

In addition to these criteria, Area Council will be developing area-wide opportunities to complete this challenge.

To order crests:

Challenge crests can be ordered by sending the completed form, along with pictures, to SVI Girl Guide Challenge Crests:

by email: svgirlguides@shaw.ca

by regular mail: 938 Mason St., Victoria, BC, V8T 1A2



SVI Girl Guide



Community Connections Challenge

Introduction

In response to a province-wide call to have Guiding members interacting with the public out in our local communities in ways other than cookie sales, we have created the **SVI Girl Guides Community Connections Challenge**.

Many of us are successfully undertaking service projects that have a positive impact on both our community and the environment. This challenge is about taking our caring, sharing and protecting actions one step further and engaging the larger non-Guiding community.

Objective of the Challenge

Our goal, then, is to try something new or take what you are already doing to a new level of connection within the community. By building on the momentum of our 100th Birthday celebrations we can strengthen existing relationships and create opportunities for our members to make new friends and become engaged with our communities.

About the Challenge

The challenge is organized into four categories, with ideas and activities for individuals, Units, Districts or Guiders working with girls to assist in easily making connections. Some of the challenges are directed at adults and with a little modification can be completed by a Unit.

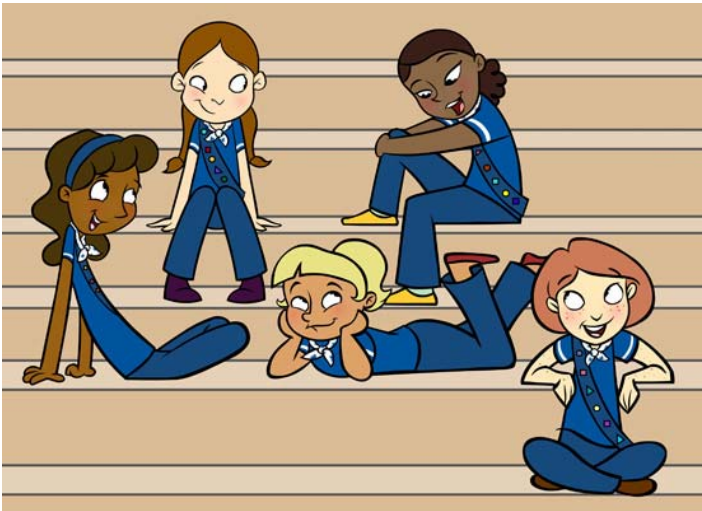
Challenge Sections

OUT AND ABOUT Community Connections . . . come see us now Sharing in Celebrations Sharing Unit Connections Stepping out	Connect to Share
LEND A HAND Community Service	Connect to Care
GREEN GUIDING Environmental Service . . . stewardship	Connect to Protect
GIVE A STAR—BE A STAR Blowing Our Own Horn Warm Fuzzies News Bites	Connect to Cheer

Each section features a crest that can be earned separately. We encourage thinking outside the box and feeling free to substitute activities as long as the substitutions are age-appropriate, and are sufficiently challenging for the level of girls involved to meet the spirit of the objective.

SVI Girl Guide Community Challenge
Possible area-wide activities and events

- ❖ Participate in a “Cookie Challenge” among the local politicians. This idea originates from the Sooke Fall Fair when invited politicians commented on which cookies each liked better and Marsha challenged them to do this at a public event
- ❖ Participate in the Victoria Day Parade
- ❖ Help out at the stroller parking booth at the Baby Fair
- ❖ Staff the booth at the Saanich Fair
- ❖ Set up PR tables at community and farm markets to promote Guiding. Materials can be obtained from Area PR
- ❖ Take part in a scavenger hunt. This can be done at a mall as was done by Ottawa Guiding for their Pathfinders—in uniform and with mall permissions (very popular!). Or on a smaller scale hold a scavenger hunt at a local park or in and around your meeting hall
- ❖ Send a special edition of SVI News with feedback to all the businesses and individuals who support us



- ♣ Write thank you letters to the places where you or your Unit sells cookies, thanking them for supporting Girl Guides. Deliver in person (and in uniform!)
- ♣ Write a thank you to your meeting places and churches showing appreciation for their support – be sure to include a photo and a note from the girls with what they like about Sparks, Brownies etc.
- ♣ Discuss with your girls who helps Guiding in your community and write a thank you card to them. Take a picture of the girls delivering it along with a box of cookies.
- ♣ Write a thank you to your district, area or province after participating in an event.
- ♣ Nominate and write a supporting letter for a Guider to receive a formal award within Guiding.
- ♣ Nominate and/or write a supporting letter for a Guider to receive a community service award, for example, VERA or the Peninsula Community Award.

