

# Girl Guides

## Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

# *2023 Annual Report*



**Everything she wants to be.**



**Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council**

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[girlguides.ca/ab](http://girlguides.ca/ab)

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# Provincial Commissioner's Message

Tracy Burton

Wow- 2023 has been a fantastic year in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon! The units, Districts and Areas have been very busy learning new skills, making new friends and creating lifelong memories.

Provincial Events were well attended this year. This started with a great Alberta Girls Parliament celebrating their 51<sup>st</sup> year and back to being in person. There were amazing debates, fun events, and a chance to learn about the legislative process. The Multifaceted training event was also back in person. The Guiders and Rangers had a chance to learn about unique crafts, OAL and program ideas for the units. The Trainer's Workshop was held virtually with many trainers across the whole council being able to attend.

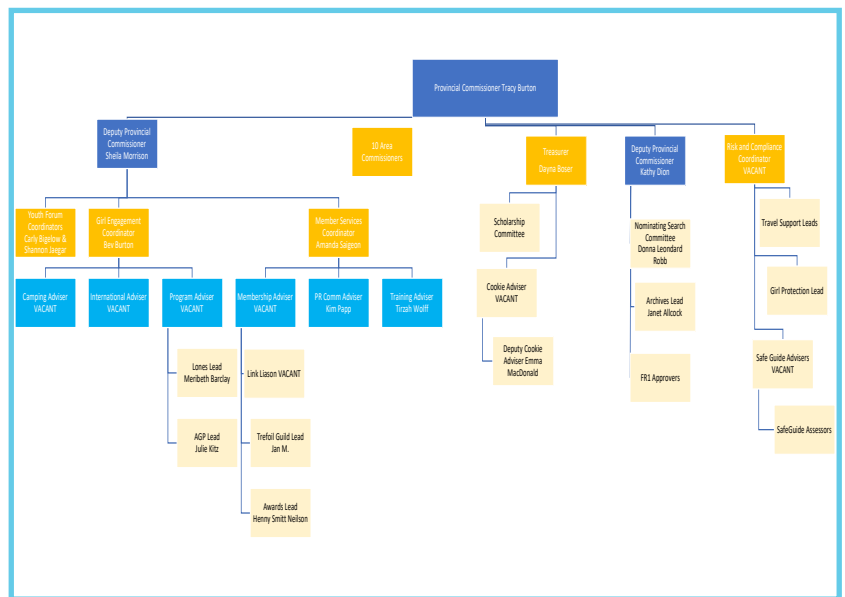
The summer camps were a great success! The Arts Camp allowed the girls to try out various forms of art and create some amazing projects. The Backpacking camp showed girls how to pack properly and accomplish a backpacking adventure. The Guide week-long camp brought Guide-aged girls from across the council and helped them make new friends and learn camping skills.

The training committee was busy with having Commissioner's Training sessions virtually in September and October. They also presented the Leadership Learning Path trainings in September and October. Both training courses were offered in January and February as well.

2023 was a great year and I am extremely excited to see what 2024 will bring!

## Introduction

In 2023, the Standing Committees struggled to fill all six adviser positions and four lead positions in May when many of the terms came to an end. Our Coordinators stepped in to chair the committee meetings. The 2023 Operations Planning meeting in a joint virtual session with Alberta Council members in January assigned 22 tasks for the Standing Committee. These committee reports include highlights of the Ops Plan activities and committee initiatives that align with the national strategic plan priorities. These reports also share the successes and challenges of how the Operations Committee navigated the changing landscape as we created a new post-pandemic normal.



The Operations Committee includes.

- Deputy Provincial Commissioner (Chair)
- Girl Engagement Coordinator
  - Supporting Camping, International, and Program Advisers)
- Member Services Coordinator
  - Supporting Membership, Training, and PR & Communications Advisers)
- Risk and Compliance Coordinator
  - Supporting Travel Support Leads, Girl Protection and Safe Guide Adviser(s)
- Treasurer (supporting Cookie Adviser)
- Youth Forum Coordinator(s)

This section also includes a report from the Archives Lead. The organization chart reflects the roles within Alberta Council in September 2023.



