

LEADERS INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY HARMONY BADGE

The Community Harmony Badge now has three main sections: Indigenous Issues, Multiculturalism and Community Harmony. To complete the badge girls may work individually or as a group. To use the badge in the Australian Multicultural Ambassador Award, girls will need to show individual evidence of their participation and understanding of each section. This Award is not available to Guides from Pre-Junior Units, and would require a certain maturity from girls in Junior Guide Units.

Inclusion of all girls who are able to make the Guide Promise is a principle of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The purpose of this badge is to raise awareness of the diversity of cultures in Australia, and local areas, and to increase awareness of issues involved in that diversity. We would also like to see Guides NSW. reflect that diversity in their youth and adult membership to a greater extent.

To gain the badge girls must complete the requisite number of challenges within each section. The challenges are graded to allow flexibility of choice according to maturity of the girls. Girls will need guidance and encouragement from their leaders to complete the badge. (More detailed notes, organisation and website addresses for Leaders are available from the PR Administrator at Guide House, NSW. email: pradm@girlguides-nswact.org.au).

Pre-Junior Guide Units – at least 1 challenge from each section (minimum of 3 challenges). The book readings are most suitable for this age group, and could be accompanied by age appropriate discussion and questions.

Junior Guide Units – at least 2 challenges from each section (minimum of 6 challenges)

Guide Units– at least 1 challenge from each subsection (minimum of 7 challenges)

Senior Guide Units – at least 2 challenges from each subsection (14 challenges)

Olave Program and Leaders– at least 2 challenges from each subsection, to include the last challenge in each subsection, and to be explored and demonstrated at an appropriate adult level.

When participants in all but the Pre-Junior Guide Units have completed the Community Harmony Badge they are well on the way to achieving the Australian Multicultural Ambassador Award. Leaders can encourage their girls to go on to this State Guide Award and provide extra information on this State Guide Award is available from pradm@girlguides-nswact.org.au or by talking to Helen Choy at Guide House.

*N.B. Many clauses in this badge cross-credit with clauses in badges in *Look Wide*, and in the *Aim High* Achievement Awards.



SECTION 1 - INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Dreamtime:

- (Younger Guides) Listen to a dreamtime story in your group and act it out for others.
- Visit an exhibition of Aboriginal art and have someone explain the symbolism
- Explore the link between the Dreamtime legends and Aboriginal spirituality.

Getting to Know People:

- Take a discovery walk with a local Park or Forest ranger and find out about bush tucker and/or indigenous art sites.
- List some Aboriginal place names in your area and find out what they mean. Can you find out why they were called by that name?
- Find out about traditional ownership and custodianship in your local area. Is there someone who is able to talk to you about it?

Reconciliation:

- What can you do to extend the hand of friendship? Show how you can do this.
- What is meant by reconciliation in our present day society? Discuss this with your Patrol or Unit.
- How could you advance reconciliation in your community?



SECTION 2 – MULTICULTURALISM

Australia – the home of many people:

- Create a poster using pictures and words to explain multiculturalism.
- Find out the different ways people have travelled to Australia and present your findings in a fun way. (Create a poem, pageant, poster or other.)
- Create a time line showing specific times that large numbers of different national groupings arrived in Australia. (Younger girls might be interactive and use flags or pictures, e.g., Aborigines, first fleet, gold rush, sugar industry, pearling, Snowy Mountains Scheme, post wars, &c.)

Live Experiences:

- Enjoy an evening of multicultural activity (e.g. dress up, food, dance, puppet show).
- Learn to say 'hello', 'goodbye', 'thank you' in as many languages as you can.
- Promote Guiding by participating in a local festival, parade or ceremony, such as a citizenship award, cultural festival, or Harmony Day event.
- Find out the original nationality/ies in your family background and share it with your Patrol or Unit.
- Invite a guest speaker to talk to your unit about their experiences, good and bad, of living in a new or different country.

The Migrant Experience:

- (For younger Guides) Share 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Brian Wildsmith, or a similar story, and talk about how it might feel to be an 'outsider', or different to those around you.
- Make a welcome gift for someone new in your community.
- Watch a video or movie appropriate to the age group about life in a different culture.
- Read a book about experiences of living in another culture and share your thoughts, e.g. 'The Voyage of Their Life' by Dianne Armstrong, published by Harper Collins; or 'Shoalhaven VOICES from Faraway Places' edited by Chris Mansell and published by Illawarra Multicultural Services Inc.



SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY HARMONY

- Read a book about children of many cultures, eg 'We Are All Alike; We Are All Different' by Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergarten, published by Scholastic; 'Its One World' by Geoff Hocking, published by Five Mile Press; 'Whoever You Are' by Mem Fox published by Hodda Children's Books.
- Make a friend of someone from a different culture. Invite her to come with you to Guides. If it is an older person, she might share her experiences.
- Discuss racism and/or discrimination with your Leader in your Patrol or Unit. How does it make people feel, and what can you do to make a difference when you see or experience racism?
- Find quotes from Lord Baden-Powell which promote harmony among different nationalities.
- Identify a program run by a World Centre or the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts which relates to the promotion of harmony. (Your Leader has access to World Centre programs.)
- Identify programs in which the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts works with other global organisations.
- Organise a Harmony Day event which could be open to the local community, or a Harmony event on another suitable occasion, such as NAIDOC week or United Nations week.



Websites for Leaders and older Guides to access which may give additional information:

Reconciliation:

- Reconciliation Australia: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au>
- Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation: <http://www.antar.org.au>

Indigenous owners and heritage in your local area:

- Your local government Council or Shire: <http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/134-council-websites.asp>
- Your local regional Aboriginal Land Council: www.alc.org.au
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs: www.daa.nsw.gov.au

Indigenous culture, activities and issues:

- www.aboriginalaustralia.com for some very useful information

Multiculturalism:

- The Council for Multicultural Australia: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/a-diverse-australia/index.htm>
- Federal Government's Living in Harmony initiative: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/>
- Community Relations Commission: www.crc.nsw.gov.au
- Ethnic Communities Council: www.eccnsw.org.au

Racial Discrimination:

- The Racial Discrimination Act – Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission: <http://www.hreoc.gov.au>