



County Commissioner Role Information

The county commissioner role is an exciting opportunity to lead a dedicated team of volunteers to deliver good guiding in your county and to ensure that girls have amazing opportunities.

How will I know what my county should be doing?

Girlguiding Scotland has put together a template outlining what it expects every county to do in order to ensure that there are great guiding opportunities for all and that there is good governance in the county.

The template covers all aspects of the county's work under the headings of county executive, events, volunteers, growth, finance/property/staff, compliance, and communications/pr. Your county will have or will be developing a county action plan so that you can deliver on these requirements and your county will already have a facilitator assigned to work with you and your county executive to help you. Girlguiding Scotland has also produced lots of supporting information, model documents and templates for you to use and these are available on the website.

As County Commissioner what will I be expected to do?

While the county commissioner leads the county this does not mean that the county commissioner does everything herself.

One of your key duties will be to chair the county executive meeting. Girlguiding Scotland has produced a model agenda for county meetings, this can be adapted to fit the needs of your county, it shows what you will need to be discussing annually, 6 monthly, quarterly, on an ad hoc basis. To help you in your role you will have a team of lead volunteers, most likely covering the following areas: events, volunteers, growth, finance/property/staff, compliance, and communications/pr. These key players will probably be members of the county executive, if not they will be expected to attend county executive meetings and report on their areas of work. The members of the county executive are the trustees of your county and as such, in addition to their own areas of expertise,

they like you will have joint responsibility for ensuring that the county is well run, financially viable and delivering on what the county is expected to do.

As county commissioner you will be responsible for appointing advisers, lead volunteers and district / division commissioners within your county and supporting and coaching them through any challenges that may arise. You will also act as an escalation point for district / division commissioner with compliance issues, and act as a decision maker in regard to safeguarding concerns. You may also decide to appoint an assistant county commissioner to help you in your role and you can delegate some specific duties to her particularly to help you support and oversee the work of the lead volunteers and district / division commissioners.

You will have the opportunity to thank volunteers from across your county, presenting awards and attending events. You will get to know people from across your county and through this you will be able to spot talent and encourage people to take on roles for your county and beyond.

You will represent Girlguiding within your county developing links with other key community groups and representatives.

Out with the county, you will have the opportunity to represent your county at region and Scottish level and work with other county commissioners and Girlguiding Scotland's lead volunteers to help shape and influence what we do.

What training will be available?

Training available to you will include:

- A thorough induction into your role and you will be invited to Girlguiding events welcoming county commissioners.
- An invitation to participate in Girlguiding Scotland's coaching for county commissioners – commissioner reflective conversations.
- Girlguiding Scotland's training for commissioners and county teams including county commissioners training days, skills builder sessions, county training days
- Alongside district and division commissioners, you will take part in A Safe Space level 4 training
- Ongoing support will be provided by the Scottish chief commissioner and her team and the staff team at Girlguiding Scotland

What will be the benefits to me through taking on the role of county commissioner?

- Taking on the role of county commissioner is a great way of learning new skills such as team work, leadership skills, event planning, budgeting, time management, communication and motivation. If you are in employment then these are also skills which employers want to see and would look great on your cv and make you stand out from other applicants when applying for a new job or promotion.
- For those with a large skill set from employment / previous experience, this is a great opportunity for you to use your skills to lead and motivate others sharing your expertise, taking the county forward as well as growing others to be able to take on this and other key roles in the future.
- Overall, this is a great opportunity to do something valuable in your community, meet and work with new people, learn new skills and most importantly have lots of fun!

Alison Cooper said at the end of her term of office as county commissioner of North Lanarkshire:

How you sum up 5 amazing years of brilliant opportunities and challenges is impossible. It has been such a privilege and I know it will take time to adjust to a virtual new way of life again.

Being part of this wonderful Scottish county commissioner team has brought many friendships that I will cherish and take forward.

As I move onto a new chapter I go with an immense set of skills and experiences that are greater than none.