

Introducing Girl Guides

Why Guides?

There are many after school activities available for girls. But Guides offers girls aged 5 to 17 something unique: access to a great variety of activities throughout the year.

Our organisation is part of Girl Guides Australia, one of 145 member countries in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. This means we share the ideals and resources of 10 million members worldwide, and have the chance to experience international events, projects and friendships.

What's on offer for my daughter?

Variety's the key word. She will enjoy a weekly meeting during the school term with girls in her age group which combines games, outdoor activities, craft, cooking, environment awareness and more, including camping, tailored to her age and experience.

There's also the chance to meet other girls at local, state and national events, help people in her community, and train in boating and other outdoor skills.

What will this cost?

Girl Guides NSW & ACT is a not for profit organisation and keeps fees as low as possible. Membership in 2011 is \$100. This payment also covers insurance. Each term your daughter's Unit will ask for a small fee to cover activity and venue costs.

What about the uniform?

Guides wear a uniform, recently redesigned and popular with the girls. The uniform creates a strong identity and awareness of Guiding in our community. Uniform costs are kept low to suit all families and can be purchased online at www.guidensw.ashop.com.au

How do the meetings run?

As well as working with their Leader, girls work in small groups, learning about teamwork. They run the group themselves, each taking a role, and plan and evaluate their own activities.

Are there educational benefits?

The Australian Guide Program helps foster leadership and life skills and gives opportunities for formal training and mentoring from age 14.

What are the social benefits?

Guides will give your daughter the chance to be herself, and grow in self-confidence. She will also have fun with other girls, and form lasting friendships.

Why is Guides for girls only?

Research shows that girls at single gender schools have more self-worth than those in mixed gender schools, and tend to be more independent and more positive about their gender. In a mixed group, girls often take a subordinate role in physical activities, and may not assert their opinions or compete with boys for leadership positions.

What are the organisation's values?

Guides is a values-based organisation with a code of ethics. A girl makes the Guide Promise (next page) when she becomes a Guide. This affirms her responsibility to do her best for her community and herself. She follows the Guide Law (next page), which focuses on caring for others and the environment.

Guides give service to the community. They learn to make a difference, and to respect cultures different to their own. They raise funds for organisations like children's hospitals and zoos, and help at events such as ANZAC Day and Clean up Australia Day.

Who will be in charge of my daughter?

Guide Leaders are women 18 and over who are adult members of Guides. They are volunteers who have been trained to work with girls and to deliver the Australian Guide Program. All Leaders have undergone a child safety check.

Many started off as Guides themselves.

Can girls with special needs belong?

Guides is a place where all girls can have fun, make close friends and develop skills. The program is adapted as needed.

How can I find out more?

For more information go to

www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

or phone (02) 8396 5200

Girl Guides — Be Your Best





The Guide Promise

When a girl becomes a Guide, she makes the Guide Promise.

The Promise recognises that each Guide has a responsibility to do her best for her community, her faith, and herself.

The words of the Promise are symbolic and do not refer to any specific religion or type of government:

**I promise that I will do my best:
to do my duty to God, to serve the Queen* and my country;
to help other people; and
to keep the Guide Law.**

*The Queen may be omitted

The Guide Law

The Guide Law lists behaviours and attitudes that enable Guides to carry out the Guide Promise. They focus on caring for others, for oneself, and for the environment:

1. A Guide is loyal and can be trusted.
2. A Guide is helpful.
3. A Guide is polite and considerate.
4. A Guide is friendly and a sister to all Guides.
5. A Guide is kind to animals and respects all living things.
6. A Guide is obedient.
7. A Guide has courage and is cheerful in all difficulties.
8. A Guide makes good use of her time.
9. A Guide takes care of her own possessions and those of other people.
10. A Guide is self-controlled in all she thinks, says and does.