

# Press Kit



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## PRESS RELEASE

# Orbit 2025 blasts off in Ireland: a galactic gathering of worldwide Girl Guides begins!

Orbit 2025 has officially launched! Over 1,500 Girl Guides from across Ireland and around the world have gathered in County Kildare for a week-long international adventure like no other. Running from Sunday 3rd to Saturday 9th August, this constellation-themed camp is set to be an unforgettable celebration of leadership, friendship, and fun.

With the Opening Ceremony held yesterday, the energy is already electric across the site, where participants aged 10–17 have embarked on a journey through nine immersive activity zones. These include everything from robotics and first aid to African drumming, yoga, planetarium visits, and sustainability workshops, each designed to spark confidence, creativity, and global awareness.

*"Orbit 2025 is the result of passion, commitment, creativity, teamwork, and a shared belief in the power of Guiding from an incredible team of volunteers. (...) With Orbit, we wanted to show that just like stars in a galaxy each girl shines in her own way. And together, we've created something vast, beautiful, and full of potential. Orbit 2025 reminds us that real impact happens when we come together."* **says Aisling Claffey, Chief Camp**

Inspired by the belief that every girl is a star, the event invites participants to shine brightly within their own vibrant subcamp, each named after a constellation. The theme of unity and collaboration runs through every aspect of the experience, celebrating the idea that while one person alone cannot change the world, together we can shape a better universe.

This year's camp welcomes Guides from Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, India, Malta, New Zealand, Portugal, the United States, the UK, a powerful reflection of the global sisterhood of Guiding.

Entirely volunteer-led, Orbit 2025 is powered by the dedication of hundreds of Irish Girl Guides Leaders and volunteers-staff, who have created a space where girls can grow in confidence, connection, and leadership.



## PRESS RELEASE

# Orbit 2025 blasts off in Ireland: a galactic gathering of worldwide Girl Guides begins!

The camp is filled with exciting moments still to come, including:

- **Sunday 3rd August: Opening Ceremony** — A high-energy kickoff to welcome 1,500+ participants from around the world.
- **Monday 4th August: Guides' Own** — Reflective moments to connect and appreciate the shared experience.
- **Tuesday 5th August: Ladybirds & Brownies Fun Day** — Introducing the youngest members to the possibilities ahead.
- **Wednesday 6th August: International & Irish Night** — Celebrate global Guiding traditions and enjoy a swaps session.
- **Thursday 7th August: Campfire Night** — Sing, laugh, and bond around the campfire.
- **Friday 8th August: Closing Ceremony** — A heartfelt finale celebrating growth, learning, and friendship.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Niamh Shaw, one of Ireland's leading science communicators, who shared inspiring words with our Guides, encouraging them to dream big and reach for the stars through science, space, and storytelling.

Orbit 2025 has been made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers and the generous support of our partners and sponsors, who share our mission of giving girls the confidence and tools they need to thrive.

### Follow the journey and join the excitement at:

- [@Orbit2025](#), [@irishgirlguides](#)
- [#Orbit2025](#) [#GuidesGoGlobal](#) [#GivingGirlsConfidence](#) [#IrishGirlGuides](#)

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# Editorial



## Aisling Claffey, Camp Chief

*"Orbit 2025 is the result of passion, commitment, creativity, teamwork, and a shared belief in the power of Guiding from an incredible team of volunteers."*

*From the very first planning meeting, our vision was clear: to create a camp that would empower every girl, ignite imagination, and celebrate the strength of community. Watching that vision come to life – seeing the smiles, the friendships, the courage, and the confidence growing each day – has been truly unforgettable.*

*With Orbit, we wanted to show that just like stars in a galaxy each girl shines in her own way. And together, we've created something vast, beautiful, and full of potential. Orbit 2025 reminds us that real impact happens when we come together."*

*"I want to extend my deepest thanks to every single person who made this possible: to the staff, zone leaders, volunteers, international guests, and, of course, the participants. Thank you for believing in the magic of Orbit. You have each helped build a galaxy where girls are inspired to shine brighter than ever."*

**Aisling Claffey, Camp Chief of Orbit 2025**



# Key information

## Themes & purpose

Orbit 2025 is a space-themed international Girl Guide camp where every girl is a star. Subcamps represent constellations and, together, they form a galaxy. This symbolizes that while one person alone cannot change the world, together we can build a better universe. This empowering message encourages collaboration across borders and cultures, especially in today's divided world.

