



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

May 2021

[A welcome return to Outdoor Guiding](#)

[Patrol Leaders' Afternoon - teamwork and leadership skills](#)

[96.8% of Guides say Irish Girl Guides' activities help boost their mental health](#)

[77 Guides complete Environmental Awareness Badge online](#)

[Another challenge from Engineers Ireland - 18 May](#)

[Help us complete the final stretch of Mishon Moon!](#)

[Gearing up for our first ever online international camp!](#)

[Will you be joining the Darkness Into Light sunrise challenge tomorrow?](#)

[Galway City Senior Branch members do a takeover at Flirt FM!](#)

Dear |FNAME|

Our members are literally jumping for joy that they can meet outdoors again since the easing of restrictions for youth groups on 26 April. We have been receiving lots of photos of happy girls (and Leaders) taking part in **Outdoor Guiding**.

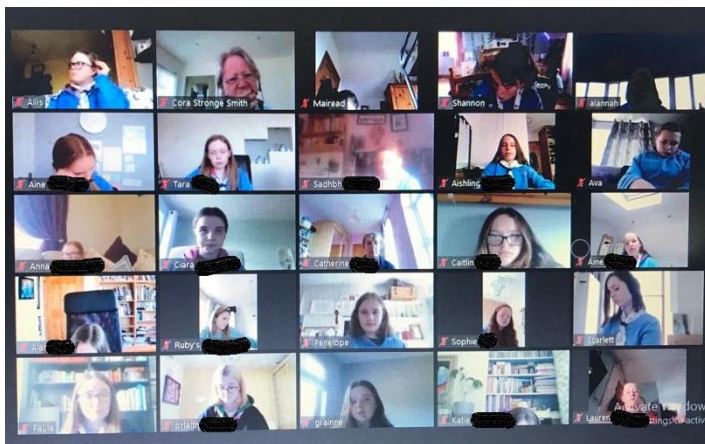
They have been having lots of fun doing all kinds of activities, including scavenger hunts, map-reading, sowing seeds, cooking over campfires and completing various physical challenges.



All the activities our youth members engage in help them grow in **confidence, character and courage** while developing valuable **teamwork, communication** and **leadership skills**.



You can see lots more photos of what our members have been doing recently on our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



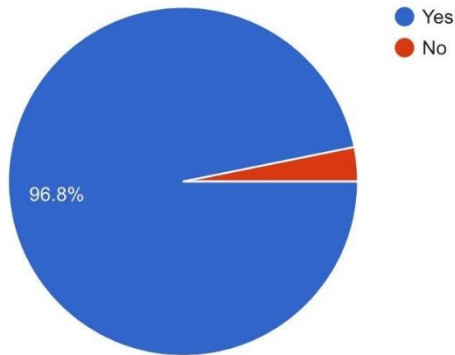
A total of 67 Guides took part in a **Patrol Leaders' Afternoon** during which they spent time considering the role of a Patrol Leader - what skills are required for the role and how to handle challenging Patrol members, like super chatty girls and show offs!

Each Guide Unit is divided into Patrols with around half a dozen girls in a Patrol. This gives girls the opportunity to **work together as a team** while older girls, including Patrol Leaders, can develop their **leadership skills**.

The girls also undertook some **Healthy Mind** activities and took part in a poll. We were delighted with the result with **96.8% of respondents saying that taking part in Irish Girl Guides (IGG) activities boosted their mental health**.

Do you think taking part in Irish Girl Guides activities helps with your mental health?

63 responses



What did you like about the day?

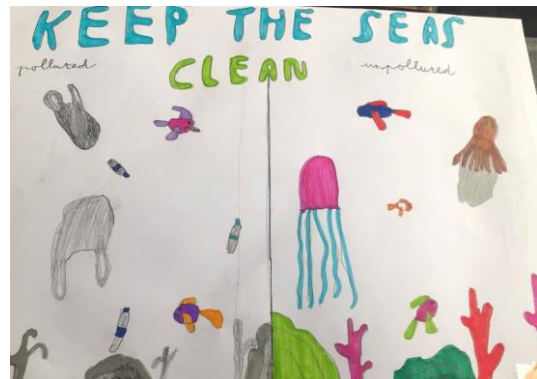
62 responses

I really enjoyed the bit we just did where we had to make up a sentence and then draw somebody else's sentence

I loved getting everybody's different perspectives and ideas on how to responsibly deal with people of different personalities and I enjoyed getting to know different guides. I also loved the yoga break and coming up with new games to help my patrol learn their promise!

I enjoyed the variety of training where we listen and take notes mixed with the activities such as drawing. I found learning about Patrol time and how to work with different types of guides quite useful, interesting and helpful. The breakout rooms were also great.

