We want to tell you about the incredible impact Girlguiding Ulster has had in 2018 and with your support how we are going to continue to reach greater success in 2019.

With a strong team of volunteers, members and staff together we have made a huge difference in our local communities across Northern Ireland. Our members have achieved various awards, spoken out about issues important to them, taken part in social action projects and much more.
About Girlguiding Ulster

Girlguiding is the UK’s largest charity for girls and young women. At Girlguiding Ulster we strive to build girls’ confidence, raise their aspirations and encourage them to make a positive difference providing them with a safe space to discover their full potential.

We provide opportunities for girls to experience adventure and fun through sleepovers, events, camps and challenges. Many new friendships have been made through Guiding and our weekly programme of activities gives girls and young women opportunities to develop new skills, work as part of a team as well as learning to take the lead.

Our valued volunteers are regularly supported through trainings and networking opportunities to deliver great Guiding and become inspirational leaders.
What Our Members Have To Say

“I like Rainbows because I have lots of fun with my friends. We go on trips and I like making crafts and baking.”
Heidi, 111th Belfast Rainbows

“At Brownie camp we get to decorate cupcakes, stay up late and watch movies! I love seeing my Brownie friends each week.”
Olivia, 1st Lurgan Brownies

“Guides is the most adventurous thing... it gives you the opportunity to meet people, have new adventures and see things you wouldn’t normally see.”
Sarah, 12th Bangor Guides

“My Leaders have filled me with self-confidence and have let me participate in a variety of fun activities which I would not have had the chance to do without them. We go camping outdoors and even designed our own shoes - thank you!”
Caoimhe, 11th Belfast Rangers

“Girlguiding has given me so many opportunities from travelling the world to taking the lead role in different events, it has built my confidence and conquered many of my fears. I enjoy the many activities it has to offer and have made lifelong friends.”
Pamela, Leader of 3rd Holywood Guides
In 2015 we set ourselves ambitious goals when we created ‘Being Our Best’, a strategic plan which will ensure we get even better at everything we do by 2020.

Our strategy is inspired by our ultimate vision of an equal world; a place where all girls can be happy, safe and fulfil their potential.

Through our high-quality, girl-led programmes, delivered by inspirational leaders, we will empower girls to find their voice and achieve their personal goals.

Therefore we have committed to ‘Being Our Best’, and getting even more girls involved in our amazing and unique offer.

**Excellence**
We strive to become better and better in all that we do for girls.

**Access**
We will work together to ensure that more girls from all backgrounds benefit from what we do.

**Voice**
We will listen to girls and promote their voice.

**Capacity**
We will work collaboratively to improve our process and decision making.
This year has been one to remember - Girlguiding Ulster have had an adventure!

Together we have launched a new programme, had three international adventures, fundraised over £16,000 and added a thrilling abseil tower at Lorne Estate for our members to challenge themselves.

Girlguiding Ulster is made up of 9 Guiding Counties
- Armagh
- Belfast
- North Antrim
- South Antrim
- North Down
- South Down
- Fermanagh
- Londonderry
- Tyrone

73 Guiding Districts

613 Units across all of Northern Ireland

10,900 Members

2,617 Rainbows
3,325 Brownies
2,167 Guides
610 Rangers
2,181 Volunteers
Welcomes not only Girlguiding members but other uniformed organisations, youth and church groups, schools and corporate groups to avail of our fantastic facilities. In 2018 we had 11,769 participants who used Lorne Estate’s facilities.

We have a range of thrilling outdoor activities to challenge all ages such as high ropes, abseiling and bushcraft. We have the capacity to accommodate 94 guests on residential stays and camp sites.

This year 6 senior instructors became ERCA (European Ropes Course Association) qualified.

Lorne was awarded their AAIAC Adventure Mark standard.

For the fourth year Lorne achieved their 4 star Northern Ireland Tourist Board rating for group accommodation.

20 schools have participated in a series of team-building days, developing communication amongst their peers, strengthening their team bond and challenging themselves as well as improving their capacity to solve problems.

For our exciting Easter and Summer Schemes 1,705 children joined us to have new adventures, make friends and challenge themselves.
We had 62 members who embarked on international adventures travelling to one of three locations - Estonia, Austria and Ireland.

2 members completed GOLD projects, Lucy went to the Maldives and Nicola to Zambia.

Amy travelled to Macedonia for the WAGGGS Academy.