## Alberta Council Youth Forum (ABCYF)

**Coordinators** Carly Biglow (term September 2021 to 2024)  
Shannon Jaegar (term May 2022 to 2025)

Quarterly Reports by: Serina Polczer-Lum, Sienna Gin, Anna Bai

Applications opened for new members in January. We welcomed three new members, Serina, Emily, and Annamarie in April. Then said goodbye to Ella, Eva, Sienna, Haley, and Natalie over the summer. We wished them all the best in their Guiding journeys.

### Completed Projects

Ella and Haley created an “under the sea” themed Ranger virtual event. The event included origami, yoga, games, art, and more. Although scheduled for February 25, we cancelled the Ranger Retreat due to low registration.

Members joined a committee of their choosing and attended meetings and helped with work and projects. New Youth Forum members stayed on their committees, while returning members switched to other committees. For the Membership committee, Youth Forum members helped design the new “I Saw it in GuidePost!” crest.

Hannah, Emily P, Eva, Serina, and Sienna worked on the 2022 year in review video presented at our AGM. The video was ‘Alice in Wonderland’ themed and included narration, whimsical music, and pictures from each area. The video played at AGM has been uploaded to YouTube. Hannah, Emily P, Emily C, Eva, Sienna, and Serina all attended the AGM banquet on May 7 in Calgary which included dinner and the awards presentation.

### Ongoing Projects

We posted two episodes of the Youth Forum podcast on the Alberta Council YouTube channel. The first episode dropped in March, and the second in August. Emily P and Eva created the podcasts. The first episode called “The Beginning: A chat with Emily and Eva” had them interview each other about the Youth Forum projects for 2023. In March, they held a catchphrase competition through Instagram; the winner was “Girl Driven and for your Listenin’”. The second episode included interviews with Helen Cashman (Guiding Ambassador) and Sheliza Ismail (Girl Guides of Canada Board Member).

Members submitted articles in the November, February, and April issues of Blue-Print about their various experiences in Guiding and with Youth Forum. Sienna and Serina both wrote articles about the ANY backpacking camp and the ANY Council annual general meeting. Hannah and Emily P authored articles advertising the “You and the World” Challenge and what Youth Forum is, respectively. The 2020-2021 Youth Forum designed the ‘You and the World’ challenge, which explored friendship, communication, growing up, and interactions within our communities. Originally designed for Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers, the members now wished to modify the challenge for Sparks and Embers too.

In October, the members discussed what projects they would do in 2024. Ideas for new projects included an art contest and a reconciliation project. They also planned to make the 2023 Year in Review Video and wanted to be involved in the Program of Excellence Challenge. They met in Edmonton for a Welcome Weekend November 10 to 12, at the Alberta Council Guide House.

### Girl Engagement

**Girl Engagement Coordinator** – Bev Burton (term May 2020 to 2024)

**Camping Adviser**  
– Leslie Jones (term May 2020 to 2023)  
– Elaine Lingnau (term Nov 2023 to May 2026)

**International Adviser** – Vacant as of October 2020

**Program Adviser**  
– Leslie Horton (term May 2020 to 2023)  
– Vacant as of May 2023

The Girl Engagement Coordinator supported the Camping, International, and Program Advisers on Alberta Council. In 2023, Bev Burton covered all adviser positions for a period and continued to cover the Program and International Adviser Positions in addition to taking on these special projects.

- ◇ Standardized Area Adviser position descriptions
- ◇ Standardized Area Adviser/Youth Forum orientation
- ◇ Provided a template for standardized reports for Advisers to take back to their Areas.
- ◇ With Member Services Coordinator, planned the schedule and programming for an in-person Standing Committee Workshop in fall 2023 which Council rescheduled to a virtual meeting in March 2024
- ◇ Submitted a Blue-Print Article about How to Get Started in Guiding
- ◇ Orientation for new advisers document/PowerPoint done and ready to go for the new advisers and youth forum members joining in May.
- ◇ Preparing information for the new incoming Program, Camping and International Advisers orientation
- ◇ Coordinating the Program of Excellence element with the committees under Girl Engagement
- ◇ Girl Greatness awards
  - Designed crest and accompanying card.
  - Criteria sent to Guiders and girls.

