



### **Why should I register my daughter in Girl Guides?**

The Girl Guide program is a flexible, activity-based program. This means that activities are chosen to suit the interests, needs and abilities of the girls. Through activities, the program teaches girls and young women about their community, the environment, self-esteem, respect and leadership.

### **What can I expect when I call the Guide Center to sign my daughter up for Girl Guides?**

When you call the Guide Center you will be connected with the Youth Membership Coordinator. She will ask you some information to ensure that your daughter will get connected with the appropriate unit. She will then send your information off to a commissioner who is a leadership volunteer. The commissioner will then tell you when, where, and what time to meet the unit that your daughter is going to join. Your daughter is then able to attend the unit once to see if it is a fit for her. If it is, the commissioner will assist your daughter in getting registered with the unit.

### **Why is Girl Guides an all female organization?**

Although it is recognized that society is changing, it does not treat males and females equally. We believe Guiding is uniquely suited to the singular needs and aspirations of girls and young women today. The Aim of the Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada is to help girls and young women become responsible citizens, able to give leadership and service to the community, whether local, national or global. We believe strongly that Girl Guides of Canada as an all female organization provides women with the opportunity to take executive and leadership positions and thus provide role models for girls. For more information on our all female statement, please visit our website at: <http://www.girlguides.ca/default1.asp?ID=1189>

### **My daughter was not in guiding when she was younger and now wants to join, can she join part way through? Was she supposed to start at the beginning, in Sparks?**

Your daughter can join Girl Guides at any time. This includes any time of the year (not just in September) or at any time in her life. The program is based on the age and/or ability of the girl, not whether or not she was a Girl Guide previously.

### **Why is the registration fee different from one area of the city to another?**

In Calgary Area, the registration fee is set by each District. The registration fee includes fees paid to all levels of the organization including National, Province, Calgary Area, and each Division and District. In Calgary, there are 13 Divisions and over 50 Districts. Each District sets its fees based on a number of factors. One of the factors could include the amount of rent that the District has to pay for meeting space. While some Districts in the city enjoy a low rent for their meeting space, not every District is that lucky.

### **Are Guiders paid or do they volunteer?**

Guiders volunteer their time and this includes the hours of preparation to provide a fun and creative program for all girls.

### **Are Guiders screened?**

Yes, every Guider initially undergoes a screening process, which includes an interview, reference checks and a Police Records Clearance check. A Guider must also renew her Police Records Check every five years.



**Do Guiders receive training in order to deliver the program?**

There is training available for every Guider to help them deliver the program effectively. Training includes the philosophy of the organization, as well as program execution, including many practical skills to teach the girls. A risk management training and an orientation training are mandatory for all Guiders.

**We just moved to Calgary from another part of the country where my daughter was a registered Girl Guide Member. Does she have to be put on a waitlist?**

Once your daughter is an active Guiding member in one unit and wants to move to another unit at any time during the year, she does not have to be placed on a waitlist as the unit will try to accommodate her.

**I want my daughter to join a certain (Spark/Brownie/Guide) unit. Why can't you give me the Guider's phone number so that I can call her myself or just show up at the unit meeting?**

Girl Guides of Canada has a privacy statement, viewable at: <http://www.girlguides.ca/default1.asp?id=1226> and we are committed to protecting the privacy of our adult and girl members. When you inquire about having your daughter join Girl Guides, we pass along your contact information to the Guider concerned, and she can answer any pertinent questions. This way we can ensure the safety of our girls and adult members. By giving the commissioner a call before taking your daughter to the unit meeting, you are ensuring the safety of the girls in that unit by not having external intruders show up. Advanced notice of an extra girl also allows the leaders to make sure that they are prepared to include your daughter in the meetings activities by having enough supplies for your daughter to participate.

**What if I can not afford the registration and uniform fee for my daughter?**

Girl Guides of Canada-Calgary area has subsidies for those who find registration and uniform fees a limitation to being a Girl Guide Member. Please call the guide center at 283-8348 to find out more information.

**Do I have to sell cookies if my daughter joins Girl Guides?**

Cookie selling is an integral part of Girl Guides. Not only do the funds raised support Guiding's program and the activities in which all the girls participate, but the girls also develop and practice:

- self-confidence
- planning and goal setting
- responsibility
- teamwork
- safety awareness
- courtesy
- problem solving and decision making
- money and time management
- customer service
- community involvement

For more information about cookie selling, go to <http://www.girlguides.ca/default1.asp?ID=1204>

**For Further information on enrolling your daughter please contact the Youth Membership Coordinator at 283-8348 ext 27.**