12 Guides and 3 Leaders were part of the CRED (Community Relations, Equality and Diversity) programme, an integrated residential programme with 5 other uniformed organisations.

Supporting Volunteers

We’re incredibly proud of our volunteers who deliver excellent Guiding to our members. We ensure our volunteers have a range of trainings available to them and excellent resources so they can fulfil their Guiding role and provide the best opportunities and experiences for our members.
New Programme

You spoke, we listened. In 2018 we had the biggest ever overhaul of our programme of activities and badges for all sections.

41,914 Girlguiding members gave their views and opinions on what content should be included in the new programme, making this more relevant to them and their everyday lives.

Very excited Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Senior Section/Rangers and Leaders came to Lorne for the ‘Big Reveal’ to explore 240 new unit meeting activities, 360 skill builder activities and 216 interest badge activities, alongside 187 new eye-catching badge designs.

#EveryGirl

A new section was created targeting 14 - 18 year olds with an exciting programme which is fun, flexible and focused on personal development.

Peer Education

We have a strong team of 53 Peer Educators who deliver interactive sessions on relevant topics such as mental health and body confidence. Peer Educators are based across Northern Ireland for all units to avail of and have delivered 21 sessions this year reaching 231 members.
**Girlguiding Ulster Projects**

3,834 girls have explored what it’s like to become a Civil Engineer in ‘I can be a Civil Engineer’ resource, for all sections.

1,099 Guides and Senior Section/Rangers have been made aware of the effects of alcohol in our ‘Alcohol Awareness’ resource.

24 Guides took part in a Citibank Careers in Technology pilot workshop.

30 young people from 6 uniformed organisations took part in a Scamwise Pilot with the PSNI and the Consumer Council.

38 Brownies visited the PWC Google Hive for a pilot workshop in exploring computer coding.

£16,429 was raised from our annual fundraiser - The Lorne Walk.

3,563 girls attended our Girlguiding Ulster Regional events in 2018.
Recognising Our Volunteers

1st - 7th June was National Volunteer Week. This year 2,181 volunteers received a Thank You badge and postcard to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication to Guiding.

Awards

Ivy, Girlguiding Ulster’s Vice President, was awarded an MBE by Prince Charles.

Ulster Trainer and Armagh volunteer, Angela, received the prestigious Laurel Award.

Vanessa and Laura received their Queen’s Guide Award at the House of Commons.

Rathfriland Brownie, Nicole gained the Guiding Star Award to acknowledge her bravery in a challenging situation.

4 Girlguiding Ulster awards have been presented to our volunteers for outstanding contribution and commitment to Girlguiding Ulster.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

75 members have accomplished their DofE award challenging themselves to learn new skills and become more independent.

Bronze

- 30

Silver

- 20

Gold

- 25
Building Our Guiding Movement

Mid October 2018 the Girlguiding UK recruitment campaign - #InspireGirls was launched. To date, Girlguiding Ulster has had 143 volunteers who have registered their interest.

For the second year running Girlguiding Ulster have attended Balmoral Show as part of our Farm Safety partnership, meeting our members and recruiting new volunteers and members to join the Girlguiding movement.

44 members took part in our Girlguiding Growth and Retention Conference. Together we generated ideas to encourage the growth of Girlguiding Ulster.

School Visits

We have reached 1,203 girls by visiting schools sharing with them the amazing opportunities they can have through Guiding.

We strive to ensure that all girls and young women have the opportunity to join Guiding in a location convenient to them. This year we had 5 new units who have received a ‘starting new unit grant’ to help them on their way.

93% of girls would recommend us to a friend.
Join The Debate. Cast Your Vote.

We celebrated UK Parliament Week and the Women’s Vote 100 with **120** members taking their seats at Stormont to join the debate with **6** MLA’s representing the main political parties in Northern Ireland. Sarah, member of 1st Donaghcloney and **2** Action For Change members, Victoria and Rachael led the event, inspiring our members to make a positive change. Our task and finish group worked together to develop the Parliament week resource for our members.

**6** members visited London for an event in the House of Lords shadowing female politicians.

**Change Makers**

Girlguiding Ulster is represented on the Girlguiding UK Advocate panel by Sophie and Victoria using their voice to help lead the direction of Girlguiding.

Emma is our representative on the British Youth Council - a fantastic movement of young people standing up for change.

Emma, Leader of 1st Cullybackey Rainbows was awarded the title of an #IWill ambassador.