With nine diverse activity zones, the camp is designed to help girls build essential life skills, from creativity and resilience to leadership and global awareness, all while having fun, forging friendships, and growing in confidence.

## Dates & location

- Dates: Sunday 3 August – Friday 8 August 2025
- Location: County Kildare, Ireland

## Key stats

- **Participants:** 1,500 Guides aged 10–17 from across Ireland and internationally
- **Irish Girl Guides Members:** 523 Guides (10-13) and 192 Senior Branch (14-17) members
- **Leaders:** 246 adult Leaders and volunteers (refers to those who will be camping with own units/subcamps)
- **Staff:** 151 Orbit team members and support staff (refers to over 18s who are running activities, keeping site safe, etc.)
- **International guests:** 9 countries and 11 groups
- **Activity Zones:** 9 zones designed to develop future-ready skills





# Nine activity zones to unlock girls' potential

Each of the nine zones at Orbit 2025 represents a constellation. They are designed to encourage exploration, leadership, and creativity, helping our stars (girls) gain confidence and skills that will benefit them long after camp ends.

## **1. Energizing Our Future:**

- Swimming Pool: 30 min of fun followed by refresh time
- Trefoil Guild: Journey through Guiding history with stories and games
- Alternative activity: Badge Making and chill out activities (option for those who aren't swimming)

*"This zone is about sparking energy and connection, from sharing Guiding stories to diving into fun. It's where past meets present and friendships take flight."*

**Siobhan Coppinger, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Energizing Our Future at Orbit 2025**

## **2. Uniting Our Future**

- Major First Aid Event: Step into a scenario with a rocket crash role-play. Teams collaborate to assess the scene and respond using their first aid knowledge.
- Team Building Challenges: Creative problem-solving tasks that test communication, leadership, and cooperation.
- Self-Defence Workshop with HERSpace

*"We challenge girls to think fast, work as a team, and support one another because leadership starts with trust and togetherness."*

**Roisín Lowe, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Uniting Our Future at Orbit 2025**





# Nine activity zones to unlock girls' potential

## 3. Sparking Our Future:

- Fire Ignition: Learn to start a Leave No Trace fire and make fire lighters
- Shelter Building – Create strong, weather-proof shelters with tarps and paracord

*“There’s something powerful about lighting your own fire and building shelter from scratch. It’s resilience, confidence, and adventure in one zone.”*

**Heather Burnett Niland, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Sparking Our Future at Orbit 2025**

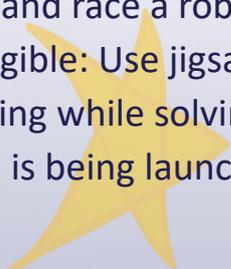
## 4. Sustaining Our Future

- Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Bollywood Dance with Sangam
- Pledge Making (description required)
- Choose between:
  - Biodiversity (SDG 15): Habitat mapping and making seed paper cards
  - Access to Water (SDG 6): Water filtration and zine making water Filtration & Zines (SDG 6)
  - Introduction to Global Citizenship Education (GCE)

*“Girls explore the world’s biggest challenges and discover how they can lead change from climate action to dancing for joy.”*

**Orla O’Neill, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Leading Our Future at Orbit 2025**

## 5. Engineering Our Future:

- Hopper Challenge: Build and race a robot with LEGO Spike Prime kit
  - Campfire Quest with Tangible: Use jigsaw style tiles to learn about coding and computational thinking while solving problems in an interactive game (this version of the game is being launched at Orbit)
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# Nine activity zones to unlock girls' potential

“From building and racing robots to solving hands-on coding challenges, these activities spark creativity, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving. We're not just imagining the future - girls are engineering it one challenge at a time. Special thanks to the ESB Energy for Future Generations Fund, Creative Hut and Tangible for their support for this zone!”

