



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Scotland

# Flexible Guiding Conversation Starters:

*A resource to help introduce adult  
members to flexible approaches to guiding*

This resource aims to help break down barriers which might prevent girls and adults from joining Girlguiding and/or staying connected to guiding when their personal circumstances change.

These cards should be used in a group setting alongside the Flexible Guiding Conversation Starters Training pack and PowerPoint which can be downloaded from the Girlguiding Scotland website.

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**We've always met weekly on a Tuesday. Our unit has recently lost some girls to swimming. And to judo. And to dancing.**

**How can we make sure that our unit continues to attract girls?**

*Flexible guiding for girls*

1

Discuss...



- What benefit could a change of night bring to leaders and girls attached to this unit?
- What if the unit met less frequently?



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**How could flexible approaches to guiding help girls on waiting lists?**

*Flexible guiding for girls*

2

Discuss...



- How could you make sure that waiting list parents know about alternative units without waiting lists?
- How could you run your waiting list to reward parents that step forward as volunteers?
- How could different meeting days or frequencies bring more girls into guiding?



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**We're trying to set up a unit in a new area. We've had interest from a few girls of different ages. How can we get guiding going with low numbers?**

*Flexible guiding for girls*

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Discuss...



- How could taster sessions be set up to benefit girls and raise awareness?
- How could a joint unit help these girls?
- If the unit opens with low numbers, what ideas do you have to bring more girls in?





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**How will being flexible help us to recruit parents into Girlguiding?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*

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Discuss...



- What do parents think volunteering with us involves?
- Do you think parents understand that volunteers can be adult members and get member benefits?
- How could you challenge their assumptions and encourage them to get involved?



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**We can't get enough volunteers to support a new weekly unit but want to get it going before the holidays. What options do we have?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*

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Discuss...



- What are the benefits of meeting less frequently for adults?
- Why might adults volunteer to support a monthly or weekend unit?



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**We need to change our meeting night. How do I manage the process of switching nights with parents?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*



Discuss...



- What needs to be considered when deciding when the unit should meet?
- What options can the leader present to parents?



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**What is the point of asking students to volunteer as I believe they are unreliable and won't stick around?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*

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Discuss...



- What are the benefits of involving students in your unit during term-time?
- How can girls going off to college or university keep in touch with their 'home unit'?





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**I hate admin and I'm not that confident using GO. Can I ask someone to do this for me or are strangers not allowed access to the data?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*



Discuss...



- What are the recruitment processes to ensure new volunteers receive the support, training and checks necessary?
- How could you recruit someone to help with admin specifically?



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**How long do you have to  
volunteer with us to  
make a valuable  
contribution?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*

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Discuss...



- When you joined guiding how long did you think you would stay?
- How do we make sure we respond warmly to offers of help?
- How can we ensure that all contributions are valued?



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**My friend got a new job. She works shifts now. She was told she had to come every week or leave. Is there a way for her to stay involved in guiding?**

*Flexible guiding for adults*

10

Discuss...

- Why should we try to accommodate changes in circumstances?
- What options are there for people who can't volunteer every week?



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**What is holiday guiding  
and why might it be  
attractive to girls and  
adults?**

*Flexible guiding for units*

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Discuss...



- What do you think holiday guiding involves in terms of time commitment?
- Why might some girls and adults prefer to meet during the holidays instead of during term-time?





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**How can I support a leader to move venues? The meeting place is falling apart but she insists that all the schools, community centres and churches are either full or on the verge of closing.**

*Flexible guiding for units*

12

Discuss...



- What other venues could be used as unit meeting places?
- If you can't think of alternative venues in your area, who could you approach for help?