

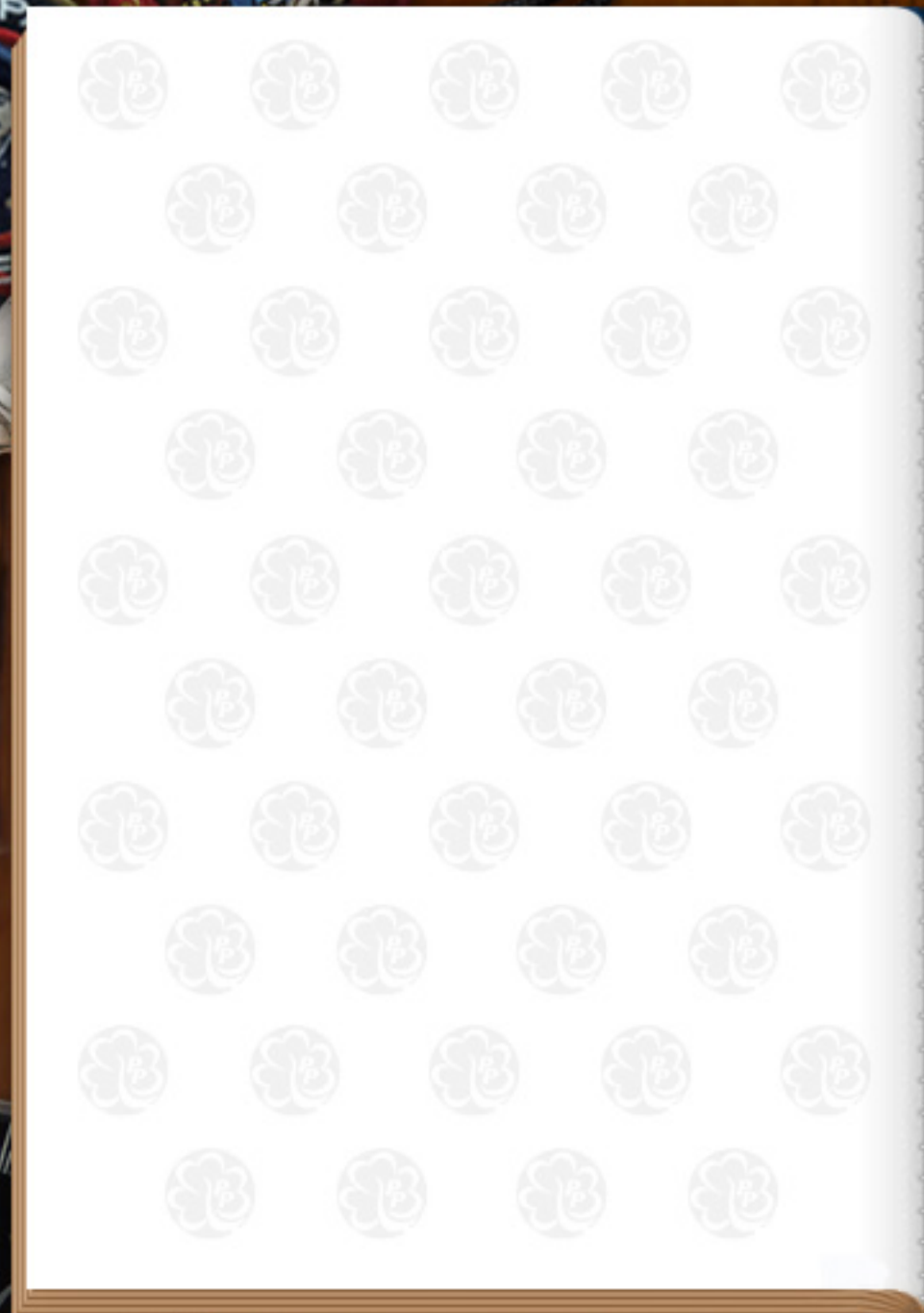


Chronological View

**History of
Girl Guides Singapore**



GGs site
Navigate



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Published by the Girl Guides Singapore
Website: www.girlguides.org.sg