## Camping

Early in the year, the camping committee **planned to produce** videos for social media; however, the video campaign **did not come about** due to a lack of volunteers. We scheduled a series of online trainings called “Connect to Camping” from March 5 to April 25. Although many Guiders **signed up**, attendance **was** spotty.

We also struggled to get Responsible Guiders and volunteers for our five summer camps until shortly before the camp dates: the Guide camp was July 23 to 29 at Camp Jubilee; the South Embers camp **was** July 18 to 21 also at Camp Jubilee; the North Embers camp was August 18 to 21 at Tangletrees; the backpack camp **was** August 13 to 19; the Pathfinder/Ranger week long camp planned for August 6 to 13 at Camp Sherbino was cancelled due to a leader shortage. Both girls and Guiders provided good feedback about the camps. For example, alternating the north and south Embers camps every other year to reduce the number of Guiders needed overall for summer camps.

We prepared a camping portion of the Program of Excellence Challenge coming in 2024. We continued **working** on ways to share camping skills with Guiders and finding the best way to get this information out to them.



### ANY Council Embers North Camp

29 Embers attended the Embers North Camp. Eight leaders and one Ranger shared their expertise and time with the girls. Camp started with putting up tents in the rain and learning the importance of following the kit list to stay dry and warm on rainy, chilly nights.

For most of the girls, this camp was their first experience at Girl Guide camp. We wanted to teach them a variety of skills which they could share with their units. Girls learned basic knots, how to safely light a fire, wood chopping, compass skills, basic first aid skills with their own personal first aid kit, and a variety of cooking methods – camp stove, over the fire, pie irons, and a box oven.

We tie-dyed shirts, painted rocks, made an accordion scrapbook, and a pony bead animal. Girls experienced a Guides Own ceremony and a flag raising ceremony.

The highlight for many was the s'mores buffet with a variety of cookies, chocolate, and strawberries dipped in marshmallow fluff. Everyone loved experimenting with different flavours!

## International

We prepared a standardized packing list for domestic and international trips. We also created a Pen Pal challenge and submitted it to National through the new challenge process. The Program Department at National collaborated with ANY Council in putting together an instant meeting and connecting participating units.

The Cross Canada Pen Pal Challenge launched in the fall. The crest was available, and we encouraged units to participate. We also prepared instant meetings for all branches from the 2023 World Thinking Day Challenges. The CWFF crest was available through the Alberta Council website.

The recent domestic and international trip units shared their reports as a resource for groups thinking about traveling. National lifted the ban on international travel, including to the USA. National also gave specific recommendations for units, such as better planning for covid. National continued to watch the situation worldwide and kept everyone apprised of changes to international travel.

We explored the concept of a Repository of Trip Clothing in ANY Council. Unfortunately, the logistics of this were too difficult as most trips occurred in the summer making it very difficult to get supplies shipped and returned in such a short period of time. The Area International Advisers decided if this was something they wanted to do within their own Areas.

We submitted international portions to the Program of Excellence Challenge. We also promoted the different opportunities in WAGGGS in various methods to Guiders and girls. The Safe Guide updated included changes to Travel in Canada. We shared this information with Area and trip Guiders.

Several domestic and international trips took place this year. See the Travel Support report for more details.

## Program Challenges

There were many different challenges on the ANY Council website. We encouraged units to look at and complete the challenges, and to buy crests once they completed the challenge. Those challenges were there for a limited time.

We reviewed the current Provincial Program Challenges and updated them as needed. We updated the Arts Challenge for 2023-2024. We kept the same crest as last year but added new challenges.

We submitted the Program portions of the Program of Excellence Challenge.