Part 4C: News Bites

*****Before you contact radio or TV or your municipal councils, please advise the SVI Girl Guide Challenge Liaison or the Area PR Team of your plans—there is a protocol to follow and industry standards that must be met.***

- ♣ Submit an article to the Lamplighter. Spark and Brownie Guiders—have girls help with this by describing their favourite activity in Guiding. Be sure to ask the girls questions over a period of weeks so that there are a variety of answers to choose from (i.e., camping, singing, crafts, service and making new friends)
- ♣ Submit a paragraph with a picture to the Pipeline’s section *Around BC*
- ♣ Submit an article with pictures to your local paper with a copy to **Girl Guide Challenge Liaison or the Area PR Adviser**
- ♣ Submit your story and pictures to the SVI Website—Out and About Section
- ♣ Volunteer someone in your Unit to be a Guiding Ambassador and ask them if they would like to be trained to talk to the media. This may happen on short notice and will need parental permission
- ♣ Invite your municipal councils, radio and TV stations to come to an event. ***** Organize this with the help of the Area PR Adviser or Girl Guide Challenge Liaison. There is a protocol to follow and industry standards that must be met***

Section 1: Out and About

Connect to Share

This section is about getting the girls involved in activities related to local government or being seen in the public. Any activities are possible as long as the girls are in uniform and they are out in the community talking to people about Guiding.

Complete one each of the four parts to earn the **Out and About** challenge crest.

Part 1 A—Community Connections . . . Come See Us Now

- ♣ Staff tables at community and farm markets and promote Guiding to customers
- ♣ Attend a community event and make contact with organizers and participants
- ♣ Send a letter with pictures to your mayor, MLA, or MP telling them about the value of Guiding in Canada and what Guiding means to girls and women
- ♣ Ask your local municipal councils if Guiding can paint over a “graffiti-covered” wall or bench with “Guiding” theme art
- ♣ Visit City/Municipal Councils and have girls talk about their favourite thing in Guiding
- ♣ Organize and participate in a community candlelight walk-about; invite the public to join you for a cup of hot chocolate at the end
- ♣ Ask your local museum, library, school, pre-school, bank, recreation centre, municipal hall or mall if you can set up a display about Guiding
- ♣ Donate a Guiding book to your public library (e.g., Guiding heroes)
- ♣ Help plan, create or decorate a float for a community parade



Part 1 B—Sharing in Celebrations

We encourage stepping outside your district boundaries for your second choice and taking part in a parade or fair for the first time.

For this category, you may participate as a Unit or as a Girl Guide member in two of the following:

- ♣ Buccaneer Days
 - ♣ Brentwood Bay Day
 - ♣ Oak Bay Tea Party
 - ♣ Sooke Fall Fair
 - ♣ Langford Summer Festival
 - ♣ Luxton Fall Fair
 - ♣ July 1 Parade in Sidney
 - ♣ Sidney Santa Parade
 - ♣ Westshore Santa Parade
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- ♣ God’s Acre or other candlelight tributes or ceremonies
 - ♣ Remembrance Day ceremonies in Central Saanich, Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Langford, Saanich, Sidney, Sooke or the BC Legislature
 - ♣ Participate in a multi-district or an SVI Area-wide service day
 - ♣ Participate in a multi-district or an SVI Area-wide event

Part 1 C—Sharing Unit Connections

The following are just some small examples and ideas; freely substitute activities that are in keeping with the spirit of the challenge. Ask the girls, your councils or your Guilds—they will have great ideas for making connections.