**Katie Keogh, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Engineering Our Future at Orbit 2025**

## 6. Creating Our Future:

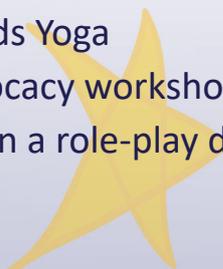
- Free Being Me Mural & Astronaut Bead Craft: Design one tile to use in a NTC mural and craft a beaded astronaut
- Choose between:
  - Felt Rocket Craft
  - Video Making Workshop: learn how to use video making equipment and make a video based on a prompt

*“Creativity is more than art, it’s expression, confidence, and vision. This zone helps girls tell their stories in their own unique way.”*

**Dara Callanan, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Creating Our Future at Orbit 2025**

## 7. Expressing Our Future

Choose two of:

- African Drumming with JabbaJabbaJembe: interactive drumming workshop to create music together
  - Dance Workshop
  - Yoga Session with StarKids Yoga
  - Alternative activity: advocacy workshop: learn about female leaders and activists, then take part in a role-play debate on hopes for the future.
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# Nine activity zones to unlock girls' potential

*“From rhythm to movement to calm reflection, girls explore how to express their full selves with confidence, joy, and freedom.”*

**Amy McAuley, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Expressing Our Future at Orbit 2025**

## **8. Uplifting Our Future**

- Planetarium with Blackrock Observatory: Learn about the solar system and explore the universe
- Rocket Launcher: Work as a team to test your physical skills
- Space Mission Challenges: Work as a team to solve challenges

## **9. Leading Our Future**

- Off-site day visit to Donadea forest! On Wednesday, campers will head out with their Units to explore the forest, take on group challenges in the great outdoors.

*“Watching girls take initiative in the forest, planning, problem-solving, and leading their teams, shows just how naturally leadership can grow when you give it space.”*

**Ciara McAuliffe, Irish Girl Guides Leader and Zone Lead Leading Our Future at Orbit 2025**





# Key Moments at Orbit 2025

Every day at Orbit 2025 offers something unique, from joyful celebration to quiet reflection. The programme is designed to create space for connection, culture, fun, and moments to recharge. Here's a look at some of the most special highlights:

## **Sunday 3rd August – Opening Ceremony**

We will officially launch Orbit 2025 with a high-energy celebration to welcome over 1,500 girls and volunteers from Ireland and around the world. Expect music, colour, and excitement as we set the tone for an unforgettable week of Guiding adventure!

## **Monday 4th August – Guides' Own**

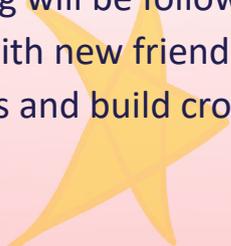
This evening, each subcamp will come together in a calm and reflective space for a Guides' Own: a time to pause, connect, and find meaning in the shared experience. It's a special moment to appreciate the community we're building.

## **Tuesday 5th August – Ladybirds & Brownies Fun Day**

Our youngest members, the Ladybirds and Brownies, will join us on site for a day of fun and discovery. It's a chance for them to explore what's ahead on their Guiding journey, from activities to friendships, and imagine themselves as future Guides and Senior Branchers.

## **Wednesday 6th August – International & Irish Night**

A true celebration of global Guiding! Participants are encouraged to wear traditional outfits, country colours, or come dressed as a symbol from their homeland. This joyful evening will be followed by a SWAPS session, where members exchange tokens with new friends from across the world. A beautiful way to share stories and build cross-cultural friendships.



# Key Moments at Orbit 2025

## Thursday 7th August – Campfire Night

Bring your sit-upon and your singing voice! This beloved tradition will bring everyone together around the fire to sing, laugh, and reflect on the week. With classic campfire songs and shared memories, this is the heart and soul of Orbit. (Our songbook is available to [download here](#).)