## Program

National shared that the Duke of Edinburgh Award updated their program and posted details on their website. We promoted Bring a Friend nights. We collected program resources within each Area and shared



this information with the whole council. We collected feedback on obstacles leaders faced in using the program platform. We continued to identify if there were resources we could provide to support them.

## Resources

We continued to compile a list of activities in each Area. We also worked on compiling a list of resource people in each Area who were willing to help with units/Guiders wanting assistance in certain topics and then looked at how to connect them with Guiders who needed support.

ANY Council Sewing Machines South - We thanked Eileen Johansen who had housed and managed the sewing machines for many years. We appreciated that Calgary Area would now take care of them. These needed to be booked through the property booking form on the ANY Council website.

## Lones

Lones advertised for leaders for Sparks and Embers. In total, there were 19 Lones: 3 Sparks, 5 Embers, 3 Guides, 2 Pathfinders, and 6 Rangers.

Caregivers' expectations changed over the last few years with virtual units and virtual classrooms. We provided caregivers with information on the differences between Lones compared to a regular unit.

## Events

[LINK to the Future](#) - cancelled.

## Alberta Girls Parliament (AGP)

From March 29 to April 2, registration opened through January and was advertised on social media and GuidePost. It was a successful event, with everyone happy to be together in person again. Nine Pages slept over the Saturday night (Guides and Pathfinders). 23 girls participated in a very busy weekend, which included six debates (both practice and alumni debates), went to West Edmonton Mall, and visited a trampoline park. They met the Lieutenant Governor during their tour of the legislature. Virtual AGP We planned for a virtual session on November 16–19, open to youth aged 15–24, with just the cost of a crest and certificate to be mailed out. Invitations went to all provincial councils. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to a lack of registration.



## Arts Camp

We held the camp at Tangle Trees July 23-29, for Guides and Pathfinders born between 2008 & 2012. 56 Guides and Pathfinders attended the 2023 ANY Council Arts Camp; six of them returned from previous years. Girls from all areas except Aurora Adventures came to the camp. 14 leaders volunteered to make this camp a success; four worked in the kitchen, and 10 ran the program. Interestingly, the camp also had six sets of sisters and one set of cousins. Four Rangers joined the leadership team, helping wherever they could and being invaluable at camp. This was the first post-covid camp for many of the participants, so we expected some issues. Three girls left camp; two felt sick, and one missed home.

Every morning, girls participated in morning sessions where they chose from:

- Sewing
- Culinary Arts
- Paper Crafting
- Drama
- Art

The afternoon schedule offered a variety of different art.

- Plastic Canvas Cutlery Holder
- Cross Stitch
- Melted Crayon Art
- No Sew T-shirt Bag
- Paper Mosaic
- Fabric Bowls
- Recycled Plastic Flowers
- Circuit Flowers

- Slime & Bath Bombs
- Designing a Seed Packet
- Oil Pastel painting
- Envelope Book
- Weaving
- Tie Dye
- Story Disks

Together, we completed a service project of dog and cat toys for the Red Deer Humane Society. We ended camp with an all-camp paint night.

One afternoon, we surprised the girls with a visit from a Trucksicle sponsored by an Edmonton radio station. We booked it to bring free popsicles for everyone. The youth waited in the rain, not knowing what for, but they were excited when it arrived!

Girls also enjoyed games, played with a parachute, had a glow in the dark dance party, planned evening campfires in their patrols, received a visit from a pillow fairy who brought a crochet owl, traded amazing hat crafts, and of course met new friends and had fun!



## Member Services Committee

<b>Member Service Coordinator</b>	Amanda Saigeon (term May 2022 to 2025)
<b>Membership Adviser</b>	Dana Wagner (term May 2020 to 2023) Vacant since May 2023
<b>PR and Communication Adviser</b>	Veronica Hoffman (term May 2020 to 2023) Kim Pap (term May 2023 to 2026)
<b>Training Adviser</b>	Rose Ward (term May 2020 to 2023) Tirzah Wolff (term May 2023 to 2026)

We planned a Standing Committee Workshop with the Girl Engagement Coordinator. We recruited a new Trefoil Guild Lead. We prepared for outgoing/incoming Advisers: Membership, Training, and PR & Communications. We collaborated with Member Unit Support on how to engage Guiders and who to email with questions.