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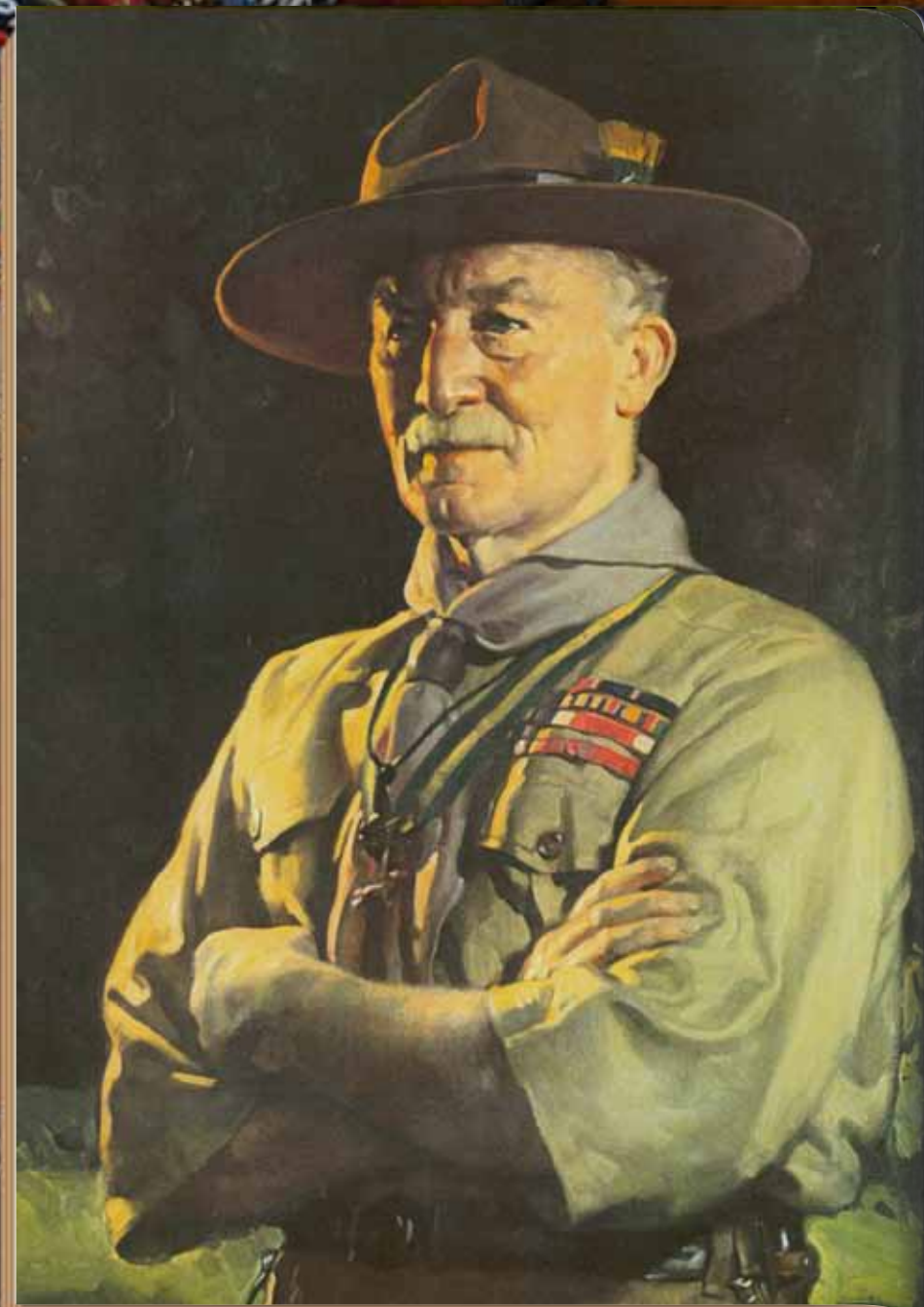
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*"Our aim, in training the girls,
is the education and development
of character through their
individual enthusiasm from within,
and not by imposing upon
their collective dogmatic
instruction from without."*

Robert Baden-Powell



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Agnes, Olave, and Robert Baden-Powell

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It all started with a plea: "Please, please – something for the girls!" in 1909.

