page they must have permission for their image to be used **publicly**. If you would like to find out more about photo permissions please contact growthandmarketing@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Recognition & rewards

Rewards and awards afternoon tea

Every year at Girlguiding Bucks we hold an afternoon tea to celebrate those in the county who achieved long service and other awards. If there is anyone that you would like to put forward to be celebrated then please make sure that you have nominated them for an official award. If they are granted an award, they can then be invited to

celebrate their achievement at the afternoon tea. If you'd like more information about awards then contact awards@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Vacancies

Are you looking for a new challenge? Please visit our [website page listing all our role vacancies](#) to see if there is anything that interests you. Remember, our volunteer county roles are flexible and offer a great opportunity to extend and build skills in wide variety of subjects.

Our focused role this edition is:

Marketing adviser

Are you creative and have a passion for great communication, or looking to gain some experience in a communications or marketing role to help with your CV? You could be just who we are looking for!

We need a marketing adviser to support our communications team to publicise and grow engagement in Buckinghamshire guiding events, with a focus on social media.

As with all our roles, there is flexibility built in, and plenty of opportunities to further develop your skills and experiences. We would really like to discuss suitability of this role for anyone who thinks this might be of interest. To find out more email

ggbucks@girlguiding.org.uk

Messages from Girlguiding

Youth awards survey

In this week's Girlguiding news, HQ will be sending a survey to 18–30-year-old volunteers. The survey will ask about how youth awards are promoted and engaged with at a local level. This data will help HQ inform their youth awards strategy moving forward and ensure that the offer is relevant to girls. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Exclusive Girlguiding screenings of Inside Out 2

We're working with [ODEON](#) to give girls magical memories at the cinema. Volunteers can organise an unforgettable trip with their unit to one of the ODEON cinemas across the UK participating in our exclusive Girlguiding screenings on 22 and 23 June.

Find out more on the Girlguiding [webpage](#).

Training

Upcoming 1st response trainings

29 June - Princes Risborough

28th Sept - Heron's Lodge

19th Oct - Beaconsfield

16th Nov - Princes Risborough

30th Nov - Herons Lodge

To find out more, or to book a place on the training please email

training@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Events

We often have a number of exciting events running across the county. To find out what is happening, when and where, and to get further details please visit the [events page](#) of our website.

Dates of interest

June

2 - Grand opening of Ellesborough toilets

3 -9 - Volunteers week

5 - LDP air and share (Stokenchurch)

7 - 9 - The big help out

8 - Bucks summer social BBQ

12 - Anglia all members call

16 - Fathers day

- Eid-Al-Adha

20 - LDP air and share (Ellesborough)

22 & 23 - Exclusive Girlguiding Inside Out 2 screenings (nationwide)

29 - First response training

There will be no county mailings next week (w/c 27 May)

Thank you for taking the time to read the whizz. If there's something you'd like us to consider for including in future copies of the Whizz, then let us know:

pr_and_comms@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

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