We continued to try to recruit a Membership Adviser for ANY Council. In contrast, there was great recruitment in the Areas for Membership Advisers. We worked with the Girl Engagement Coordinator to create a challenge - ANY Council Program of Excellence Challenge - that would help Guiders lead an excellent year by providing programming opportunities that would let them complete the Guiding program while the girls were in that branch.

## Membership

The Membership Committee Adviser was Dana Wagner until her term ended in May. Amanda Saigeon filled in to keep the committee active. The Adviser remained vacant for the remainder of the year. The committee includes the Area Membership Advisers and four sub-committees:



Awards Lead

Henny Smit Neilson

Connecting People and Resources (CPR) Team Liaison

Pat Guillemaud

Link Liaison

Lauren Gee (ended term in May)

Trefoil Guild Liaisons

Beverly Simpson Headon and Glenda Metro (ended term in May)  
Jan McCaghren

Advisers attended meetings, but engagement in meetings was low and not many answered emails sent between meetings. They signed up to create social media content for Thankful Tuesdays, which focused on ways to show appreciation to each other this year. However, not many sent what they signed up for. All projects submitted for 2023 budget were approved; the committee members shared the projects with their area committees to work on them at both area and provincial levels. With national upgrades to iMIS over the summer and various IT projects, updates to the website took longer than usual. We updated the Pocket Pals.

In 2022, they completed the colour schemes for the “I Promise” crests. Dana Wagner and Heather Monahan designed a new crest for 2023 which returned to the “I Belong” theme. The crests and postcards were packaged and sent to all members in February.

We worked on retention ideas for Guiders and shared the recruitment information on Member Zone - Communications - Recruitment & Retention Toolkit. The committee brainstormed ideas for recruiting, such as:

- ◇ Interview on local radio stations and local newspapers
- ◇ Tables at farmers markets, recreation centres, and volunteer days at PSI's
- ◇ Seniors' centres and professional women's organizations
- ◇ Posting in Facebook groups

The Youth Forum designed some crest ideas for the “I Saw it in Guidepost” initiative. They sent the designs to AMA's; six responded. We chose a design and sent it for approval. “I Saw it in Guidepost” started on February 28. It had excellent engagement and responses. We decided to take a break over the summer and start again in September. After each edition, we collected responses until the Monday before the next edition of Guidepost. We put the names in a randomizer to pick winners. One week was a trivia question, one week was a “where can you find it on the website” question. We kept a list of all winners, so no one could win twice. Every week new people submitted answers. The first posting attracted 54 responses. On average, each post between February and the end of April attracted 59 responses.

We advertised idea submissions for appreciation card designs to be available in their store. Heather and Dana also sent a volunteer appreciation gift (a great pair of socks) to Rangers and Guiders.

We sourced program pieces for Program of Excellence Challenge. The challenge provided Guiders various programming opportunities in all areas to help the youth members complete their branch program.

## CPR Team

Our Ember Bus Tour project was approved with the budget. Pat Guillemaud worked to prepare this event for the spring. The project planned to bring a bus of Embers to towns which no longer had Ember units and host activities for them. The objective was to inspire more girls to join our organization and have fun. We considered locations such as Hanna, Nanton, Beiseker, and Vulcan. We had the support of Prairie Rose AC and Membership Adviser to help us plan the event. However, we needed more CPR Team members to help us with our activities and events. This was a great opportunity for Trefoil and Link members, or District Guiders, to get involved and make a difference. We asked anyone who might be interested in being part of this team to let us know. Unfortunately, the Bus Tour was cancelled due to lack of volunteers.

The team helped with a Chinook Area event, meeting members, and sharing our experiences.

## Awards

The Awards committee plugged along on submissions. The Awards booklet updates waited to be posted on

the Alberta Council website until the IT projects over the summer were completed.