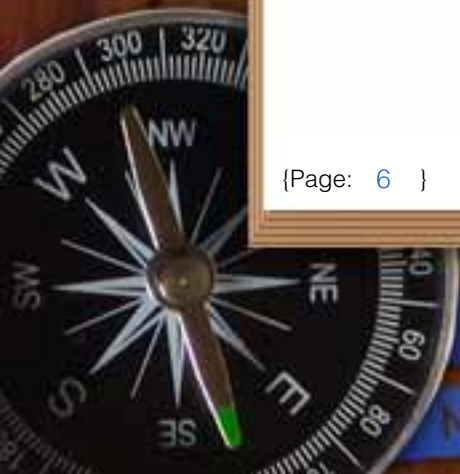
This was when a handful of girls gate-crashed the Boy Scout Rally at Crystal Palace in the United Kingdom and lobbied for a place for girls in Scouting.

It was then that Robert Baden-Powell saw the need and decided that if the girls wanted to join in, they should have their own name and Movement, and a programme suited to their needs.

Robert Baden-Powell chose the name Girl Guides.

In 1910, the Guide Movement was formally founded.

His sister, Agnes Baden-Powell and later his wife, Olave Baden-Powell led the Movement.



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First Beginnings 1917 - 1945

The Singapore Girl Guide Movement started as a District of the Malayan Girl Guides Association in 1917. The first Girl Guide Company was founded at St. Mary's Home (formerly the home of Tan Yok Nee) which was later transferred to the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society School (CEZMS; now St Margaret's School).



First Girl Guide Company

Later, units were registered at Raffles Girls' School (2nd Company) and Singapore Chinese Girls' School (3rd Company).



1st, 2nd, and 3rd Company

1932 saw the inauguration of the Cavendish Shield Award. Mrs Jean Cavendish, Chief Commissioner for Malaya and Singapore donated the Cavendish Shield to generate interest in Guiding.



Cavendish Shield

The first District Commissioner of Singapore was Miss Jessie Kilgour who encouraged Malay girls to join the Movement.



Miss Jessie Kilgour

It was a high point in Singapore Guiding history when Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell and Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell visited Singapore in 1934. Hundreds of Guides attended the rally to celebrate the occasion.

Social Service projects in the Guiding programme were stepped up during the European War in 1939. Members contributed to the war effort by knitting, collecting foil, rolling and packing bandages and other medical supplies.

The first Headquarters, affectionately known as "The Hut", was built at Buyong Road in 1941.



The Hut

Guiding in Singapore flourished in the early years. Enthusiasm was high and there was an increase in the numbers of Guides.

Training classes were held, activities on a larger scale were organised and more companies and packs were formed.

From 1942 to 1945, Singapore Guiding activities came to a standstill during the Japanese Occupation. However, faithful Guides hid flags, literature, badges, awards and even uniforms.

Consolidation and Growth 1946 - 1955

In 1946, Miss Jessie Kilgour restarted Guiding by organising the first post-war Guides meeting. The formation of Guide Companies in major girls' schools followed and Guiding was revived again.

It was the rebuilding phase as the Headquarters, "The Hut", was repaired with the assistance of Mr E. Keating in memory of his wife who was a keen Guider.

In 1947, Mrs J.L. Wilson was appointed as Singapore's own State Commissioner. Small Guide units were started with the aid of New Zealand Guiders. Scores of Guides came forward to join the movement further marking the revival of Guiding in Singapore.

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In 1950, the Movement was structured into 4 districts: North, Central, East and West.



The First Overseas Delegation

The first overseas delegation of eight Guides attended the International Friendship Camp in Perth, Western Australia marking the start of increased international interaction.

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The crowning feature of 1951 came when Miss Anna Yong, Miss Wendy Geiki and Miss Katherine Wong became the first Singapore Guides to be presented with the Queen's Guide Awards.



First Singapore Guides to be presented with the Queen's Guide Awards

The process of consolidation continued during this period. In 1952, Guide and Brownie uniforms, formerly khaki, became blue and brown respectively.



New Uniforms

Different companies had different coloured scarves.

In 1952, the Singapore Guide Companies were awarded the Silver Standard in the Chief Guides Overseas Challenge.

In 1953, the Singapore Girl Guides Association, separated from the Malayan Girl Guides Association, became a Branch of the Girl Guides Association of Great Britain. A fifth district, Serangoon, was formed.

