



**What can I expect when I call the Guide Center to find out about volunteering?**

When you call the Guide center you will be connected with the Membership Support Coordinator. She will ask you some information including the area of the city you would like to volunteer in, what age group/branch of girls you would like to volunteer with, demographic information, schedule availability, volunteer interests and other information needed to find a volunteer placement that works perfectly for you. Once she has been able to find a unit to place you in, your information will be forwarded on to a Commissioner, who is a leadership volunteer in the community you will be volunteering in. The Commissioner will then complete the screening process with you and make sure that you sign up for mandatory trainings and provide you with supervision and support.

**Can I volunteer with my daughter's unit?**

Yes, Girl Guides makes every effort to place you in a volunteer role that suits your needs. If you want to volunteer with your daughter's unit, just make sure to let the commissioner know when they are connecting you with a unit.

**Why do I have to pay to volunteer?**

The fee you pay is to become a member of the organization. You are paying the fee to obtain the benefits of becoming a member of Girl Guides of Canada. Further information on member benefits can be found at: <http://www.girlguides.ca/>

**I believe in the mission of GGC, but can I volunteer with adults instead of girls?**

Yes, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer with adults. There are several leadership volunteer positions such as a commissioner role or you can volunteer at the area level on one of our committees. For further information on volunteer opportunities, please contact the Membership Support Coordinator at the Guide Center.

**I have always been a Spark leader. What other volunteer opportunities are available to me?**

You don't always have to be unit leader in the same branch year after year. You can always move to a different branch or find other volunteer opportunities at the area level. Girl Guides of Canada-Calgary Area will work with you to find a volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule, time commitment and interests.

**Am I held liable for the group of Girls that I am working with?**

The primary responsibility for the care and safety of the girls who are registered as participants in our program rests with Girl Guides of Canada and its volunteers and staff. Girl Guides of Canada has developed a document that helps volunteers and staff identify reasonable foreseeable risks and provides procedures to manage risk. Following the steps outlined in this document will ensure that you have done your due-diligence as a volunteer and thus will be covered under Girl Guides of Canada Insurance policy. This document is called Safe Guide and training is mandatory for Guiders.

**Can I be a leader if I have not been a youth member?**

Yes, to become a unit leader you are not required to have been a youth member.

**I have never worked with a group of girls before; can I still be a leader?**

Absolutely. Calgary Area has a dedicated team of trainers that can assist you in the planning and executing aspects of Girl Guide programming. You do not have to have prior experience running a group of youth, just the desire to learn. As a member of the organization you are supported and given resources to assist you in whatever branch you wish to volunteer in.



**I can not commit to a particular unit each week, can I still volunteer?**

While the majority of our volunteer positions do require a weekly commitment, there are many positions that can work around a flexible schedule. If you can not make a weekly commitment, are unsure of long term plans, or just want a less frequent volunteer position, there are many opportunities that may fit your schedule. If this is the case contact the Membership Support Coordinator and she will work with you to find a volunteer opportunity that works with your schedule.

**Do I need a car to volunteer? Can I volunteer close to home if I don't have a car?**

A car is not a requirement to volunteer, however it can be useful if you would like to volunteer farther from home. If you do not have a car and rely on public transportation, every effort will be made to find a unit that works for you.

**How do I find out where there is a need for volunteers in the city?**

Calgary Area has many units across the city, including Banff, Chestermere, Cochrane, Canmore and other surrounding area. To find out where there is a need in your area, please contact the Membership Support Coordinator and she will find you a unit that requires leaders.

**What do I have to wear as a volunteer?**

Girl Guides is a uniformed organization and therefore volunteer leaders are expected to wear a uniform. Uniform options are detailed in the national merchandising catalogue, which can be found online at [http://www.girlguides.ca/media/catalogue/pdfs/GuCat0607\\_adults.pdf](http://www.girlguides.ca/media/catalogue/pdfs/GuCat0607_adults.pdf) Uniform pieces can be purchased at the Guide Shop at 2188 Brownsea Drive, NW, Calgary. Check our website, [www.calgareaguides.com](http://www.calgareaguides.com) for the hours.

**What supports are in place if I am feeling overwhelmed as a volunteer?**

As an organization for women, Girl Guides of Canada strives to provide support and guidance to assist you in all aspects of running your unit. Calgary area has leadership volunteers, trainers, mentors, and support staff dedicated to making sure that your experience as a volunteer is a positive and supported one.

**How can I find out about additional training opportunities that will help me run my unit?**

The Calgary area website ([www.calgareaguides.com](http://www.calgareaguides.com)) has a training page with up coming training opportunities. Don't see what you need on the calendar? Ask your commissioner or talk to the training committee to see about getting a training session in your district on the hot topics in your area.

**I have a police record clearance from another agency that I volunteer with. Can I use a photocopy of this clearance to complete the screening process?**

As per the agreement that Girl Guides of Canada-Calgary Area has with Calgary Police Services, only those clearances that the volunteer personally have obtained from CPS can be used in our screening process. An original copy must be presented to the Guide Center, where a photocopy will be taken for our records. Girl Guides of Canada-Calgary Area can not accept clearances that were obtained from the CPS through an agreement with another agency in the city. All other clearances for GGC Members must be obtained using the Consent to Search and Disclosure of Personal Information form available from the Guide Center, NOT Calgary Police Services.

**For Further information please contact the Membership Support Coordinator at 283-8348 ext 40.**