## Friday 8th August – Closing Ceremony

As the stars begin to fade on Orbit 2025, we will gather for a heartfelt Closing Ceremony. Together, we will celebrate everything we've experienced: the growth, the friendships, the learning, and carry the spirit of Orbit home with us.

Each of these moments contributes to what makes Orbit 2025 truly special: a galaxy of connection, creativity, and community. We can't wait to share them with you.



# Our special guest



## Dr. Niamh Shaw

Engineer, Scientist, Performer and  
Space Dreamer

Dr. Niamh Shaw is one of Ireland's leading science communicators and a passionate advocate for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths).

With a background in engineering and a PhD in science, she blends creativity with curiosity to make science engaging and accessible.

A writer, performer, and space enthusiast, Niamh has created award-winning theatre shows, the popular RTÉ radio series Curious Humans, and has taken part in simulated Mars missions and zero-gravity flights. She has spoken at NASA, ESA, and on national TV, inspiring thousands along the way.

Named Irish Girl Guides Ambassador in 2019/2020 and co-recipient of a Science Foundation Ireland award, Niamh's mission, #GetNiamhToSpace, continues to encourage young people to dream big and reach for the stars.

# Meet Our International Participants

Orbit 2025 brings together Girl Guides from across the globe in a celebration of connection, community, and global sisterhood. This year, 11 Guiding groups from 10 countries, including Ireland, will participate in this international camp experience.

All of these organisations are proud members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the world's largest voluntary movement dedicated to educating and empowering girls and young women.



WAGGGS represents 11.2 million members across 153 countries, supporting girls through non-formal education, leadership development, advocacy, and community action. For over a century, Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting have transformed lives, and Orbit 2025 continues that mission.

Here's a closer look at our incredible international participants:



## **Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI)**

The Catholic Guides of Ireland is a nationwide Guiding association open to all girls and women. CGI is one of three Guiding organisations on the island of Ireland, alongside Irish Girl Guides and The Guide Association - Province of Ulster. CGI operates in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, offering opportunities for growth, leadership, and adventure.

# Meet Our International Participants



## Girlguiding Ulster

Girlguiding Ulster is a regional branch of Girlguiding UK and serves around 7,000 members across Northern Ireland. Operating with full autonomy and decision-making powers, Girlguiding Ulster is committed to delivering meaningful, empowering Guiding experiences rooted in community, creativity, and adventure.

## Girlguiding UK

Girlguiding UK is the largest organisation for girls and young women in the UK, offering a space to grow, lead, and make an impact. Focused on inclusion, empowerment, and youth voice, Girlguiding creates opportunities for all girls to thrive, regardless of background or ability, and supports them in becoming leaders in their communities and beyond.



## Danish Girl Guides' Council (Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark - PFD)

PFD is the national umbrella organisation for Girl Guiding in Denmark. It represents the Green Girl Guides, as well as the female members of the Danish Scout Corps, Danish Baptist Scout Corps, and the Danish Scout Corps of South Schleswig within WAGGGS. PFD promotes unity across Danish Guiding and fosters leadership among young women through collaborative activities and training.

# Meet Our International Participants

## Cyprus Guides Association

The Cyprus Guides Association (CGA) is a voluntary, non-governmental youth organisation for girls and young women, founded in 1960. Since 1962, it has been a proud member of WAGGGS. CGA provides non-formal education and leadership opportunities, guided by dedicated adult volunteers who support the personal development of every girl from age 5 and up.



## Malta Girl Guides

The Malta Girl Guides is the largest youth organisation for girls and young women in Malta and Gozo, welcoming members from age 5. As part of the global Guiding movement, MGG provides a supportive environment where every girl can develop confidence, life skills, and leadership through fun, values-based, and inclusive programmes.

## Associação Guias de Portugal (AGP)

AGP is a non-profit public utility association that promotes Girl Guiding through the educational method established by Robert Baden-Powell. By gradually introducing responsibility, teamwork, and community engagement, with a strong emphasis on the outdoors, AGP empowers girls and young women to become confident, active citizens.



