



Young Leader Qualification

Updated June 2014

*“Help to create a better world
and brighter future for the
youth of tomorrow and I trust
that we are doing this.”*

Lady Olave Baden-Powell

Young Leaders

Young Leaders can be women aged 14-18 who assist Leaders in running a unit. Being a Young Leader provides valuable experience in leadership and responsibility and looks great on university or college applications or in CVs.

If you want to get stuck in and help run a unit, then the Young Leader Qualification (YLQ) is just the thing for you! Develop your leadership skills in a rewarding and fun way by gaining the YLQ.

During your qualification you will be supported by your Unit Leader, with extra support available from your Young Leader Advisor as required.

Being a Young Leader is very rewarding. You will get a chance to work directly with the girls and help provide them with a good quality and girl-led guiding experience.

What does it involve?

The qualification consists of six modules, completed practically rather than through tests or examinations.

Module 1 - Go! and sectional training - This module focuses on the Girlguiding membership system (Go!) and learning more about the section the Young Leader works with.

Module 2 - Leadership - This module looks at different leadership styles and when the Young Leader should use them, for example with girls of different ages.

Module 3 - Planning - This module allows the Young Leader to demonstrate how well they understand the programme for the section they volunteer with. It will help them to make sure that the programme is right for the range of ages and abilities in their unit, that all girls take part in planning the programme, and the activities are enjoyable for the girls.

Module 4 - Working with girls - This module allows the Young Leader to demonstrate that they understand the girls they work with and provide the best opportunities for them to grow and develop.

Module 5 - Local guiding - This module looks at the structure of guiding in the Young Leader's local area and how the Young Leader is supported within this.

Module 6 - Your role in guiding - This module is about the Young Leader showing that they understand the Promise and Law, and their commitment to guiding.

Achieving the Young Leadership Qualification

- Keep a diary of your unit activities as well as your own meeting planning.
- Be a reliable member of the unit team - let Leaders know well in advance if you can't make a meeting.
- If you need support, speak with your Unit Leader or contact the Young Leader Advisor.
- Any member who has seen you do something can sign your record sheets your Leader, supporter or the girls in your unit.
- You must take/renew the Promise when you're ready to gain the Qualification.

Anything that you do towards your Young Leader Qualification will count towards the full Leadership Qualification if you decide to take the Young Leader Qualification further and use the skills you've gained towards becoming a fully fledged Girlguiding UK Leader through the Leadership Qualification.

Young Leader Qualification Pack contains:

- Young Leader Guidance Notes
- Useful Links
- Guiding and your CV
- Young Leader Qualification Record Book
- Staying involved when you move away – FAQ's for young people

All information compiled within this booklet has been sourced from various Girlguiding UK publications.

Useful Links

Girlguiding Tyrone: <http://www.girlguidingtyrone.btik.com>

Girlguiding Ulster: <http://girlguidingulster.org.uk>

Girlguiding UK (YouTube Channel): www.youtube.com/user/girlguidinguk

Girlguiding Essentials (Online Shop): www.guidingessentials.org.uk

World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS): www.wagggsworld.org

Trefoil Guild: www.trefoilguilduk.org.uk

International Scout and Guide Fellowship: www.isgf.org

Student Scout and Guide Organisation (SSAGO): www.ssago.org.uk

Lorne on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/LORNE/200724651067?ref=ts

Other resource websites:

www.guiders.co.uk

www.craftycrocodiles.co.uk

www.bakerross.co.uk

www.craftycapers.co.uk

Guiding and your CV

As a Young Leader (and a teenager), you will begin to think about the future and what you would like to do with your life. Leadership skills gained through the qualification will set you in good stead for any field of work.

Everyone tells you that the activities and roles you do in guiding look great on your CV (Curriculum Vitae). But how do you put guiding in there in an effective way that makes sense to someone who doesn't belong to Girlguiding UK? This section is designed to give you a few helpful hints and tips.

CV writing is all about competition. You are competing to get the employer's attention and to convince them to give you that all-important job interview. Guiding can and will make a positive contribution to your CV. While your guiding experience can form a very important part of your CV, be careful not to overload it with repeated information.

Having a section headed 'Voluntary work' is a good idea, as this focuses employers on the fact that you are prepared to give up your time, energy and expertise freely for something you believe in, and it is a section not every job applicant will be able to include. This is a particularly good idea if you are a Young Leader or Leader.

