



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

February 2020

- [World Thinking Day - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)
- [Join us in #MishonMoon!](#)
- [Our new National Training Centre will help change girls' lives!](#)
- [New badges launched - Ladybird Sleepover, Responsible Consumerism](#)
- [FIRST LEGO League - promoting Girls In STEM](#)

Dear Irish

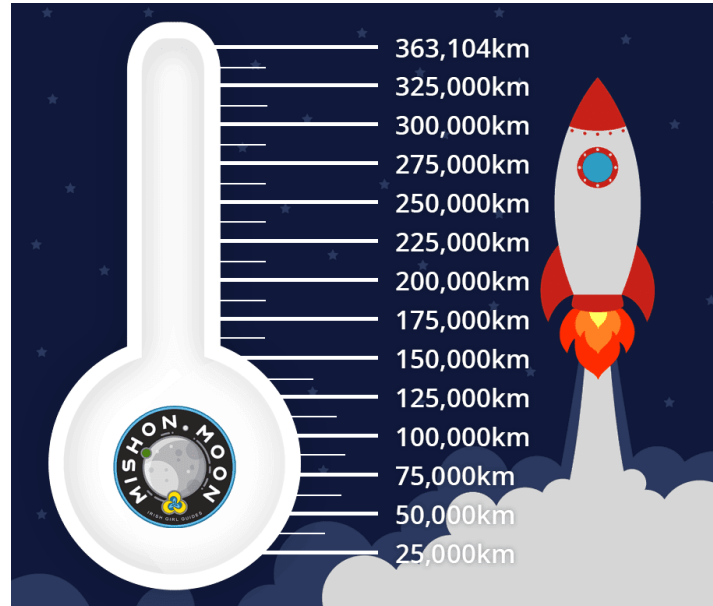
Last Saturday was **World Thinking Day** (WTD) when our members, together with the 10 million Girl Guides around the world, spent time thinking of each other and fundraising for projects in developing countries that help empower girls and women.

This year's WTD theme was **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**, which gave our members the opportunity to consider ways in which they can make their communities more welcoming and inclusive.



They also reflected on how, **by working together with a shared purpose, it is always possible to achieve something greater and stronger**. It was for this reason that we chose WTD as the day for the launch of our new initiative!

Mishon Moon will see us complete **363,104 kilometres** - the distance from the earth to the moon - in the next six months. Yes, really! We hope that our families, friends and supporters will join us so that we can raise **€363,104** to kit out our new **National Training Centre** in Tallaght.



There are two ways you can join us: Firstly, you can **download the Mishon app**. Then use the Mishon Moon section of the app and clock up kilometres by walking, running, cycling, swimming, kayaking or by undertaking various adventure challenges. Use the hashtags **#MishonMoon** and **#GirlGuidesWalktotheMoon** so that your kilometres can be added to the total .

The other way to support us is to **sponsor us** - any amount that you like (every euro counts)! **€1 per kilometre** will assist us in matching the distance we are going to walk. You can find out more about **#MishonMoon** on [this page](#) of the IGG website and you can sponsor kilometres and download a **User Guide** on [this page](#)

The Mishon app, which was developed by Irish **tech entrepreneur Brendan Morrissey**, was launched by our **Ambassador Dr Niamh Shaw** and by astrophysicist **Prof Peter Gallagher** at Dunsink Observatory on Saturday.



Dr Shaw said, "Not only does Mishon Moon reflect the true spirit of all human space exploration, but also the **ethos** of the Irish Girl Guides," she said

"All of history's **major achievements** have succeeded from the **shared passion** and **united will** of thousands of people **daring to dream bigger**."

"It's fitting that the necessary funds for the new centre will be raised by this **collective adventure mission**."



Girls' lives will be changed because of your donations!

A **National Training Centre** will enable us to help more girls and young women grow in **confidence, independence, resilience, teamwork and leadership skills** and, ultimately, to **empower the next generation of female leaders.**



The Centre will include a **Destination STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) lounge where girls and young women can develop their STEM skills and will discover how a career in STEM can lead to **positive global impact.**



We are also inviting **corporates** to join us on our adventure, so **please do spread the word!** They can help us reach our target by sponsoring an outdoor challenge on the app, by [sponsoring a number of kilometres](#) or by becoming a title sponsor with full app takeover until **#MishonMoon** is completed as well as having a branded dedicated area in our new National Training Centre.

Our other big event recently was **Branch Weekend**, which saw almost 200 of our volunteer Leaders from around the country gather in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, for a weekend of learning, sharing ideas and having a lot of fun!

We were thrilled to launch **two new badges** during the weekend.

The **Ladybird Sleepover** badge will see our youngest members (Ladybirds aged 5-7) go on overnight trips. Three Ladybird units trialled this in the autumn with great success and plenty of enthusiasm from the girls involved!



The **Responsible Consumerism** badge was developed by a group of Senior Branch members who took part in our [Senior Branch centenary trip to Sangam World Guiding Centre](#) in Pune, India, during August 2019. Based on **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, Responsible Consumerism and Production**, the badge was developed with **Irish Aid** funding.



Adopting this programme will see our **11,000 members** cutting their consumption of **single-use plastics**. We're asking all our youth members and volunteers to organise birthday parties, days out, camps, conferences and other events without using single-use plastics.

We're also encouraging them to hold **litter-picks** in their communities, something many of our members already do as part of An Taisce's **National Spring Clean**.

The **SDGs** are an integral part of our **Journey Programme** for girls and young women aged five to 30. IGG already has badges based on **SDG3 Health and Well-being** and **SDG13 Climate Action**.

"Earning the badge will help our members look after the planet better," said **IGG Programme and Training Commissioner Jenny Gannon**. "That's what Guiding is all about - girls developing skills to be advocates in their own lives and for issues that are important to them and the world around them. We're all about **enabling and empowering girls** and helping them realise what an **impact** they can have on the world around them."

Patricia Gutteridge (16) from Tralee and **Teagan Stanley** (17) from Galway were instrumental in devising the Responsible Consumerism curriculum. They have given a number of media interviews about the new badge. You can listen to a podcast of their Near FM interview [here](#).

They also had the opportunity to address the **President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Mr Tijani Muhammad-Band**, and hundreds of young climate activists from around the country at a **UN Youth Delegate** event in Farmleigh House.

You can see the text of their speech on [our website](#).



Why not join us in becoming Responsible Consumers too?



And finally ... we were thrilled that all three of our teams who took part in the **FIRST LEGO League Regional Finals** in **Dublin City University** scooped a prize. The judges were very impressed by the girls' **research, design and programming skills**. The team from Galway scooped the award for the **Most Innovative Solution** and the team from Munster earned the title **Best Robot Design**. The team from Dublin and Louth, scored highest (and higher than any team in Ireland or the UK has EVER scored) and were named **Overall Champions!** You can see lots of photos on our [Facebook page](#).

It's great seeing our members developing such a keen interest in coding, engineering and other areas of **STEM** - something we look forward to nurturing if we receive the necessary funding to kit out our new National Training Centre.

We CAN do it ... with your help!

You can keep track of the number of kilometres clocked up by our members and supporters [here](#) and feel free to sponsor us using [this link](#). No amount is too little or too much!

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](#).