# Meet Our International Participants



## **Sangam (World Centres of WAGGGS)**

Sangam is one of the five World Centres of WAGGGS and has been a hub for international connection and learning since 1966. Located in Pune, India, Sangam brings together Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. We are delighted to welcome Sangam representatives to our international camp for the second time.

## **GirlGuiding New Zealand**

GirlGuiding NZ offers a non-competitive, values-based learning space where girls can explore their interests, grow in confidence, and form strong friendships. Through fun, supportive programmes, girls gain leadership and life skills that prepare them to become tomorrow's changemakers.



## **Girl Guides of Canada**

Girl Guides of Canada is a catalyst for girls empowering girls. Through innovative programming for ages 5–17, girls explore new experiences, challenge themselves, and build confidence in a safe and supportive environment. With a focus on outdoor adventure, financial literacy, mental health, advocacy, and more, girls develop life skills that help them thrive and lead.

# Meet Our International Participants

## Girl Scouts USA

Girl Scouts of the USA helps girls discover their strengths, form lasting friendships, and tackle challenges with confidence. From outdoor exploration to climate advocacy, girls can be their authentic selves while building essential skills. Backed by volunteers, mentors, and a global network of alumnae, Girl Scouts lead the way toward a better world.





# Meet the Orbit Team 2025

Behind every incredible camp is a team of passionate, creative, and tireless individuals, and Orbit 2025 is no exception. Entirely volunteer-led, the Orbit team is made up of dedicated members of the Irish Girl Guides who have given their time, energy, and heart to make this extraordinary experience possible.

From logistics and programming to wellbeing, catering, and campfire songs, every part of Orbit 2025 has been dreamed up and delivered by a team driven by one shared goal: to give girls an unforgettable and empowering week of fun, friendship, and future-building.

Orbit is more than a camp, it's a celebration of what can happen when we work together. This incredible team has worked for months to bring the Orbit galaxy to life.

## **Thank You!**

To every volunteer, planner, coordinator, and behind-the-scenes hero, THANK YOU.

Orbit 2025 would not exist without your belief in girls, your commitment to Guiding, and your dedication to creating a safe and inspiring space for 1,500 participants to grow, laugh, and dream big.

Thank you for creating a safe, inclusive, and joyful environment for every girl attending. Thank you for building a galaxy where every girl is a star.





# Orbit staff volunteers' quotes

“

*"Orbit shows what's possible when people come together for something bigger than themselves. It's been amazing to be part of a team so full of heart."* - **Dara Callanan, Mosney Senior Branch member, Mosney Brownies and Guides Leader, and Orbit 2025 Staff Team**

“

*"Some of my best memories from being a Guide were made on an international camp, Camp 101, so being part of the team creating those memories for this generation of Guides has felt really special"* - **Sophie Cassidy, Drogheda Senior Branch and Orbit 2025 Staff Team**

“

*"As Orbit approaches, our group is busy with requests for photos, memorabilia, old uniforms, wood for gadget making... all needed for our Activity which we are running at Camp. All our participating members are excited and looking forward to meeting the present-day members of IGG and our overseas visitors and are enthusiastic about sharing their memories of their earlier Guiding Days - some longer than others - and to sharing their love of Guiding which continues undiminished".* - **Sally Smith, Trefoil Guild Chair and Orbit 2025 Staff Team**



# Our sponsors & partners

A heartfelt thank you

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all those who made this incredible international Girl Guide camp possible.

**To our sponsors and funders:** thank you for believing in our vision and supporting a space where girls can grow in confidence, leadership, and global awareness. Your generosity has helped spark inspiration across borders.

**To all partner organisations and contributors:** thank you for bringing your time, talents, and resources to Orbit. Your participation, from activity zones to expert workshops, has enriched this camp in ways we will never forget.

Aer Lingus 



Irish Aid  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eacnamaíoch agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige  
Department of Education and Youth

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TANGIBLE  
START  
Demystify Coding

kinia

riley.

HER  
space



BLACKROCK CASTLE  
OBSERVATORY  
The Space For Science

JabbaJabbaJembe

# Our incredible participants

To all our participants, thank you for bringing your energy, curiosity, and courage to Orbit 2025. Each of you is a vital star in our galaxy.