'Skills/Interests/Hobbies' is another section where guiding naturally fits in. Use it to emphasise leadership and teamwork skills, personal development and achievements (eg various awards within Girlguiding UK), as well as participation in any community action and service projects.

Don't forget the personal statement. Although you may not mention guiding as a specific within the statement, the things you gain from guiding should come through.

Use words and phrases such as:

- excellent communication skills
- motivated and able to work unsupervised
- organised, reliable and trustworthy
- adaptable and a good team player
- confident and capable team leader.

For example.....

As a Young Leader I have gained effective organisational and communication skills. I also gained valuable team work experience and enjoy the responsibility of working with young people in an organisation dedicated to educating and entertaining them as well as providing them with useful and practical life skills.

Young Leader Qualification



The Young Leader Qualification is designed to help you develop and demonstrate your leadership skills. By achieving it, you will have shown that you have taken an active part in a Leadership Team with a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide unit.

Use this part of the record book to track your progress through the six modules of the qualification. If you decide to undertake the Girlguiding Leadership Qualification these records can help you show your Leadership Qualification Mentor what you have already achieved.

Unit completing the Young Leader Qualification with

Date started

Date completed



For full information about the Young Leader Qualification and a useful workbook to help you complete it, go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/theseniorsection > What can I do? > Awards and qualifications > Young Leader Qualification.

Module 1: Go! and sectional training

This module focuses on Go! (the Girlguiding membership system) and learning more about the section you work with.

- a) Log on to Go! and check that your contact details are correct.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- b) Complete the 'Being a Leader' e-learning module or attend a training session for the section that you volunteer with.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Module 2: Leadership

This module looks at different leadership styles and when you should use them, for example with girls of different ages.

- a) Observe the Leadership Team in your unit and identify the different ways they work with the girls.

Signed	Role
Name	Date



- b) Practise using an appropriate leadership style in the unit and talk this over with your Leader or supporter.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- c) Discuss with your Leader or supporter what leadership style is appropriate with different age ranges/different girls.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Module 3: Planning

This module allows you to demonstrate how well you know and understand the programme for the section you volunteer with. It will help you to make sure that the programme is right for the range of ages and abilities in your unit, that all girls take part in planning the programme, and that the activities are enjoyable for the girls.

Note: If you change the section you work with, you should repeat this module.

- a) Facilitate a Rainbow Chat, Brownie Pow-wow, Patrol Leaders' Council or any other suitable method of finding out what the girls would like to do, in order to gather ideas and suggestions, and to agree the programme content with the girls in the unit.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- b) Take part in unit planning meetings and show evidence of your involvement.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- c) Look at Girlguiding publications for the section you are working with and use them in planning and carrying out programme activities in the following clauses.
- Plan and carry out an activity that helps girls gain an understanding of the Promise and Law. This should be appropriate to the age of the members of the unit. You may wish to discuss this with one of the Leaders as part of your planning.
 - Plan and carry out two activities with your unit. Your two activities should cover different aspects of the programme for the section you are working with: Rainbows, Brownies or Guides.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- d) Discuss the planning, delivery and evaluation of the above three activities with your Leader or supporter.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Module 4: Working with girls

This module allows you to demonstrate that you understand the girls you work with and provide the best opportunities for them to grow and develop. Guiding treats everyone as an individual and aims to help each person fulfil her potential in a safe, girl-only environment. The programme for each section is designed to provide opportunities for girls to progress at their own pace and to have their achievements recognised.

- a) Explain to your Leader or supporter how girls have gained confidence, self-esteem and social skills over a term. Give examples to illustrate your observations.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- b) Follow the progress of a particular girl in the unit over several weeks. Help her to carry out a challenge to achieve something she finds difficult. Explain to your Leader or supporter how you helped her achieve success.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- c) Talk with your Leader or supporter about how the needs of individual girls can be met. For example, discuss how you could support an exceptionally able girl, one who is very shy, or a girl with a disability.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- d) Help a girl in the unit, or a small group of girls, to find out about the section to which she/they can progress.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Module 5: Local guiding

This module looks at the structure of guiding in your area and how it supports you.

- a) Discuss with your Leader or supporter the structure of guiding in your local area.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- b) Help girls participate in an activity with girls from another unit. Afterwards, discuss with one of the Leaders how the activity went, your contribution to it and anything you might do differently.

