



Queen's Guide award

Your guide to the award



Are you ready to start your Queen's Guide or just thinking about it?

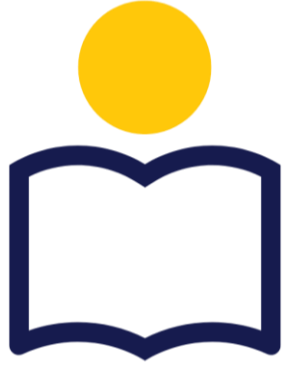
Wherever you are in your journey, here's a simple guide to the award!

Key facts

- **You must be aged 16 to 30.**
- **You will have 3 years to complete it, with some 'timeouts' if you need them.**
- **Nothing you do counts twice.**
- **You can choose a mentor to help you.**
- **You need an assessor for each element you do.**

The award has 5 sections

These can be completed in any order



Personal development challenge



Guiding challenge



Community action challenge



Lead the way challenge



Social experience challenge

Personal development challenge

- Develop a skill inside or outside of Girlguiding; this can be something new or you can develop a skill you already have.
- When you complete this section, you must share your skill with others.
- This section is a minimum of 50 hours.



Sarah developed her dancing skills, taking part in shows and taking exams.



Leah developed her crocheting skills, moving onto more difficult items including making clothing for herself.

Other people have learnt to drive, developed their skills in singing, sports, drama, cookery, or the arts. You can choose what you would like to do.

Guiding challenge

- **This challenge is divided into 4 different parts. It asks you to take an active part in guiding at 4 different levels out of a choice of 5, with 4 different project focuses.**
 - **The 5 levels are:**
 - **unit**
 - **district/division**
 - **county**
 - **country/region**
 - **UK or WAGGGS**
 - **The 4 project focuses are:**
 - **girl**
 - **growth and retention**
 - **volunteer**
 - **inclusion**
- **1 project focus needs to be for a minimum of 50 hours or 12 months.**

Guiding challenge – project focuses

Girl focus

This is working directly with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers.

Some people use their weekly unit meetings, while others have run activities based on growth and retention, or inclusion.



Growth and retention

This can be anything you organise to help guiding grow. It can be supporting new volunteers or to help retain current membership, including moving on to other sections.

Some people have run joint Rainbow/Brownie or Brownie/Guide meetings, while others have become a buddy for a new volunteer.



Guiding challenge – project focuses contd

Volunteer

This is supporting other volunteers or taking on a new volunteer role.

Some people have trained to be a peer educator and run peer education sessions. Others have volunteered at guiding events and helped with activities.



Inclusion

This is finding ways to improve accessibility, diversity and inclusion within Girlguiding.

Some people have worked on being inclusive at weekly meetings by considering additional needs of young members, while others have taken part in guiding working groups, etc.



Guiding challenge plan – an example

Project focus	Unit	District/division	County	Country/region	UK or WAGGGS
Project 1: Girl			Train as a peer educator and run peer education sessions *commitment over time 50 hours (Brownies)		
Project 2: Growth and retention		Be a buddy for a new volunteer in my area (Brownies)			
Project 3: Volunteer				Volunteer as part of a working group to create a new event for your country/region (Guides and Rangers)	
Project 4: Inclusion					Work as a member of a service team at a camp focused on inclusion (Guides and Rangers)

Community action challenge

- This section encourages you to take an active part in the world in which we live using research and practical activities and sharing your findings.
- The time commitment is for a minimum of 25 hours.



Rangers Katie, Elysia, Rebecca and Poppy ran an elf campfire for Rainbows during Paxmead Winter Wonderland, leading a variety of Christmas songs and covering Rainbows with fake snow.



Honey and Freya organised a Park Run to encourage children to take part in regular exercise. They invited Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

Other people have helped the environment by organising litter picking sessions, creating recycling initiatives, and clearing fishing debris from the riverbanks. Some have visited charity shops and compared the prices of previously loved garments in contrast to new ones, raised money and planted trees, or fundraised for charity.

Lead the way challenge

In this section you will take on a leadership role in an outdoor environment.

There are 3 ways to do this:

1. Depending on your age, you can work towards a Lead Away permit, an 18-30 residential, or gain a Going Away With qualification.
2. You can train to be an outdoor activity instructor and run sessions for other people.
3. You can organise an expedition or exploration. Your DofE expeditions will count for this section.



Social experience challenge

This section asks you to challenge yourself in a new setting over at least 2 nights and 2 days by:

1. Taking on a new responsibility at an event you've been to before, or
2. Taking on a responsibility at a new event you have never been to before.



Lily went to a region Brownie residential and worked alongside other leaders running games and activities.

Some people train to be canoeing or archery instructors. Others take on the role of first aider or caterer at a residential. The choice is yours.

It's true that the Queen's Guide is a challenging award, but it is entirely doable if you commit yourself to the various elements.

New Queen's Guides complete their awards every week: you could be one of them!

If you would like to consider the award in more detail, read the syllabus on the [Girlguiding UK website](#). If you would like to proceed, ask your leader for the contact details of your County Queen's Guide coordinator, who will register you to start.

The Queen's Guide isn't just for special people – but it does make people special!