The Colony Commissioners who promoted Guiding till Singapore attained self-government were Lady Brind, Mrs Norah Inge, Mrs Edna Mason and Mrs Myra Cresson.



Lady Brind, Mrs Norah Inge, Mrs Edna Mason and Mrs Myra Cresson

In 1954, the first three Chinese-speaking Companies were formed at Nan Hwa, Nan Chiau and Nanyang Girls' School.

An Indigenous Movement

1956 - 1964

As part of a programme for 'localisation' of leaders, Commissioners, Trainers and Guiders were increasingly drawn from the Chinese, Eurasian, Indian and Malay communities.

In 1956, the Trefoil Guild was registered for former Guides to return to serve the Movement.

The first Bob-a-Job week for Guides was organised to raise funds for the Singapore contingent to the 14-day Baden-Powell Centenary World Camp in Manila.

Mrs Myra Cresson was appointed the first non-European Colony Commissioner in 1957.

In 1958, a mass rally was held to welcome Lady Baden-Powell.



Local Guides with Lady Baden-Powell



A Gurkha Unit

In 1958, the first Sea-Ranger Crew, SRS **TERROR**, was formed at the Naval Base in the North District. A Gurkha unit was formed at Slim Barracks, West District.

S'pore Guides form Malay Land Ranger Company

SINGAPORE, Friday.

THE Singapore Girl Guides Association, founded here in 1917, has formed its first Malay Land Ranger Company.



First Malay
Land Ranger
Company

CHE AIYAH

The movement has had Malay guides, brownies and rangers in its various companies but till now had no Malay land ranger company.

The new company has 34 members consisting mainly of secondary school students and teachers! Ten are former guides while the rest are new members.

The company's captain is Che Aiyah binte Abdul Rahman, a broadcasting assistant with the Malay schools section of Radio Singapore. She is being assisted by Lieut. Che Habibah binte Bjaïs, a student.

She described rangering as "very suitable to girls" in that it teaches them character-building, discipline, understanding, and in making them useful citizens of the State.

In 1959, Singapore attained self-government. In the same year, Puan Noor Aishah, the First Lady of Singapore became the first Asian President of Singapore Girl Guides Association.



Puan Noor Aishah

Puan Noor Aishah was later presented with the Laurel Leaf for distinguished service to the Movement.

In 1960, the first Malay Land Ranger Company was formed with 34 members (see opposite page).

In 1963, Singapore became part of Malaysia and the Singapore Movement joined the Malaysian Girl Guides Association.

A Singaporean Movement 1965 - 1976

On 9 August 1965, Singapore was declared a sovereign, democratic and independent nation.

In 1966, Singapore became an Associate Member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) at the 19th World Conference in Japan.



*Cutting the 50th
year Anniversary
cake with First
Lady Puan Noor
Aishah*

First Lady Puan Noor Aishah was installed as the Patron, Mrs Wee Chong Jin, the President, and Mrs Wong Hoe Eng, the Acting Chief Commissioner.

The Association moved into the new Headquarters, Guide House, at Clemenceau Avenue with more than 3,000 members, of which about 1,000 were local Guides.

“PP” (Pandu Puteri) replaced “GG” (Girl Guides) on the enrolment Badge.



Golden Jubilee Year

1967 was Singapore's Golden Jubilee Year as the Movement proudly celebrated 50 years of Guiding in Singapore.

A Brownie Revel was held on the Istana grounds on Thinking Day.



Brownie Revel

A special Jubilee Badge was designed and a Jubilee Camp was held.

Changes to the Movement were made to reflect Singapore's status as an independent nation.

The Association's Constitution, structure, organisation, the Promise and the Law were revised. All the uniforms, badges and emblems were redesigned.

The Five-Point Programme was introduced and the Guide and Brownie Handbooks were published. The Scout-Guide Week was inaugurated.