And a special thank you to our international guests: we are truly honoured you made the journey to Ireland. Your presence brings Orbit's spirit of connection and friendship to life, and we are so grateful to share this unforgettable adventure with you.

Together, we are showing what can happen when girls unite with purpose and passion.

**Thank you for helping us reach for the stars.**



# About Irish Girl Guides

Irish Girl Guides is Ireland's leading youth organisation for girls and young women aged 5-30+. Our mission is to enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

Through our unique Journey Programme and the dedication of over 1,400 volunteer Leaders, we empower about 8,000 members to become confident young leaders. Girls learn by doing – taking on challenges, developing practical skills, and building lasting friendships in a supportive environment.

What's brilliant is seeing them grow from shy new members into confident young women who take action on issues they care about, from environmental projects to community initiatives. For generations, we have been providing girls with a space to be themselves, discover their potential, and make a real difference in today's world.

## **Our Vision**

A future that is sustainable, diverse, and equal – where girls and young women are empowered to lead and advocate for change.

## **Our Mission**

Enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.

## **#GivingGirlsConfidence**

Guiding brings out the best in every girl. It provides opportunities to learn new skills, grow in confidence, embrace leadership, and experience new adventures, all while forming friendships that last a lifetime.

Anyone who shares our values is welcome to play a part in the Irish Girl Guides. The memories and personal growth that members experience are truly priceless.





# About Irish Girl Guides

## **Women in Leadership**

At Irish Girl Guides, we believe in the value of a girl-only environment where members are supported by strong female role models.

Our programmes are led by women who inspire girls to challenge themselves, explore their potential, and follow their dreams.

Leadership is introduced early, girls take on roles that grow with them, developing confidence, responsibility, and the ability to lead with empathy and purpose throughout their lives.

## **Our Journey Programme**

The Irish Girl Guides' non-formal educational model, the Journey Programme, supports each member's growth through a personalised journey full of fun, challenge, and adventure.

We offer age-appropriate programmes through four branches:

- Ladybirds (ages 5–7)
- Brownies (ages 7–10)
- Guides (ages 10–14)
- Senior Branch (ages 14–30)

The programme revolves around six core Adventures that are interwoven across all branches: Guiding, Outdoors, Teamwork, Change, Lifeskills, and Global Awareness

The Journey Programme is progressive and inclusive – designed to meet the needs of members who start young as well as those who join later. From age 18, members can become Leaders and continue their Guiding journey through the Trefoil Guild.

# About Irish Girl Guides

## **Part of a Global Movement**

Irish Girl Guides is proud to be part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), connecting our members to a global sisterhood of 10 million girls in 150 countries.

Through this international network, girls gain a deeper understanding of global issues, experience cultural exchange, and learn how to campaign and advocate for change.

Guides and Senior Branch members also benefit from international camps, travel opportunities, and partnerships that strengthen their sense of global citizenship.

## **Our real impact**

At Irish Girl Guides, we see girls grow from quiet newcomers into confident changemakers. They are leading environmental projects, standing up for what matters, and putting their skills into action.

In a world that demands resilience and leadership, we give girls the space to be themselves, grow in confidence, and step into their power.

For over 100 years, IGG has been building a supportive, inclusive community where girls from all backgrounds can thrive.

Through fun, friendship, and hands-on learning, we are empowering a generation of bold, compassionate leaders ready to shape a better world.





### **Follow us on**

[www.irishgirlguides.ie](http://www.irishgirlguides.ie)

@Orbit2025 @IrishGirlGuides

#Orbit2025 #GuidesGoGlobal #GivingGirlsConfidence



### **About Us**

Irish Girl Guides has 8,000 members across Ireland. Guiding started in Ireland in 1911 and operates throughout the 26 counties with 1,400 volunteer Leaders providing an informal educational programme of fun and challenging activities that foster confidence and leadership skills in girls and young women, enabling them to develop to their full potential and to become responsible citizens.

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