



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

October 2019

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Dear Fi

Well done to our 135 members who received the **Trail Blazer National Guide Award** at a special ceremony in Croke Park on 12 October. Guides aged 14-15 travelled from all around the country with their families and volunteer Leaders to celebrate



reaching the pinnacle of the Girl Guide programme.

Earning the Award takes a great deal of time, energy and commitment. "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 members of Irish Girl Guides to help them develop confidence, independence and essential life-skills," said **Carol Stanley, Assistant Chair of Guide Branch.**

Each girl received a Trail Blazer gold pin from **Irish Girl Guides (IGG) President Maureen Murphy** and a National Guide Award certificate from our **Chief Commissioner Helen Concannon**. Congratulating the recipients, Maureen said: "You are inspirational; you will inspire our younger members and will take your learning and experiences gained into your communities and wider society."

There was applause for every Guide who achieved the award, not least for **Bernadette of Edenderry Guides** who, incredibly, earned all 60 [Guide interest badges](#) during her four years in Guides. How on earth did she manage that? Read her [blog post](#) on our website to find out!



Our **Honorary Ambassador, Dr Niamh Shaw**, said she was "especially excited" to attend the award ceremony to celebrate and acknowledge the Guides' outstanding

achievements and contributions to society. "I want you to keep contributing your very best to everything you pursue in life because you are our future, Ireland's future," she said.

An award-winning science communicator, engineer and performer, Niamh's enthusiasm for all things **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)** is infectious, as you will see in this [short video](#) two of our members recorded with her.



Lauren and Sophie were fascinated to hear about Niamh's simulated Mars mission and her graphic description of a zero-gravity flight. Niamh is particularly interested, during her year as IGG Ambassador, in **empowering girls and young women** to pursue the things they are most passionate and most curious about. You can find out more about Niamh on the [niamhshaw.ie website](http://niamhshaw.ie).

Our members are enjoying meeting Niamh at various Guiding events and Niamh was especially delighted to be presented with her very own **IGG neckerchief**, which she promises to wear on **future space missions!**



Next month is **National Cookie Month** when our youth members will be selling cookies to develop their business skills and to raise funds. They are aiming to sell 40,000 packets and the girls will choose to use the proceeds for a special trip, to buy equipment for their unit or to donate to another charity.

Girl Guides in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have been selling cookies for years but this is only the third year that Irish Girl Guides will fundraise in this way. It's not all about the money though! By deciding how many packets to order, how to go about selling the biscuits and how they will spend the proceeds of their sales, the girls develop valuable business, teamwork, decision-making, communication and public relations skills.

We have been delighted that **Dragons' Den investor Alison Cowzer** has partnered with us for our **#FutureCEOs** initiative. The cookies are baked in Eastcoast Bakehouse, which she co-founded, and she has kindly given of her time to share her business tips with our members.

"It could take centuries to achieve equality without serious efforts to bring women into male-dominated spheres, such as business and politics," says Alison. "No other organisation in Ireland is specifically working with girls to tackle the gender

imbalance in business and so I am very happy to be part of this project, which is helping foster a spirit of entrepreneurship among Irish girls and young women."

If you spot any of our members selling cookies, please do support them!

Our original Irish Girl Guides' cookies are chocolate-chip and retail at €2.50 while, this year we will also be selling chocolate-enrobed chocolate-chunk cookies at €3 per packet (and, yes, they're worth every cent)! Our thanks to the **Ulster Bank Skills and Opportunities Fund** for supporting our research which led to us introducing a second flavour this year.



We are looking for a **Finance Manager** to join our National Office team. You can see a full job description on [our website](#). To apply, please send your CV and a brief cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to Annemarie Harte at Annemarie.harte@irishgirlguides.ie
Closing date: Friday 1 November 2019.

Next month we will be hosting the **Juliette Low Seminar** - an international Guiding leadership event - from 13-21 November. This will be the first time ever that the seminar will take place in 20 countries simultaneously.



We are honoured to have been selected as a hub and look forward to welcoming 40 participants from as far away as Italy, Malawi, Australia, USA, Sri Lanka, Lebanon and Barbados.

Meanwhile, some of our members will be representing Irish Girl Guides at hubs in Poland, Switzerland, Lebanon, Oman, Nigeria, Mexico, Madagascar and New York.



Juliette Low joined the Girl Guide movement in England in 1911 and, following a move to the United States the following year, she established the first Girl Guide troop there. In 1915 the **US Girl Guides** became known as the Girl Scouts. Juliette Low remained active in Guiding until her death in 1927.

We look forward to seeing young women from across the world develop their **leadership skills** and **grow in confidence** during the Juliette Low Seminar. All our members who take part - whether in Ireland or overseas - will return to their own communities to work on self-directed projects that will impact the lives of girls and young women in their localities.

The possibilities stemming from the ripple effect of the Juliette Low Seminar are immeasurable!

Kind regards,

Fiona Murdoch

Communications Officer
Irish Girl Guides

What we do The **Irish Girl Guides** began in 1911 and continues today, as a registered charity, to offer girls and young women a safe space to develop life skills while exploring our inter-connected world and learning to become responsible global citizens. Learn more [here](#).



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