



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

October 2020

- [Join us for the launch of our Space Badge - 11 October 7pm](#)
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- [Michelle earns ALL her Brownie badges!](#)

Dear |FNAME|

The **new Guiding year** is now in full swing with our volunteers continuing to find creative and innovative ways to continue to engage with our youth members. We have been hearing of teddy bear picnics, scavenger hunts, cookouts, adventure trails and hikes and, of course, many online meetings too.



Many of our members are continuing to find ways to help their **local communities** e.g. some girls are making face masks, which they're selling to raise funds for various charities.



Some Guides and Senior Branch members are taking part in a series of **Youth Climate Justice** workshops and are undertaking Action Projects and Eco Challenges through dialogue with their community leaders and local policymakers. This is taking place in partnership with ECO-UNESCO and several other youth organisations.

We are hugely excited about the **launch** of our new **Space Badge** with our former Ambassador, **Dr Niamh Shaw**, which will take place this coming Sunday 11 October at 7pm. **We hope you will join us** for an extravaganza of rockets, stars and explosions!



The action will be taking place live on our [YouTube channel](#). It would never have come about without the determination of Dr Shaw and the support of the **European Space Education Resource Office Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland** and **Blackrock Castle Observatory**. We are hugely grateful to them all.

Take a minute to [watch this fab video](#) of **Frances McCarthy** and some of our youth members getting ready for the launch ... Frances is Education and Outreach Officer at Blackrock Castle and a volunteer Leader with Owenabue Brownies in Cork.



Our youth members can't wait to get started on the **space-themed activities** they will undertake to earn the badge. These will include solar system walks, stargazing, identifying the International Space Station in the night sky, making model moon bases out of recycled materials and, for older girls, learning about Irish women working in the Space sector.

We hope that, by doing these activities and earning their **#IGGSpaceBadge**, some will be enthused to consider a career in Space or STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

We are thrilled that [Irish Tech News](#), [Women Mean Business](#) and [Silicon Republic](#) have all reported on our Space mission and this fabulous photo by Robbie Reynolds Photography of two of our members from Dun Laoghaire was one of [The Irish Times' Images of the Day](#) today!



We would like to congratulate Dr Shaw on the official launch of her autobiography, **Dream Big**, which took place online yesterday. You can watch back the launch with Simon Delaney on the [Mercier Press Facebook page](#).

We chose the date 11 October for our Space Badge launch because not only does it fall in **Space Week**, but 11 October is also **International Day of the Girl** - a day that we

always celebrate. This year's theme is **“My Voice, Our Equal Future”** with the focus on girls and young women advocating for the changes they want to see in the world. Members play games and complete activities to learn what inspires or empowers them, they reflect on what a gender-equal world would look like, and identify what they can do to help make that world a reality.

Don't forget! You can take a very practical step to ensure our youth members have a National Training Centre for the future by [sponsoring a LEGO block!](#)

We are delighted to welcome **Claire Barkey** as our **new CEO**. Claire has extensive experience in youth work and is passionate about ensuring young people have opportunities to develop skills and qualities to ensure leadership and resilience-building. You can find out more about Claire on [our website](#).



We have been actively engaged in the National Youth Council of Ireland's **#YouthWorkChangesLives** campaign calling on the Government to commit to an additional €4.7m in Budget 2021.

We made this ['Girl Guides Changes Lives' video](#) to show how beneficial Guiding is to girls and young women. Two of our Senior Branch members also made videos appealing to politicians to invest in youth services. They are well worth watching.

You can see Louise's video about how she has become more **independent** and made many new **friendships and memories** through Guiding [here](#). You can also watch Alex's video about how Guiding provides a safe space and has boosted her

confidence [here](#).

We issued [this press release](#) in support of the campaign earlier this week. In it our **CEO Claire Barkey** says youth organisations have been a lifeline for young people since the start of the pandemic. "It is essential that we can continue to meet the needs of young people where they're at," she says. "Youth services will be needed more than ever over the coming months and years, which is why increased investment is essential."

We are seeking a **Finance Support Officer** to join the National Office team. The Finance Support Officer will work alongside our Accounts Administrator and Finance Committee to support the development of our internal procedures.



You can see a full job description on [our website](#). Application by CV to ceo@irishgirlguides.ie by 22 October.

We also have a vacancy for a **Regional Development Officer** in the **North East Region** (Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath). If you enjoy working with volunteers and young people, then this might be the job for you! It is a part-time role based from home and will include some travel. Full details are on [our website](#). Application by CV to ceo@irishgirlguides.ie before 22 October.

And finally ... we simply have to introduce you to **Michelle of Edenderry Brownies** who has completed ALL her Brownie badges!

Michelle missed her Brownie friends during lockdown and over the summer and decided to put the extra time she had at home to good use. She has written a [blog post](#) about her experience doing all the badges (which will count towards her Guide Writer badge)!



Michelle follows in the footsteps of her older sisters, Lauren and Bernadette, who completed the full set of badges in the Brownie and Guide programmes respectively.

The girls are a great example to us all about **using our time and talents wisely**.

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](#).