**Broadcasting Girlguiding**

Brownies joined Linda McCauley on BBC Radio Ulster to chat about the new programme and the Guided Consumer badge.

**2** Action For Change members featured on ‘Science and Things’ with Emer Maguire discussing their projects encouraging more young women to pursue STEM.
Social Action

Volunteers continue to provide excellent Guiding to the Royal Belfast Hospital For Sick Children. This year volunteers have reached out to 110 patients.

270 Brownies creatively designed ‘Winter Wonderland’ jumpers which were displayed in the children’s hospital corridors spreading happiness and cheer.

Hundreds of Girlguiding units worked together to donate essential food and toiletry items to create over 500 essential packs for Northern Ireland Simon Community helping people in need.

Guiding Whispers

The launch of our girl lead blog - Guiding Whispers is a space where members have the opportunity to share their Guiding experiences and inspire others on their Guiding journey.

72% of our press coverage included Girlguiding key messages.

2,028 likes

447 followers

1,406 followers
Action For Change

From body confidence issues to challenging the stigma around women in STEM, Action For Change gives girls the opportunity to take action on issues they are passionate about. This programme gives girls the skills and know-how to make a real difference on issues. Participants were given guidance and ongoing support throughout their projects ensuring they were a success.

We have 14 members who are working on exciting projects to make a change in their local communities, schools and beyond.

Our members began their Action For Change journey with an inspirational residential weekend at Lorne, with workshops on everything from video production to public speaking and engaging decision-makers. They heard talks from motivational speakers and worked on some fun activities to get their projects off to a great start!
“I saw something in the world that I felt needed changed! I will equip young women with the skills and the know-how to maintain good mental health.”
Nicola, 5th and 6th Larne Leader

“I am raising awareness about sexual assault among teenage girls in schools. By carrying out informative workshops I will give girls the confidence and a safe space to speak openly.”
Jessie, 1st Enniskillen Rangers

“There is a stigma that STEM is for boys, I want to show society they are wrong! I am advocating to change the way people view women in STEM showing girls that they can do anything!”
Rachael, 1st Ballyclare Rangers
Volunteer Training

1,334 of our Leaders took part in various trainings in 2018.

727 Girlguiding levels completed their Charity Commission registration.

318 volunteers have completed Safeguarding training.

- 5 Executive meetings.
- Trustee Training in Governance.
- Social media and GDPR training.
- Joint staff and Executive strategy day.

Staff

Members of staff have taken part in 12 staff trainings throughout the year keeping them up to date with various procedures and new laws.

Full time - 10
Part time - 16
Casual - 24
Instructors - 35

Our Shop & Website

Uniform sample boxes went out to various units across Northern Ireland to facilitate those who are not in close proximity to our Girlguiding Ulster shop.

12,552 shop orders in 2018.

Girlguiding Ulster’s own unit resources are available to download from our website for easy access to all units.
Looking Ahead

We begin 2019 with our Chief Commissioner’s Charity - Macmillan Cancer Support. With over 600 units across Northern Ireland we are confident that together we can make a huge impact raising funds to support Macmillan nurses.

As part of our growth and retention, January is the second phase of our recruitment campaign #InspireGirls and we will strive to target more volunteers, providing a larger pool of girls with the opportunity to join the Girlguiding movement. We ran radio advertisements on Cool FM and Downtown stations to reach audiences all across Northern Ireland and aim to reduce our waiting list number of 678.

In March we are holding an EPIC conference to Empower, Promote, Inspire and Challenge senior volunteers of the Girlguiding movement. Strengthening our network of volunteers and growing in unity.

Plans are in place for ‘Reach’ an event which will pair 25 young women up with a female role model in the career path they are interested in. The girls will gain a real insight into what the job entails and be encouraged to achieve their aspirations.

The Robinson tented village is getting an overhaul and we are excited to have 8 new wooden cabins in place for this camping season.

Follow us on our social media channels and keep up to date with all our new adventures and opportunities in 2019.

Adventure feeds your dreams and builds your confidence!
Our Supporters

We want to say a massive thank you to all volunteers, staff and partners who have supported us in 2018. Girlguiding Ulster has created an incredible impact across Northern Ireland through social action projects, fundraising and high achievements.

We look forward to continue working with you and developing new opportunities together for our members. Thank you!
Join us on our 2019 journey and beyond...

www.girlguidingulster.org.uk

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