

Irish Girl Guides press release

14 October 2018

137 Irish Girl Guides scoop top Guiding award

- Teen girls receive Trail Blazer National Guide Award at Croke Park ceremony –

Over 130 Girl Guides received the Trail Blazer National Guide Award – Irish Girl Guides’ highest award – at a special ceremony in Croke Park yesterday [13 October 2018].

The 137 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 from Irish Girl Guides (IGG) President Maureen Murphy and a National Guide Award certificate from IGG Assistant Chief Commissioner Áine Divilly.

Congratulating the recipients, **IGG President Maureen Murphy** said: “You have been committed and worked hard to gain the Award and gained valuable life-skills in the process. Everyone has put her own stamp on the challenges, which is inspiring. Everyone here has the skills to make a positive contribution to her community and society going forward.”

Carina Egan, Chair of IGG Guide Branch, said that, without the hard work and commitment of the 137 girls, there would be no celebrations: “This 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 members of Irish Girl Guides to help them develop confidence, independence and essential life-skills.

“We are delighted for you all and we all know that you have worked to your fullest potential to receive this award and hope you continue to use many of the life-skills you have achieved wherever life takes you in the future.”

Award-winning teen entrepreneurs, **Kate and Annie Madden of Fenuhealth**, who are IGG’s current ambassadors, encouraged the girls to pursue their ambitions and never give up. They cited as an example the fact that it took 152 attempts before they devised their winning formula for equine feed that they now export all over the world. “Great minds don’t think alike,” said Kate, “They all think differently. We would encourage you to think outside the box and in the future, when you’re applying for jobs, to use all the skills you have learned through Guiding on your CVs.”

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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Contact:

Fiona Murdoch, IGG Communications Officer

communications@irishgirlguides.ie

Tel: 085 8570565

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 fullest 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, Engineers and Global Traveller.