

Irish Girl Guides press release
5 April 2017

Carlow Guide Leader elected President of Irish Girl Guides

A Carlow Guide leader has been appointed President of the Irish Girl Guides.

Maureen Murphy's involvement in Guiding dates back to her teens when she became a leader in her local Brownie pack in her home community of Norwich, England (Brownies is the section of Guiding for 7-10 year olds).

Since joining Irish Girl Guides (IGG) in 1972, she has held many roles, including leader with Sleaty Guides, Graiguecullen, Carlow, Regional Commissioner for the South East and co-ordinator for the accreditation of volunteer Guide leaders.

"Being nominated for President was a great honour that I never envisaged," Maureen told IGG's recent annual Council meeting. "To represent Irish Girl Guides, which is a forward-thinking, vibrant movement for girls and women, is an exceptional role to be given and I will enjoy the challenge it presents."

Maureen said she had always felt that, whatever she put into Guiding, had been returned a hundredfold. "I have found friendship, fun and a huge sense of satisfaction in playing a small role in enabling the girls and women I worked alongside to achieve for themselves their full potential," she said.

"Guiding is a safe environment that provides an up-to-date evolving programme full of variety that keeps the girls and their development central. I have so many memories of new and good experiences - from taking a group of Sleaty Guides to an international camp, to hosting a Guider from Georgia on an exchange visit and having the opportunity and confidence to go to third-level education in youth and community work. Also, the fun and laughter at the weekly meetings.

"Guiding for me has been - and is - special. It is non-competitive, it encourages service to others, it has world-wide connections and it gives a sense of belonging. Maybe that is why the day I was made President eight others received 50 year service awards."

Outgoing President, Maureen Dillon, was thanked at Council by Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon for her six years' service as President. During this time she represented IGG at over 100 events.

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Photo caption: Carlow Guide leader Maureen Murphy pictured at Airfield Estate, Dublin, following her election as President of Irish Girl Guides at the organisation's annual Council meeting

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.