



# Scottish Country Dance Challenge



Celebrate 90 Years of RSCDS



This challenge has been created to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and its strong links to Girlguiding Scotland.

- Rainbows – achieve 2 of the challenges
- Brownies – achieve 3 of the challenges
- Guides/Senior Section – achieve 4 or more of the challenges

1. Find out about the history of Scottish country dancing and make up a quiz for your Unit or another section.
2. Learn two Scottish country dances with your Unit and put on a performance for parents or a local group. You could invite a member of your local RSCDS branch to come to your Unit to teach you.
3. Dancing shoes now come in all different colours. Design a pair of Scottish country dancing shoes or a costume for Scottish country dancers.
4. Many dances have lovely names: choose a dance title and make up a story or draw a picture about it.
5. The names of many Scottish country dances reflect particular places in Scotland (e.g. Flowers of Edinburgh, Duke of Perth, Argyll Strathspey, Belle of Bon Accord). Make up a game for your Unit using some of these names.
6. Find out if there is a local dance festival in your area and enter a team.
7. Learn the positions/steps of Scottish country dancing and teach them to another section
8. Some RSCDS groups have their own mascots. Design a Scottish country dancing mascot for your Unit.
9. Invite an accordionist/pianist or a fiddler along to a Unit meeting to teach the group about the different music played for Scottish country dancing.
10. Traditionally, male dancers wear kilts, find out about your family's own tartan or design a tartan for your Unit.



11. Learn one of the many dances written for Girlguiding, e.g. A Hundred Thousand Welcomes (centenary dance) and The Trefoil Badge
12. Make up a poster to promote the fun, fitness and friendship you can gain from Scottish country dancing.
13. Make up your own Scottish country dance and give it your own unique name.
14. Mrs Stewart was awarded the Silver Fish, find out what this Award means in Guiding and, if you can, find other recipients from Scotland.

### The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and its connections with Girlguiding Scotland

Almost 100 years ago in the 1920's Mrs Ysobel Stewart of Fasnaclloch, then County Commissioner for Argyll, decided that Guides in Scotland should include Scottish country dances in their programmes. To make that possible, she wrote (in a notebook!) the Scottish dances which she had danced all her life, along with the accompanying music. In the autumn of 1923 a book of twelve Scottish country dances was published and the Scottish Country Dance Society was formed on 26th November 1923. In 1951 the title "Royal" was conferred upon the Society and since 1952, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been the Society Patron. Since its early beginnings, the RSCDS has evolved into a worldwide organisation, with approximately 13,000 members. It has a network of 164 Branches and 335 Affiliated Groups. Its administrative office is in Edinburgh. We are sure Mrs Stewart would be proud to know that the RSCDS and Girlguiding Scotland still have connections after 90 years.



## Useful Information

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
12 Coates Crescent  
Edinburgh  
Scotland  
EH3 7AF  
0131 225 3854  
info@rscds.org

For Society, Branch and Affiliate Group contacts see  
[www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

Girlguiding Scotland Headquarters  
16 Coates Crescent  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7AH  
0131 226 4511  
administrator@girlguiding-scot.org.uk

Girlguiding Scotland Centenary Dance Information  
[www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/Themed%20Centenary%20Activities](http://www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/Themed%20Centenary%20Activities)

Other useful sites and contacts  
(not maintained by either Girlguiding or the RSCDS)

[www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com](http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com)  
[www.minicrib.care4free.net](http://www.minicrib.care4free.net)  
[www.strathspey.org/what\\_is\\_scd](http://www.strathspey.org/what_is_scd)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Thanks go to everyone who has assisted with the creation of this Challenge badge and for helping to spread Mrs Ysobel Stewart's great work for Girlguiding Scotland and Scottish country dancing. Special thanks to Fiona McIver, Stella McIver, Jean Martin, Isobel McMillan, Aberdeen RSCDS Branch, Membership Support Committee, Dunblane Guides, Girlguiding Scotland and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

