



Girl Guide Connections

This month's news:

July 2021

Gearing up for our first online international camp!

STEAM, SDGs and the great outdoors!

Join us for our 110th birthday celebration on 31 July!

FIRST LEGO League success!

Our engineering superstars enjoy a private audience with a NASA datanaut!

Volunteers continue to upskill with online trainings

New volunteers and youth members welcome!

Good luck to our Ambassador, Shirley McCay, and Team Ireland at the Olympics!

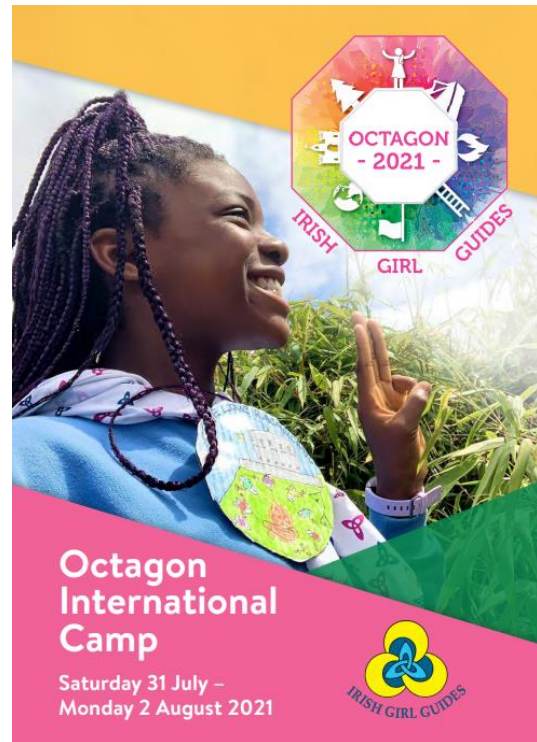
Dear

More than **1,000 Girl Guides** from 10 different countries are getting excited as they count down the days to our first ever [international online camp Octagon](#), which will take place from Saturday 31 July to Monday 2 August.

The original plan was to hold the camp at Clongowes Woods in Co Kildare. The arrival of Covid, however, led to the decision to hold it in a variety of places in a variety of ways. Suitably enough, the theme of the camp is **Adaptability - how we engage with the world and with each other.**

Octagon will be streamed from our host location of [Dublin City University](#) with participants 'camping' at home or locally, connected together via a stimulating programme of varied **activities**.

Each camper will engage in sessions focused on learning more about **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths)**, the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Outdoors**.



Sessions will involve an online element and there will be plenty of **challenges** that will enable campers to **learn** new skills, **explore** new things and **make new friends** with other girls all over Ireland and all over the world!



Members of the **volunteer crew** team are currently busy packing so that each of the 1,060 participants will receive an individual camp kit in time for the big event.

We are hugely thankful to the **ESB Energy for Generations Fund** for a grant to cover the cost of a **STEM in a Box** kit from [LearnIT](#) for each participant. This will allow the girls to develop their **science and engineering skills** by building a land yacht and trying it out with different varying factors. Younger members will have LEGO-based challenges to complete as well.



On the Saturday evening we will be having a **big birthday bash** to **celebrate 110 years of IGG** **empowering girls and women!**

We hope you'll **join us in the celebration**, which will take place on [our YouTube channel](#) at 7.30pm on 31 July!



We are hugely grateful that the **National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)'s Artist in Resident Grant Scheme** has provided funding for [Createschool](#) to partner with **Newbridge Senior Branch Unit** and **IGG Archives** to create a short **film** on IGG's 110 years of youth work.

This film will air during the **110th birthday celebration**. It will include footage from the early days of Guiding in Ireland and a look at how badges have evolved over the years as well as relevant material from the National Archives of Ireland.

Our thanks to **NYCI**, the **Arts Council of Ireland** and the **Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth** for making this film possible.

We are excited that the Irish Girl Guides' spirit enables us to find ways to stay connected – from our homes, our campsites and from across the world! And we look forward to you joining us!

Huge congratulations to our two teams who competed in the **FIRST LEGO League UK/Ireland Final** earlier this month! Both teams did really well and Team Step Sisters scooped the **Second Place Project Award!** Well deserved too! They conducted very thorough research for their project, including organising online meetings with representatives from the National



Transport Authority, Dublin City Council
and Translink.

