

Agreement Form for Unit Helpers with the Irish Girl Guides



A Unit Helper is an interested person who does not wish to, or cannot, (e.g. a father) become a warranted Leader. This includes someone who is on a parents' rota. They may be invited to attend Unit meetings, camps or holidays when additional help is needed. **Unit Helpers are not Assistant Leaders and must not be left on their own or with other Unit Helpers to run the Unit.**

They attend meetings occasionally* i.e. "*now and then*", "*from time to time*", "*irregularly*", "*once in a while*" to help out. They should not feel obliged to attend every week or take part in programme planning, District meetings and other extra activities. There is no limit to the number of Unit Helpers who may help at a Unit meeting.

**The exception to this is an assistant for a member with special needs who helps on a regular basis, but is still regarded as a Unit Helper. In this situation Garda Vetting is required.*

Unit Helpers assisting occasionally i.e. "*now and then*", "*from time to time*", "*irregularly*", "*once in a while*" do not require vetting unless attending a residential. However they must sign an Agreement Form for Unit Helpers. Unit Helpers attending residential events must complete the full Unit Helper screening process including Garda Vetting. While this process is underway applicants may help with a Unit strictly under the supervision of a warranted Irish Girl Guide Leader. Unit Helpers must never have unsupervised access to children.

Unit Helpers must be in agreement with the Fundamental Principles of Guiding, but need not make the Promise, or be a member of the Guide Movement. Unit Helpers do not wear uniform, but may wear a neckerchief. If they wish to wear uniform, they must become a Leader.

Child and Adult Protection Policy Statement

The Irish Girl Guides values its members and has a programme aimed at the development of girls and young women in which all aspects of unsociable behaviour including bullying, harassment and abuse are unacceptable.

Our Leaders are trained to implement our programme in which the needs of the girl are a priority. All Leaders, Unit Helpers and staff must understand, and agree to abide by, the Irish Girl Guides' *Safeguarding and Child Protection booklet*.

If allegations or suspicion of abuse arise, our adult members, Unit Helpers and staff are advised to notify the Safeguarding Officer in IGG National Office who will assign a Reporting Officer immediately. The Reporting Officer will seek advice from Tusla and act within the guidelines laid down by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

If an adult member's, Unit Helper's or staff's behaviour or negative influence is considered by a Commissioner, or a Reporting Officer, to be causing concern, it is a requirement of the Irish Girl Guides that the person in question withdraws from the role, or is withdrawn immediately, pending an investigation.

Agreement for Unit Helpers with the Irish Girl Guides

- I deem myself suitable to work with children and I understand that I have to successfully complete the relevant screening process.
- I have read, I understand and agree to abide by the Child and Adult Protection Policy Statement and the Irish Girl Guides' *Safeguarding and Child Protection booklet*.
- I understand and agree with the aims and objectives of the Irish Girl Guides. I accept the Guide Law and Promise as the foundation of Guiding.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Name and address (in BLOCK CAPITALS please) _____
_____ Email _____

Name of Unit _____

Recommended by _____ Signature of Unit Leader/Commissioner

Block Capitals _____ Region _____ Date _____

This form should be returned to:

Safeguarding Officer, Irish Girl Guides, Trefoil House, 27 Pembroke Park, Dublin 4.