A total of 77 Guides also completed the **Environmental Awareness Badge** during an online session. The girls all created super **posters** to promote environmental care. These are the three winning posters. It was a challenge choosing just three winners as the posters were all such a high standard!

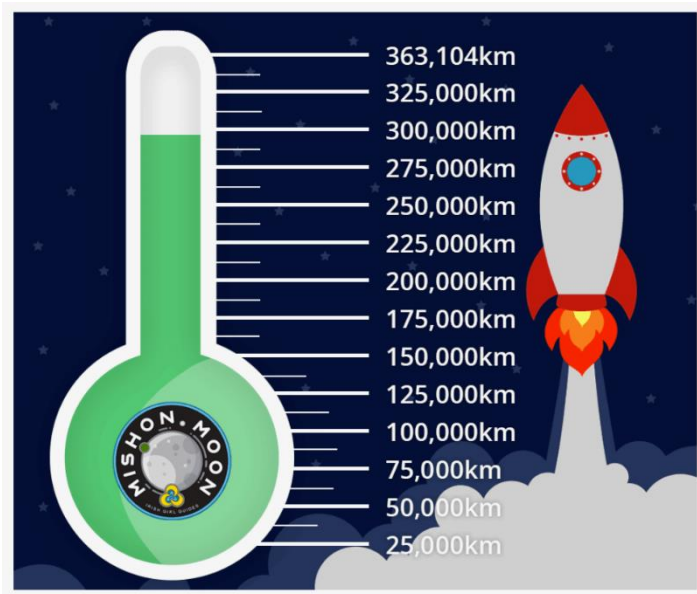




The third (and final) challenge in the **STEPS IGG Engineering E-Badge** will be outdoors and open to individuals and groups. Celeb scientist and **RTE presenter Mark Langtry** will reveal the challenge during the **mission video**, which will be premiered on STEPS TV at **5pm on 18 May**. [Follow this link](#) to watch!

You can find out more about the STEPS IGG Engineering E-Badge on the [Engineers Ireland website](#).





We're THRILLED to be able to tell you that we're now on the home stretch of

Mishon Moon!

We have reached 300,000 kilometres, so **we just have 63,104kms to go!**

With the longer evenings and easing of restrictions, it is more than possible to reach our target!

HUGE THANKS to everyone who has contributed up until now – however big or small, regular or sporadic, individual or collective! Particular thanks to the schools and sports clubs who have donated their kilometres and, of course, to our **Ambassador Shirley McCay** and her **Ireland Women's Hockey** team-mates who are donating over 1,000 kilometres a week from their training sessions and matches.

You can help propel us into the final stretch ...

It's up to you whether you walk, run, cycle, swim, hike, skate or skip!

Every kilometre completed is one kilometre nearer to the moon!

It's easy to donate your kilometres! Simply email your weekly or monthly total to irishgirlguidesmishon@gmail.com or add them to a post on the Mishon App using the hashtags **#MishonMoon** or **#GirlGuidesWalktotheMoon**.

If you haven't contributed to Mishon Moon yet, it's not too late to start!



Excitement is building for our first ever [international online camp](#), **Octagon**, which will take place from 31 July to 2 August 2021. Usually our international camps are aimed at girls who are in Guide Branch (aged 10-14) with many Senior Branch members (aged 14-30) joining the volunteer crew. But this time we are inviting our members of all ages to join, including Ladybirds (aged 5-7) and Brownies (aged 7-10). It is open to Guides from overseas too, of course, and we are thrilled to have Guides from five other countries already signed up.

Many of our members will be rising early tomorrow (Saturday 8 May) to take part in the **Darkness Into Light** fundraiser for Pieta House. Perhaps you will be too?

We are all encouraged to join with Pieta and Electric Ireland for a special Darkness Into Light **sunrise** and give the gift of hope to those impacted by suicide and self-harm. Everyone is invited to share their sunrise moment online.

Further details are on the [Darkness Into Light website](#).



Did you know [Pieta House](#) offers FREE counselling
to anyone in suicidal distress?

If you, or anyone you know, ever needs to avail of this:
freephone 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444.

And finally ... members of **Galway City Senior Branch** did a fabulous **takeover of Flirt FM** recently! It was super to hear them share their favourite Guiding memories, including international camps, a trip to Sangam World Centre and the fast fashion project they did with ECO-UNESCO.



They described the sustainable, accessible and affordable house design they came up with for the Construction Industry Federation's Home For Everyone challenge (pictured here). And, of course, they shared how much they are looking forward to **Octagon!**



They also talked about how keeping in touch with each other and doing Guiding activities and challenges has helped them cope with the lockdowns and restrictions of the past year.

You might like to [listen back here](#).

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](#).