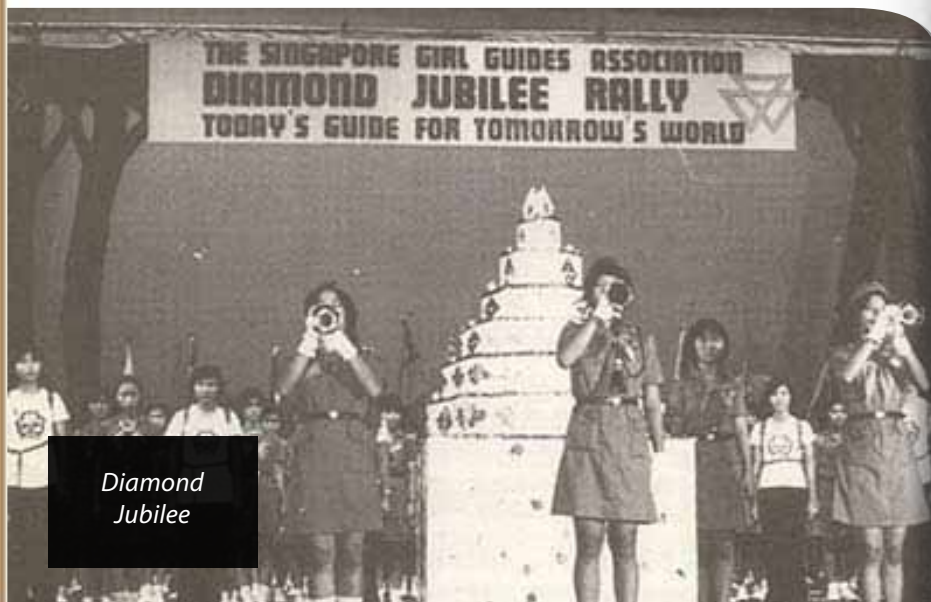
In 1972, Singapore became a full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) at the 21st World Conference in Canada.

In the same year, the Five-Point Programme, which formed the foundation for Guiding in Singapore for all three branches, was introduced.

This comprised Home and Community Service, Outdoor Activities, International, Creative Skills and Health, Poise and Personality.

Towards a Hundred Years of Guiding 1977 onward

In 1977, the Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with the theme "Today's Guides for Tomorrow's World" to provide the impetus for the development of future programmes for the Movement.



Diamond
Jubilee

In 1983, the Anti-Crime and Environmentalist Interest Badges were introduced and Special Interest activities were organised. These activities included a nation-wide canvass for kidney donors and a day-programme ran for children living in public housing estates.



*Nation-wide Project to
Canvass for Kidney Donors*

In 1988, the Association celebrated the opening of Camp Christine located at Jalan Bahtera. Camp Christine was named after the then President, Mrs Christine Dhanabalan.



Opening of Camp Christine



Mrs Christine Dhanabalan

Singapore hosted the 27th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 1990.



27th World Conference

In 1994, the "Great Cookie Sale" was launched.

The Symbolic Move to the new Headquarters in Bishan was held on 31 December 1998. The Open House was held in conjunction with the Thinking Day Rally where a total of 3,000 members participated.

On 6th June 1999, the new Guide House was officially opened by the then Patron, the First Lady Mrs Ong Teng Cheong.



New Headquarters in Bishan



The First Lady Mrs Ong Teng Cheong and the President Mrs Teo Chee Hean witnessing the opening of the new Guide House

In 2002, the Association proudly celebrated the 85th Anniversary on World Thinking Day. An International Camp was held to commemorate the event.



85th Anniversary

The Association was officially renamed Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) when the Registry of Societies approved the name change from the Singapore Girl Guides Association in 2004.



**Girl Guides
Singapore**

The New Logo

Along with this change, GGS unveiled a new trefoil design which embodied a fresh and vibrant spirit reflecting the Movement's

boldness to reinvent and her determination to stay relevant.

In 2005, the then President Mrs Teo Chee Hean introduced Camp Target 001 to promote the call for every Brownie and Guide to camp at Camp Christine at least once.

In partnership with the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports, Girl Guides Garner Granny Generation (Project 5G) was launched in 2006.



Project 5G

Project 5G was a programme to develop senior citizens as valued resources and strengthen inter-generational ties.

In 2007, GGS celebrated 90 years of Guiding in Singapore on a national level at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. A song to commemorate the occasion was commissioned by the International Committee.



90 Years of Guiding in Singapore

In the same year, Ms Sophia Ng, a President's Guide Award recipient from St Anthony's Canossian School, became the first Girl Guide and Singaporean girl to successfully complete the climb to the Baden-Powell Peak in Nepal.