Well done too to all our youth members who tackled the **engineering challenges** Engineers Ireland came up with in the past six months, especially the 10 girls who completed ALL THREE challenges! Engineers Ireland has been hugely impressed by the standard of **creativity** and **engineering skills** displayed by everyone who has engaged with their activities.

The 10 engineering superstars were privileged to take part in an **'Ask An Engineer'** event recently with **NASA Datanaut and Miss Universe Ireland 2019 Fionnghuala O'Reilly**. They made the most of the opportunity to ask Fionnghuala some of their burning engineering questions.



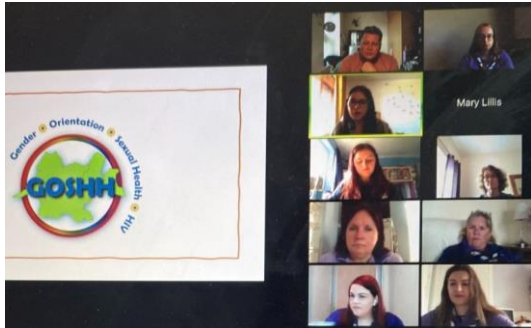
The questions ranged from 'What do you like best about being an engineer?' and 'What is your favourite structure in Ireland?' to 'Why is there no oxygen in space?' Great questions!



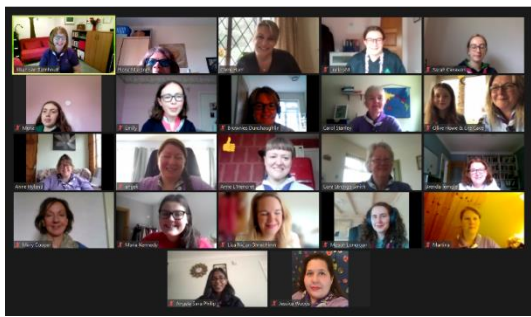
We are hugely grateful to **Engineers Ireland** for devising the challenges and organising the 'Ask An Engineer' event.

Fionnghuala featured on the **Tommy Tiernan Show** earlier this year. If you didn't see the episode, you can [watch it back here](#).

Meanwhile, our volunteer Leaders and Senior Branch members continue to enjoy opportunities to **upskill** by taking part in a variety of **online trainings** and other events.



Almost 30 Leaders and Senior Branchers took part in a **Guide with Pride** event delivered by members of **Gender Orientation, Sexual Health and HIV (GOSHH)**. This led to great discussions on the topics of inclusion and diversity.



Over 20 volunteers and Senior Branchers also took part in a **Media Training** with **Jillian van Turnhout**, a former Senator and former IGG Chief Commissioner. From her wide-ranging media experience, Jillian shared valuable tips for preparing to do media interviews and representing IGG in the media.

PANEL — ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE PROFESSIONALS



Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh @LisaNicAnB
Head of Communications & Education @EMireland
Presenter @raidionalife



Carol Hunt @CarolMHunt
Journalist
Former Political Adviser



Participants were delighted when two further media experts joined the session to share their insider tips too - **Lisa Nic An Bhreithimh**, radio presenter and Head of Communications and Education at European Movement Ireland, and **Carol Hunt**, journalist and former political adviser.

They said **local media LOVE to hear what is happening in local communities** and encouraged us to contact our local media to let them know what Guiding activities are happening in the area. This is something our volunteers throughout the country will be doing later in the summer as we roll out a **recruitment drive** to sign up more volunteers

and youth members. While some units have waiting lists, others will not be able to re-open without additional volunteers.

Volunteering with IGG is hugely rewarding - it is an opportunity to give back to the **community**, to develop **new skills**, go on **adventures** and have **new experiences**, make **new friends** and have a lot of laughs while **helping girls** develop **skills, confidence and independence**.



If you, or anyone you know, would like to volunteer with IGG or enroll their daughter as a youth member, please email_info@irishgirlguides.ie or tel: 01-6683898.

We are very excited for our **Ambassador Shirley McCay** and all the athletes who will be representing Ireland at the **Olympics**. Some of our members around the country took the opportunity to make this 'Good Luck' video for Shirley and the **Ireland Women's Hockey Team** who headed off to Tokyo last weekend.



We will be cheering them all the way! And we hope you will be too!

Their first match takes place on Saturday 24 July. You can see the rest of their fixtures [here](#).

Well done to **Bray Ladybirds** who have been busy getting in the mood for the **Olympics** by taking part in various races!



We look forward to you joining us for our 110th birthday celebration on 31 July at 7.30pm on [YouTube](#)!

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](#).