Signed	Role
Name	Date



Module 6: Your role in guiding

This module is about showing you understand the Promise and Law, and your commitment to guiding.

- a) Discuss your understanding of the Promise and Law with an adult member of your choice.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- b) When you are ready, make or renew your Promise with an adult member of your choice.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

- c) Explore other opportunities available to you as a member of The Senior Section on The Senior Section website, or speak to your Leader or supporter, and/or Adviser for The Senior Section, about local opportunities.

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Completion of Young Leader Qualification

Signed	Role
Name	Date

Staying involved when you move away – FAQs for young people



Q. Is it worth staying involved in guiding when I move away?

A. In short, YES! There are loads of great things about being a member of Girlguiding UK. Many people get a real buzz and sense of achievement from volunteering and there's no need to lose this just because you're relocating!

Because moving to a new area can be daunting, guiding can give you a ready-made social group, with people who share your interests and sense of fun. It's a great way to meet new people and make friends in your new home.

On a professional level, guiding makes you stand out from the crowd, showing future employers that you have important skills. It looks great on your CV, providing evidence of team work, leadership skills, reliability and commitment, to name just a few. Guiding also helps you continue your personal development through training courses and taking part in new and challenging experiences.

Q. Can I be a member at more than one unit?

A. Of course! You can help out at more than one unit in the same area or at units in totally different places, for example if you're away at university in term time but back home for the holidays. The good news is you have to pay your annual membership subscription only in one place!

Q. How can I still be involved with my home unit?

A. Let your unit know that although you can't be there every week you would still like to help out when you can. If you sort out a rota at the start of each term, you can give the unit Leader your term dates and work out when you will be available to help.

While you're away, you could always ask to be copied in to any emails or letters sent out, so that you can stay in touch and know what's going on. There may even be ways you could help from a distance, for example organising a rota by email or writing to the parents of girls in your home unit.

Q. So how can I keep up my links with guiding when I move?

A. The first thing to do is to talk to your unit Leader or local Commissioner. They can advise you about the transfer process and may be able to put you in touch with Leaders in the area you're moving to. Does the County you're moving to have a website? If so, you may be able to get in touch with its Student or Young Leader Coordinator if it has one, or the local Commissioner. If they can't put you in touch with someone in your new area, then Join Us can! Call us on **0800 1 69 59 01** or email join.us@girlguiding.org.uk.

If you're going to university, it might have a Student Scout and Guides Organisation (SSAGO). It often has contacts for local guiding, as well as being a great social group to join! You can visit its website at www.ssago.org.uk. If the university doesn't have a SSAGO, try contacting the university volunteering service, which may have contact details for guiding in the County. Keep an eye out at your Freshers' Fair!





Q. I'm not sure how much spare time I'll have in my new area and don't want to commit too much. What should I do?

A. As with all volunteering, it's entirely up to you how much time you want to give. It's worth having a chat with your new unit Leader when you start to let her know that you might not be available every week, particularly during busy times such as exams.

Of course, if you want to be a unit Leader, you can! But if you're looking for a smaller role you could volunteer as a unit Helper or become a member of a Senior Section group and join in with the programme, without doing any kind of leading. You may be able to assist in some other way which doesn't mean being at a meeting every week; could you do the accounts or admin? Could you help organise and run a specific activity or an outing, such as a camp?

Q. I've heard that some Leaders don't like student volunteers because they're away so much. What should I do?

A. Leaders can be wary of students because they are

not available to help locally throughout the year, but most will really appreciate having new volunteers in their area! Plus, many units meet only in term time, so chances are you would probably be around for most of the meetings. And if much of your unit communication is by email, it will be easy to stay in touch when you go back home for the holidays.

As mentioned in the previous Q and A, it's also a good idea to have a chat with your unit Leader when you first meet her to let her know your availability. Try to give her warning of busy work times when you have lots of essays or exams, so that she can find alternative help for meetings you can't attend. It's much better for Leaders to know in advance than be left with a last-minute panic, so don't feel bad if you mention times when you think you might have too much on.

You can also point your new Leader in the direction of *Advice on how to support young women who are relocating*.

Q. How can I let other people know about my experiences?

A. Let us know your experience by emailing Project 50K at project50k@girlguiding.org.uk – your knowledge may be helpful to other young people leaving home.