

Key to Girl Guides Program Activities

To earn their Key badge, the girls will complete the following activities, which are described in further detail in the Brownie program book, *Brownies Can Do It!*

- 1 Girl Guides Through Time
- 2 Thinking Day and Guide-Scout Week
- 3 Brownie Memories
- 4 Being a Guide
- 5 Moving Up
- 6 Staying Friends

The program book offers ideas for completing each of these activities. The following are additional ideas for activities that complement various parts of this Key.



ILLUSTRATION: BERNICE LUM

Guiding Through Time

Being part of an organization with a history gives girls a valuable sense of continuity. By knowing Brownie traditions and background, they will appreciate their own involvement in the organization. Go over the following Guides Canada historical notes and ask the girls to think about what it would have been like for them to be a Brownie in the early years. How has Guiding changed over the last century? If they could travel back in time to attend a Brownie meeting with their mothers, grandmothers or great-grandmothers, how would the activities they did then compare with what Brownies do today?

When Great-Grandma was a Brownie: 1915 to 1920s

- Brownies were called Rosebuds in England but, as the girls thought this name too babyish, they changed it to Brownies. Brownies are mischievous elves that live in the forest and, with the help of Wise Old Owl, perform good deeds.
- Great-grandma joined Brownies when she was 11 years old because her neighbour had seen them in England and said it was a lot of fun.
- Her first uniform was a white skirt and blouse with a sailor collar and a bright blue scarf. It soon changed to a brown dress, tie and cap.
- At meetings, Brownies sang songs and played games. During the years of World War I they served tea and washed dishes for people helping the war effort.
- After a while, great-grandma became a Sixer of Six, a small working group of Brownies. She earned her First Class and Second Class awards and collector, observer and signaller badges.

When Grandma was a Brownie: 1930s to mid 1950s

- During the depression years of the 1930s, Brownies was an affordable place for eight-year-old girls to learn new things and have adventures.
- Grandma earned badges, such as cook, toy maker and signaller, which she sewed on the brown dress she wore with a brown tie and a beret.
- She played games, sang songs and collected toys for less fortunate children. During World War II, she helped by collecting clothing and food for the war effort.
- She joined a “Six with a Brownie” and became a Sixer (with a Brownie name, such as Elf or Fairy).
- She sold cookies that were produced locally and used the money for Guiding in her third year.
- She earned her Golden Bar and Golden Hand and “flew” up to Guides when she got her Brownie wings.

When Mother was a Brownie: mid 1950s to mid 1970s

- Her friends all went to Brownies after school, so she joined too.
- She was eight years old. Her younger sister joined when she was seven years old.
- Mother wore a brown dress with a brown tie and a beret. Her sister wore a brown blouse, brown culottes, a white and orange scarf and a beret.
- She played games, sang and helped out in her community.
- Her mother helped her sew her badges, such as cook and toy maker, on her uniform sleeve. Her sister sewed her badges on a badge sash.
- She sold round cookies embossed with a trefoil for 25 cents a box. In 1953 she sold the first vanilla and chocolate sandwich cookies for 35 cents a box.

- She joined a “Six with a Brownie” (with names such as Elf or Fairy) and became a Sixer in her third year.
- She earned her Golden Bar and Golden Hand and “flew” up to Guides with her Brownie Wings.

When Aunt Sarah was a Brownie: mid 1970s to mid 1990s

- Her friends were all going to Brownies after supper, so she went along. She joined when she was six because she hadn't been a Spark.
- Her younger sister had been a Spark, so she joined Brownies at seven.
- Aunt Sarah wore a brown blouse, brown culottes, a white and orange scarf and a beret. Her sister wore brown pants, a brown and white striped t-shirt or brown sweatshirt, an orange tie and no hat.
- She earned the same badges as her mother and grandmother earned and sewed them on her badge sash.
- She stayed in Brownies for three years and became a Sixer, but her sister only stayed in for two years.
- She made projects in arts and crafts and sang songs, including the Guiders' Cookie Song.
- Her Brownie adventures included outdoor activities, and she may have spent a night in a tent.

When Big Sister was a Brownie: mid to late 1990s

- She joined Brownies when she was seven years- old because she had finished Sparks and all her friends were in Brownies.
- She wore brown pants, a brown and white striped t-shirt or brown sweatshirt, an orange tie and no hat.
- She played games, did arts and crafts, enjoyed outdoor activities and helped in the community.



- She earned Windows and Outlooks, such as Food Fun and Science, which her mother sewed on her brown badge sash.
- She joined a circle with a Brownie name like Elf, Fairy or Dryad and was a Circle Leader during her second year in Brownies.
- She went to Brownie Camp where she enjoyed water sports, campfires and other great activities.

Guiding Through Time Dress-Up

Have a “dress-up” day when girls dress in clothing their grandmothers might have worn. Encourage them to use their imaginations as they design their costumes. In what countries were their grandmothers born? If they have clothing from that country, such as a sari or peasant blouse, ask them to wear it. Hold a fashion parade so the girls can show their costumes to each other.

Brownies Back in Time

This activity will show girls where Guiding started and how people from all over the world have come to join it.

What you need:

- pictures of early Girl Guides in their uniforms from resource section
- a world map
- coloured pushpins
- different coloured yarn or string
- interactive story about the Baden-Powells from *Campfire Activities* (sold in the Guide stores).

What you do:

1. Ask girls to find out what country their parents/grandparents/great-grandparents came from.
2. Look up Guiding on the Internet and find out when and where it was started and by whom, at: www.girlguides.ca (optional).

3. Read the interactive story about the Baden-Powells and the beginning of Guiding.
4. Tack a map on the wall or spread it on the floor. Have the girls find England. Now ask them to find the countries their great-grandparents and grandparents came from. Mark each with a pushpin.
5. Using a different colour string for each, connect the countries to Canada.

Guiding Throughout the World

The following is background information about world Guiding:

WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts)

WAGGGS, which is headquartered in London, England, links 144 national Girl Guide and Girl Scout Associations, representing a total membership of more than 10 million individual members throughout the world.

World Centres

The WAGGGS World Centres are meeting places with eating and sleeping accommodation for the use of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world. There are four World Centres:

- Our Chalet, Switzerland
- Our Cabaña, Mexico
- Pax Lodge, England
- Sangam, India.

CWFF (Canadian World Friendship Fund)

Girl Guides of Canada maintains and administers the Canadian World Friendship Fund to support WAGGGS projects. These include: the World Centres, Mutual Aid, World Thinking Day Fund, assistance to