- ♣ Develop parent/work relationships for Unit visits (e.g., Bring your daughter and her ____Unit to work day! or Bring your parents’ co-workers to the Unit meeting)
 - ♣ Hold a teachers’ appreciation night and have the girls write out personal invitations to their teachers to attend the Unit meeting
 - ♣ Hold a career night recruiting family, friends and the community
 - ♣ Invite a resource person or guest speaker to come talk to the girls, your district council or guild about a relevant topic or program item (i.e.,
- the CRD about recycling or water management, Environment Canada, or a UVIC Speakers Bureau presenter)
 - ♣ Invite a local First Nation’s Band member to come to your Unit meeting and speak about their history
 - ♣ Have the girls create and distribute a notice about why we collect funds for Canadian World Friendship Fund (CWFF)
 - ♣ Have a multicultural presentation at your meeting

Section 4: Give a Star—Be a Star

Connect to Cheer

This section is made up of three parts: Blowing Our Own Horn, Warm Fuzzies and News Bites.

Once again we are asking you to make personal connections, involve the girls in the process, let them see the finished stories, take a copy home etc. Each contact has the potential to become a friend to Guiding connection.

All levels must complete one from each section to earn the **Give a Star—Be a Star** challenge crest.

Part 4 A - Blowing Our Own Horn

- ♣ Create a cookie poster that shows “where the cookie money goes” and, with permission, post it in a public space
 - ♣ Create a collage of pictures and/or pictures and words that describe Guiding. With permission, post it in a public space
 - ♣ Volunteer to help out at District registration event or SVI/Community PR event
 - ♣ Create a short article, with pictures, about one of the service projects or events in which your Unit has participated in from Section 2 or 3 of this challenge
 - ♣ Create a 60 second commercial for radio or TV that promotes Guiding in your community. Share it with the Area PR Team
- ♣ At your school, church or another organization outside of Guiding, give a three minute speech on “Why I am in Guiding” or “The Changes in Guiding since 1910”



Section 3: Green Guiding

Connect to Protect

The Green Guiding section has activities and events to get our Guiding members connected with the environment and to those who jobs are to protect it.

Listed are just some examples and ideas; freely substitute activities that are in keeping with the spirit of the challenge.

To complete this section of the challenge and receive your *Green Guiding crest* all units and/or members must participate in or complete two of the following—one of which is new to you or your Unit.

Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers—
service or participation should be minimum of 1–2 hours

- ♣ Plant bulbs or flowers in a significant community plot, seniors’ home, cemetery, hospital, etc. (why not make it 101 flowers!)
- ♣ Pick up trash at a local park, boardwalk, library or school in your community, or participate in Pitch In Canada or Shoreline Cleanup
- ♣ Adopt a section of highway
- ♣ Participate with your Unit or family in an SVI Camp Clean-up
- ♣ Plant a tree. Plant 11 trees (one for each decade of Guiding). Or plant 101 trees!
- ♣ Work with the community Soft Plastics Depot
- ♣ Participate in or organize a broom/ivy pull
- ♣ Participate in Yellow Fish Drain Painting
- ♣ Volunteer at an animal shelter
- ♣ Volunteer to help plant, weed or maintain a community vegetable garden
- ♣ Attend a Stream of Dreams presentation
- ♣ Have an ecologist or environmentalist attend a Unit meeting to do a presentation
- ♣ Give a presentation at your school or class about a local environmental concern
- ♣ Visit a farm to learn how eating locally helps the environment
- ♣ Discuss your options when planning a 100 mile diet
- ♣ Find out about Wild Arc or SPCA and how they help animals—what could you or your Unit do to help (i.e., make bird blankets, collect cookie cases (used to house animals)



- ♣ Invite a Guiding member who has travelled internationally to speak to your Unit
- ♣ Invite another Guider to join you at training event
- ♣ Wear your Girl Guide uniform to school on Thinking Day
- ♣ Wear your Girl Guide uniform to the Remembrance Day Ceremony at your school

Part 1 D—Stepping Out

The objective of the challenge is to get **Guiding** out into the community - this section is about taking a Unit meeting outside the hall. Please choose a location where your Unit has not gone before or doesn’t normally meet.