The committee had a challenging time making the final decisions on recipients for the Platinum Jubilee Medal because all of them were very worthy. The quality of the letters was the deciding factor. Girl Guides awarded the 10 Medals to:

Leah Betker	Ruth Ball	Jennifer Bridle	Natalie Lindsay	Marion Rex
Tara Hawkins	Marilyn Tryon	Dana Wagner	Tammy Farkes	Chris Burton

All Area Awards Leads prepared for the use of Survey Monkey portal for online awards nominations. Once launched, the national website directed nominees to use the portal for Award Nominations. There were some adjustments needed with the portal and the approval process. Our committee continued to accept award nominations the old way.

## Link

Welcome letters including pins and crests were sent to ANY Council Link members in the fall. The Link Liaison finished her term in May and the position remained vacant for the rest of the year.

## Trefoil Guild

We reached out to Guilds to 'Get to know them' by learning their sizes, locations, etc. We found Trefoil Members supported the units in many ways. One of which was participating in local units' celebrations. For example, Members shared memories of Thinking Days describing how GGC has grown and changed.

Area Commissioners ensured that Guild members received their membership year pins. Guild members connected with activities sponsored by Area committees through the Area minutes.

We received several emails from around the world of people looking to join a Guild because our email starts with "any". Similarly, people who found our Facebook page for ANY Trefoil Guilds assumed they could just join or visit even if they lived in London, US, NL or wherever. We acted as matchmakers connected them with the appropriate contacts.

GuidePost regularly published articles from TG Liaisons with news on their activities. The Provincial Liaisons (PTGL) each submitted articles according to a schedule they developed. At the PTGL meetings we saw the many ways the guilds work across the country. It was great to work with Sharron Callahan, past Chief Commissioner.

27 Trefoil Guild Members from Alberta Council registered for the 2024 Gathering in Manitoba next June 19-23. The organizers sent the information package out in May. There were only two provinces who had more delegates than Alberta Council, even though costs were not yet finalized. Liaisons managed the registration and inquiries within their councils.

The Trefoil Roundup held in the basement of Alberta Guide House was June 10. The event included a potluck and service project. We invited all the Guilds and Link Members who were approaching 30 to join us that day to get acquainted with the guilds in their areas.

## PR & Communications

The PR Committee

**PR and Communications Adviser** Veronica Hoffman, Kim Papp

**Blue-Print Editor** Finley Rogers

The committee met monthly on the first Thursday of each month with Area PR Advisers, Blue-Print, and Youth Forum representative(s).

The PR Committee worked hard promoting the 2023 Chocolate and Vanilla Girl Guide Cookie Campaign by sending out tons of Public Service Announcements (PSAs); doing local interviews with news networks and radio stations; creating social media posts; and signing out PR resources to help make unit cookie sales a success this year given the increase price to \$6 a box.

We promoted the annual World Thinking Day Campaign “Guiding Lights Across Alberta Council” which went very well. There were roughly 20 buildings and structures lit up blue this year as well as various Guiding members taking part in the celebration through themed unit meetings and house decorations. This year we gave out crests to our 20 photo contest winners as well.

Our Alberta Council PR Challenge ended.

National reevaluated the Guidelines for Provincial

Challenges and set deadlines on existing challenges to keep things fresh for the Units.

The PR Committee showcased various unit activities, events, camps, trainings, and other opportunities on social media channels, Guidepost, Blue-Print, and the Area webpages on the Alberta Council website.

We conducted the 2023 Alberta Council Readership Survey to collect feedback on what forms of communication worked well for our Guiding members and what needed to be improved. We found Guidepost was the most read publication.

We prepared the following social media campaigns:

- ◊ Archive Throwback Thursdays – working with Janet (Archives Lead).
- ◊ Guidepost Summary posts – created to remind members of Guidepost highlights.
- ◊ 2023 Chocolate and Vanilla Girl Guide Cookie Campaign

We submitted two new budget projects which were approved. These projects aim to support GGC’s new Strategic Plan. For members, a Thinking Day / Guiding Lights across Alberta crest, and for non-members a recruitment video featuring locations around ANY council. Area PR Advisers sent in footage showing units having fun activities across Alberta/NWT/Yukon which was used to create a recruitment video by a videographer/editor. Video should be ready in time for Guider recruitment season in the spring 2024.



