

**Irish Girl Guides press release**

10 March 2017

## **Irish Girl Guides to host Ireland's biggest ever international Guide camp**

### **- 1800 Girl Guides from around the world to camp outdoors in Tipperary –**

Irish Girl Guides are delighted to be hosting Ireland's biggest ever international Guide camp this summer.

1800 Girl Guides from all around the world will take part in the outdoor camp in the grounds of Rockwell College, Tipperary, from 30 July to 6 August 2017.

Since issuing an invitation to Guides aged 10-16 worldwide, the IGGNITE2017 camp organisers are delighted to have received bookings from Guides in Canada, the US, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Georgia and Zambia as well as England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

"We're thrilled to have received such a great response and we're looking forward to hosting the biggest Girl Guide camp ever and giving our overseas visitors a warm Irish welcome," says IGGNITE2017 Camp Chief Jenny Gannon. "Some of our Guides and Leaders have visited Rockwell already; it's a great location and the grounds are perfect for camping. Having a lake is a definite bonus as the girls will have the opportunity to kayak and do other water-based activities."

The camp will see the girls building rafts, kayaking, cooking dishes from around the world, playing quidditch, building rockets and volcanoes, and doing an assault course as well as taking part in drama, music, body confidence, yoga, meditation and coding workshops. There will also be sessions on climate justice and sustainability and learning how to advocate for gender equality and to stand up for refugees. Day trips will include a visit to Cloughjordan eco village and to nearby Cashel where the girls will take part in a community mural project.

"We want to give the girls a fun and memorable experience," says Ms Gannon. "As well as the water sports and all the many other fun activities we will arrange for them, there will be a serious side to the camp too. Through a variety of activities and challenges, the girls will learn about the Sustainable Development Goals and they will be encouraged to explore ways that they can make a difference in their local communities and overseas.

"Guiding helps girls develop interpersonal skills and a social and environmental conscience while taking part in team-building and problem-solving games and challenges. They also learn how to speak out on issues that concern them and to inspire others to take action too."

*Irish Girl Guides welcomes new members from age 5+ and adult volunteer leaders from age 18+. See [www.irishgirlguides.ie](http://www.irishgirlguides.ie) for further information or tel: 01 6683898.*

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#### **Notes for editors:**

**Irish Girl Guides** has approximately 12,000 members. Guiding started in Ireland in 1911 and operates throughout the 26 counties with 1,800 volunteer leaders providing an informal educational programme of fun and challenging activities that foster confidence and leadership skills in girls and young women, enabling them to develop to their full potential and to become responsible citizens. Girls from age 5+ can choose to earn a wide range of badges, including Community Action,

Cultural Diversity, Disability Awareness, Drug Awareness, Online Surfer, Science Investigator and Global Traveller.