The key to all of the following is to wear your uniform!

- ♣ Visit a museum, art gallery or public library (maybe the librarian could read to younger girls)
- ♣ Tour a grocery store (many hold tours and focus on nutritional snacks and lunches), fire hall, police station, veterinary clinic, post office, bakery or commercial enterprise of your choosing where tours are offered or can be arranged. Tour your local newspaper—maybe you’ll get your picture in the paper!
- ♣ Attend a musical or theatrical performance, or go to a movie
- ♣ Visit Butchart Gardens at Christmas, the Enchanted Halloween at Heritage Acres, the Corn Maze at Galey’s Farm or Easter at the Barn for Therapeutic Riding
- ♣ Hold a meeting in a public park, at the mall or in the parking lot of your meeting hall/school—anywhere you are outside and can be seen
- ♣ Go swimming, curling, skating, or—try something new at your local recreation centre
- ♣ Try out a new sport or activity like curling, tennis, yoga, lawn bowling or archery at a local club. The possibilities are limitless. For contacts check out your local recreation centre brochure
- ♣ Go to an international restaurant and try a food new food
- ♣ Go for ice-cream/popsicles together
- ♣ Travel on public transit—have a meeting on the bus while doing a challenge
- ♣ Travel by bus as part of the activity
- ♣ Walk (as part of the activity) to or between places
- ♣ Be a tourist in your own town (visit local attractions such as Butterfly Gardens, the Shaw Discovery Centre in Sidney, and the Centre of the Universe in Saanich)

Section 2: Lend a Hand

Connect to Care

In the Lend a Hand section of the challenge, what is important is making a personal connection. If the girls, your councils or your Guild are asked where they would like to make connections or be of service, they will then have a personal interest in making a specific connection that is in keeping with the spirit of the challenge.

Here are small samplings of ideas and opportunities for the girls to get involved in their community. Remember, it is the connection that counts, like taking the time to teach the girls to be comfortable in having a conversation with a senior rather than just making the card or craft or performing at the senior centre.

To complete this section of the challenge and receive your **Lend a Hand crest**, all units and/or members must participate in or complete three of the following—at least one of which is something new to you.

**Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers and Adults—
service should be minimum of 1–2 hours**

- ♣ Make cards and give individually to veterans at November 11 events
 - ♣ Make Valentine cards for veterans or seniors. Have the girls personally present them at a tea or other opportunity to meet and mingle with the recipients
 - ♣ Participate in Cancer Society daffodil sales or sell poppies to support your local Legion—these two opportunities are within the BC Fundraising Guidelines
 - ♣ Have each girl bring non-perishable food items that total her age for the local food bank (i.e., an eight year old brings eight items)
 - ♣ Arrange for the girls to have a tour and help at the local food bank
- ♣ Participate in a food drive or Hike for Hunger for the Peninsula, Goldstream, Sooke or Mustard Seed food banks
 - ♣ Organize a campfire in a seniors’ care facility and sing old and new Guiding songs. You will be amazed how many seniors will remember the words
 - ♣ Arrange ahead of time to visit with seniors for Grandparents Day
 - ♣ Make tray favours for Meals on Wheels with Sparks and Brownies—Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers can help with distribution
 - ♣ Wash dishes at a food bank, seniors centre or community hot meal service

- ♣ Make a quilt from blocks created by the girls—use embroidery, fabric paints, appliqué etc. and arrange to have the girls present it to a recipient or organization
- ♣ Learn to knit or crochet teddy bears—try asking a member of your nearest Trefoil Guild to come and teach the girls to knit
- ♣ Volunteer at a local fall fair or craft fair
- ♣ Be of service at a community event like Run for the Cure, Victoria Symphony Splash, Candle Light Tribute at God’s Acre, Holy Trinity Pancake Supper, etc.
- ♣ Participate in a service project for someone in need (i.e., hygiene kits, socks, mittens, baby hygiene kits for the Open Door)
- ♣ Participate in the Samaritan’s Purse project at Christmas