## Training

The training committee:

<b>Provincial Training Adviser</b>	Rose Ward, Tirzah Wolff
<b>Trainer Records and Development Coordinator</b>	Ingrid Carleton
<b>Training Events Coordinator</b>	Pat Istead
<b>Webinar Planning Coordinator</b>	Diane Werely

## 2023 Training events

Multi-Faceted	March 17-19
OAL	On Going
Trainers' Workshop	April 14-16
Commissioners' Workshop	Jan to Feb 2023 and Aug to Sept 2023
Ranger/Adult Wellness Weekend	November - cancelled
OAL Adventure Expeditions	July/August
OAL Adventure Camp Training	March 17-18
OAL Indoor in-person	June 3-4
Tent Camping Training – in person	May 6-7 Edmonton

The trainer records and development coordinator worked with area trainer advisers to collect the annual final reports for 2022 from trainers. The ANY Trainers provided over 600 hours of training for 2602 participants in the 2021-2022 Guiding year. The webinar planning coordinator worked with trainers to obtain Zoom license access. National released a new team training chart in December 2022. The provincial training event, Multi-Faceted “The Ties That Bind” in Red Deer, included a trainer candidate stream.

Training was an essential part of Guiding, with Area Training Advisers working with Guiders to ensure they had the necessary tools. Areas highlighted the success of in-person training days in the fall of 2022, so the committee planned for more sessions throughout 2023 spring and early summer. We kept the Commissioner workshop virtual in January and February. Spring training events included National’s online Winter Wonder Learn, Alberta Council’s Multi-Faceted, and the Trainers Workshop. The Multi-Faceted event attracted 76 registrants, while the Trainers Workshop attracted 30 trainers from across Canada. Area Training Advisers reported many First Aid trainings too in March.

During the summer, Guiders participated in camping and OAL Adventure trainings, enhancing their skills and making it fun for girls. We scheduled the OAL expedition training for March in Edmonton, with expeditions in June and/or July and indoor/outdoor camping for June 3-4.

As the Guiding year began, there were many opportunities for training. Plans began for the Multi-Faceted 2024 event; we discussed presenting the 2024 Trainers workshop as a hybrid training; and the Adults Art Weekend in November 2024. Surprisingly though, Training attendance was slow to return in most areas. The Commissioners workshop was online in August/September, while the Wellness Weekend planned in November at Camp Evergreen was cancelled due to low registration. The committee determined more promotion was needed for success.

The Commissioner’s Workshop Virtual Training attracted 473 participants from across Canada, with most taking multiple sessions. The training included District Administration, Self-Leadership, Foundation of Your Position, Building Your District, Foundation of Your Position, District Administration, Human Resources, Risk Management, Financial Management. The Commissioner’s Workshop had a large involvement from both ANY Council and Ontario Council.

### OAL Adventure Expedition – Skoki Circuit – July 20-23/23

The OAL Adventure trainees participated in Module 8 expedition nights led by Laurie McIntosh and Dora Masters. Eight Guiders were initially registered, but four backed out due to various issues. The trip was successful, with participants able to filter water, manage campsites, and practice leadership roles.

### Paddle Canada – Introduction to Tandem Lake Canoe Skill Course.

On July 8, 2023, the ANY Council Training Committee organized a Paddle Canada, Introduction to Tandem Lake Canoe course at Westover Lake, Calgary Area. Susan Ryan and Louise Lines taught the course, which was a prerequisite for GGC canoe out-trips. The course attracted nine Guiders and one Ranger from Edmonton, Carstairs, Okotoks, and Calgary. The weather cooperated with light winds all day and temperatures reaching 24°C. All ten participants gained their Introduction to Tandem Lake Canoe certification and site orientation.



