

Irish Girl Guides press release
14 October 2017

107 Girl Guides scoop top Guiding award

- Girl Guides receive Trail Blazer National Guide Award at Croke Park ceremony –

Over 100 Girl Guides received the Trail Blazer National Guide Award – Irish Girl Guides’ highest award – at a special ceremony in Croke Park today [14 October 2017].

The 107 Girl Guides, aged 14-15, travelled from all corners of the country to receive the award and, with their families, celebrated reaching the pinnacle of Guiding.

Each girl received a Trail Blazer gold pin and a National Guide Award certificate from Irish Girl Guides (IGG) President Maureen Murphy and IGG Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon.

The Award is made in recognition of the successful completion of a series of challenges, including teamwork activities, outdoor survival skills, community service, global awareness and working with younger IGG members to help them develop confidence, independence and essential life-skills.

IGG President Maureen Murphy said: “All the recipients have worked hard on their own initiative and, in doing so, demonstrated self-motivation, commitment and enthusiasm. Each girl has blazed a trail in her community to earn the award and I am sure will continue to blaze a trail not only in her own community, but in wider society too.”

Carol O’Brady, Chair of IGG Guide Branch, said: “We are delighted to have 107 Guides receive the National Guide Award today. In Guiding girls are awarded for doing their best and each one of you has done your best – working on your own initiative to carry out a series of challenges. You have worked hard to achieve what you set out to do and so we say a big ‘well done’ to each and every one of you. We encourage you to dream big and to continue to strive to fulfil your potential.”

Congratulating the Guides, **IGG Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon** said: “Well done to all of you for working to your fullest potential. We know that you will continue to use the life-skills you have developed for the benefit of the wider world. We are delighted that many of you are continuing to be involved in IGG as members of Senior Branch where you will continue to develop confidence and self-reliance as responsible citizens and have exciting opportunities to travel and represent IGG at international Guide events.”

As well as receiving a gold pin and a certificate, each Guide was also given a notebook containing the message 'Follow your dreams - they know the way'.

Irish Girl Guides welcomes new members from age 5 and volunteer leaders from age 18. Previous experience of Guiding is not necessary. To find out more, see www.irishgirlguides.ie. 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.

www.irishgirlguides.ie