Ms Sophia Ng at Baden-Powell Peak in Nepal

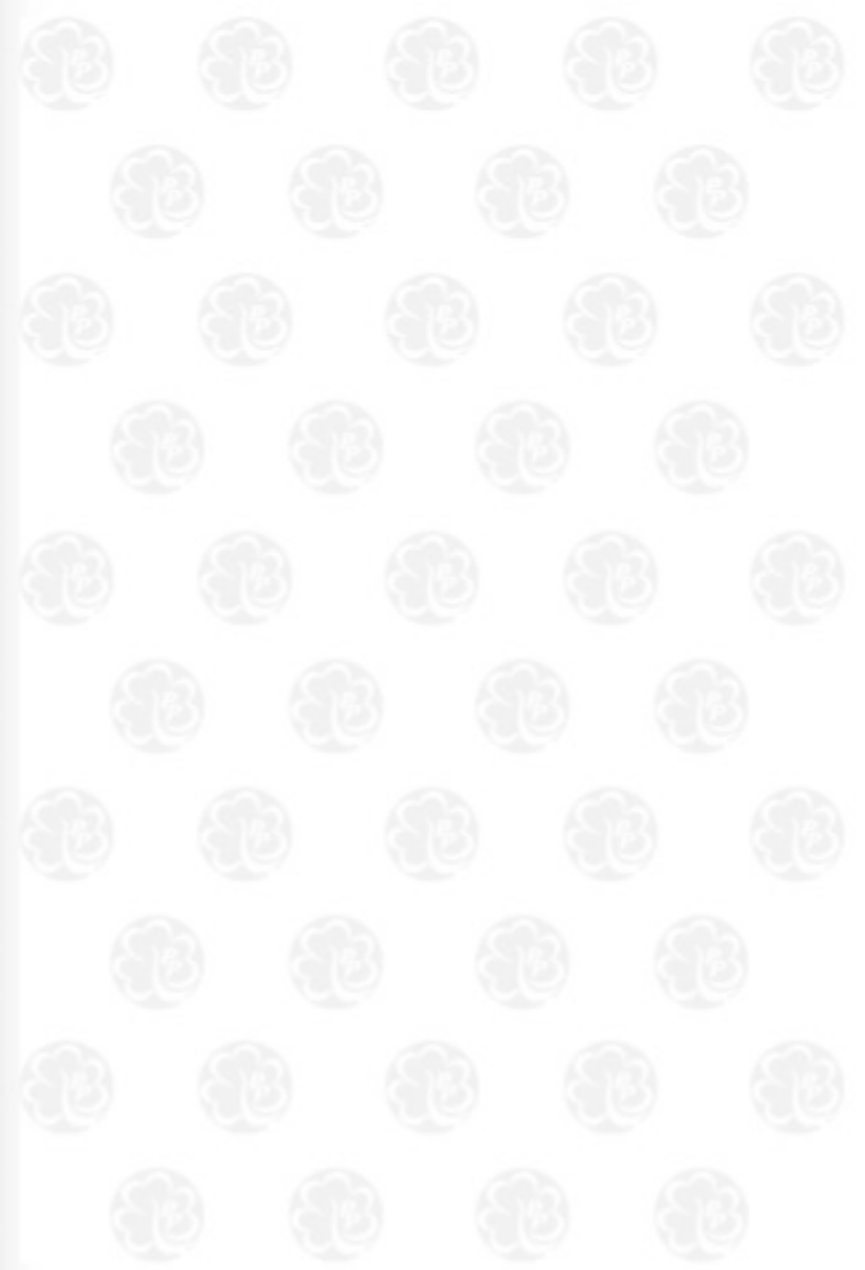
In 2009, GGS initiated an ongoing partnership with the Singapore Youth Olympic Games (SYOG) Committee and introduced three new cookie tins. These cookie tins featured the three Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, of which Girl Guides actively promote.



New Cookie Tins

In 2010, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world celebrated the Centenary Founding of the Movement. The Centenary Theme of "100 years of Changing Lives" was introduced by WAGGGS, supporting the Millennium Development Goals over the next three years with the following themes:

- 2010 - Eradicating Poverty and Hunger
- 2011 - Empowering Women and Girls
- 2012 - Sustaining the Environment



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