

Need more volunteers in your area? Have you asked Headteachers in your area to help with recruitment?

Paste the text below onto your own headed paper (templates available in the Online Print Centre), edit the highlighted sections as necessary and send to local schools along with a copy of Girlguiding's volunteering leaflet which can be ordered from Girlguiding Scotland shops.

Dear [Headteacher - make an effort to find out their name if possible],

My name is [] and I am a volunteer with Girlguiding [District/County]. I am contacting you to let you know that we are hoping to open new Rainbow, Brownie and Guide groups in the local area to provide girls with opportunities to develop new skills, make great new friends and work closely within their local community to become a powerful force for good. Girlguiding [District/County] believe that girls matter, and provide a fantastic programme of girl-led activities.

We rely completely on amazing volunteers to lead the groups. As a volunteer you could find yourself helping girls learn about stars, campaign for women's rights, go camping or even travel abroad. In return, we look after you with dedicated support, training and skills development.

We know it can be hard to fit volunteering in a busy life - but our volunteers tell us they wouldn't miss it for the world. Whether it's helping out at a local group for a couple of hours per week or lending a hand with fundraising, they tell us they value the fun, the friendship and the chance to learn new skills.

In order to open new groups and expand existing ones, we need to work closely with local schools and local people within our community to recruit new volunteers. I am contacting you to see if there are ways in which your school can help get the word about recruitment in the area. I am currently working with a number of local schools, attending events, providing leaflets and postcards for book bags and putting adverts in newsletters to parents and carers.

I would be very grateful if you would allow our charity to put some leaflets in book bags. If you feel this is something you may be able to support in any way I would be more than happy to discuss any opportunities by email, telephone or in person. Please feel free to contact me with any queries via the details below.

I thank you in advance for your time and support and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[Your name]

[District Commissioner/ Growing Guiding Coordinator/etc]

[Your telephone and email contact]

Need more support in your unit, District or County? Don't assume that parents know that you'd welcome their involvement or that they will say no if asked directly.

Use the below template to ask for help and explain what you get out of being a volunteer. Be proactive and positive rather than waiting until there's a crisis and a unit is in danger of closing!

Create headed paper using the template in the Online Print Centre and include a volunteering postcard or leaflet along with your letter (available from Girlguiding Scotland shops).

Dear parent/carer,

Girlguiding Scotland and [name of unit/district/County] have had a fantastic year so far with lots of brilliant activities happening across [enter County/Local Authority] and beyond. Some local highlights include [enter some examples of activities that local units have been involved in]. All of this has been possible because of the energy and enthusiasm of our incredible Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Unit Helpers and occasional helpers.

In order to continue providing amazing guiding experiences for girls and young women, Girlguiding Scotland is currently recruiting for new adult volunteers to support the work already being done in our community. We have units in need of additional volunteers and areas in need of new units to ease local waiting lists.

If you, a family member, colleague or friend, might be interested in getting involved then we'd love to hear from you. Not only is volunteering with Girlguiding Scotland lots of fun, it's also a great way to meet new people and give something back to the local community. As a volunteer you could find yourself helping girls learn about stars, campaign for women's rights, go camping or even travel abroad. In return, volunteers benefit from dedicated support, training and skill development.

I know it can be hard to fit volunteering into a busy life but I wouldn't miss it for the world! There are lots of ways to get involved, from helping out at a local unit, to lending a hand with a specific event or sharing a skill with our girls. Whether you are able to make a regular weekly commitment or can offer a couple of hours each month, you can make a huge difference to the lives of local girls.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering with Girlguiding Scotland, or know someone else who might be, please contact me on the below email address. I'll get back to you to arrange a convenient time to chat about how we can take things forward.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your role - Leader/District Commissioner/Growing Guiding Coordinator, etc]

[email address]