
From: Girl Guides Singapore [mailto:Do_Not_Reply@girlguides.org.sg]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 1:46 PM
To: ALL Guiders
Cc: ALL Committee Member - COUNCIL & EXCO MEMBER; ALL STAFF
Subject: Scouts Recruiting Girls From January 2007



Dear Members of GGS

I refer to the recent Ministry of Education's circular on recruiting girls into Scouting, dated 11 July 2006.

While we feel that it is regrettable that approval was given for the Singapore Scouts Association (SSA) to recruit girls into Scouting, we respect MOE's decision on this. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements were founded on the same principles, encompassed in the Promise and Law. It was intentional that the two movements were separate as Lord Baden-Powell had recognised that there are fundamental differences between boys and girls. Since the founding of our movement, the Scout and Guide movements are brother and sister movements and have enjoyed close and collaborative relationships at the world, regional and national levels.

Our 5-Point programme provides for the holistic development of girls, emphasizing on Personal Development, Home, Community, Outdoors and International. In Girl Guiding, girls discover fun, friendship, and "girl power" together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences of skill-building, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. Girl Guiding helps girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding; skill and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and co-operation with others. And, as Adult Leaders, you have made that difference in helping to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, to make the world a better place.

Since our founding, the Girl Guide Movement has grown from strength to strength and today we have nearly 14,000 members and is the leading Uniformed Groups (UG) in Singapore, next to the 2 government ministries supported UG, NCC and NPCC, given that we are an all-girls organisation. Worldwide, we have 10 million Sister Guides in 144 countries under the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and are one of the ten largest agencies of the United Nations.

We are confident that Guiding will always be relevant and there will be a need for it. Our work is dedicated solely to girls, where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. We are vigilant in our efforts to renew and reinvent ourselves to stay relevant. Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) has recently undergone organisational restructuring to cater to the changing needs of our members. Some examples of the outcome of this are the launch of our trefoil as well the change of our name from Singapore Girl Guides Association to Girl Guides Singapore, a new tagline "Be Prepared. Think it. Say it. Live it.", constant review of our programmes and activities, review and revision of our Constitution. In the long run, parents, principals, teachers and the girls themselves will realise that we have a very established, relevant, unique and strong programme, specially developed for girls and women -- by girls and women. GGS is therefore committed in our stand that we will remain a single-gender organisation, focused in our mission: **to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.**

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify that the term "Girl Scouts" should never be used for girls who join Scouts because the terms "Girl Guide" and "Girl Scout" are synonymous (they mean the same thing). In some countries like the USA, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, etc., they are called "Girl Scouts". They have the same mission and programme and belong to the same World Movement, under WAGGGS. "Girl Scout" is a brand name that belongs to WAGGGS.

If you need further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me. We will also have an

opportunity to discuss this further at our upcoming Guiders' Conference on **9 September 2006**, from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm. We are organising the conference earlier this year because we know that the October-November period is very busy for most of our Guiders who are teachers. We will focus on Building Our Capacity with Quality Girl Guiding and launching next year's theme on "Nurturing Girls, Empowering Women".

I look forward to your continued support and would really appreciate your presence to keep you posted on the development GGS and discuss issues and strategies to bring GGS to greater heights. Please contact Grace Ng at email: grace.ng@girlguides.org.sg with regard to your attendance for this conference.

Yours in Guiding

Yvonne Lim

Chief Commissioner
Girl Guides Singapore
9 Bishan Street 14
Singapore 579785
Tel: (65) 6259 9391
Fax: (65) 6259 5452
Email: yvonne.lim@girlguides.org.sg
Website: <http://www.girlguides.org.sg>



Be Prepared

Think it. Say it. Live it.