## Area Trainings Reports

### *Chinook Area*

We planned a Guider Fun Day, the St John Babysitting course, and a Resource Fair for Guides and Pathfinders in the Chinook Area. Outdoor Fun Day, a free event, was scheduled to take place on September 30 at Camp Okeekun, but we cancelled it due to rain and cold weather. Program for the day included outdoor cooking, poncho craft, Leave No Trace activities, Emergency Preparedness, wide games, and campfire. We had 42 girls and Guiders registered. Registrations arrived for a 2-day St John First Aid & Level C CPR at St John building, Lethbridge in December.

### *Edmonton Area*

The Edmonton Area Training team planned various trainings for the 2023 Guiding year, including sessions on the New Guider Learning Path and Indoor OAL modules. The team cancelled the Sisterhood of the Traveling Trefoil camp but planned to offer similar sessions throughout the year. We hosted 10 participants at A Fall Friendship Frolic as a bring a friend event with streams for both new and experienced Guiders. In November, Margaret Utgoff offered an online training on navigating the national website and MemberZone. Another edition of the Get the Scoop training was booked for January 14, 2024.

### *Calgary Area*

The Calgary Area Training Committee, consisting of 9 trainers, led over 35 training courses in the last quarter of 2022, with over 641 members attending. The committee offered virtual sessions, including trip financials, OAL outdoor sessions, and local community focus throughout the year. The committee hosted various trainings, including OAL Tent camping series, the Focus On series continued with Focus on Our Story in August and started in September with Focus on The Spirit of guiding, both for Spark and Ember Guiders, as Part of the Start out Strong September training theme from National. Lisa Franklin stepped down from the committee but continued providing financial training topics. In the first half of the year, the Calgary Area Training Committee hosted 47 training sessions, with over 762 attendees from every province in Canada.

### *Parkland Area*

Our Trainers assisted in sessions for Winter Wonder Learn in the spring and planned training sessions across Parkland for late summer and early fall. We scheduled a training day for new Guiders, in September at Camp Sherbino, Sylvan Lake. Seven participants enjoyed the day focusing on the girl program, Building Unit Guider skills, and a scavenger hunt. Due to the limited number of trainers in the Parkland Area, a Prairie Rose trainer assisted. We continued to recruit Trainer Candidates and aided them to submit their completed forms to expand our trainer numbers in the Parkland Area.

### *Tamarac Area*

On February 25, 2023, 13 attendees attended in-person training on Safe Guide Refresher, Self-Leadership, OAL Camp Planning, OAL Leading, and Safe Guide. Plans for training in St. Albert in October and on-the-go trainings were underway. Tirzah conducted a training day for the St. Albert District on October 22, 2023. She covered Safe Guide – refresh and restess and Random Acts of Teambuilding. Between September and November, our trainers were hard at work; we trained 200 new members on Safe Guide.

## Operations

### ANY-VENTURE Camp 2024

#### **Dana Wagner**

Alberta Council spent time planning an interprovincial camp for 2024 called ANY-Venture. The Council Coordinators worked as the Steering Committee beginning in fall 2020. Dana Wagner came on-board as the Camp Director in the fall of 2021. In February 2022, she advertised for Team Leads for six committees: administration, camp experience, communications, finance, health and wellness, and site. By fall all the Team Leads were in place. The Team Leads reached out to vendors for quotes for a variety of things – water, sanitation, tables & chairs, YYC Food Trucks, and companies for out trips – horseback riding, white

water rafting, caving, Canada Olympic Park, and a downtown Calgary Adventure. Registration opened in the spring of 2022. Unfortunately, by March 2023, we only had five patrols registered, with three of them from Alberta. Sadly, Council cancelled the camp.

## Museum and Archives

### Janet and Geoff Allcock

We worked on the historic uniforms for an ex-member involved in a musical production for the Edmonton Fringe Festival, based on the book “How the Girl Guides Won the War.” We also archived pins and program badges, catalogued, and archived scrapbooks, and transcribed an account of the Sea Rangers trip to the West Coast in 1966 from the “Lanark” Sea Ranger logbooks.

In the early summer, we received three unique donations. One of the first Air Ranger Guider with the 1st Edmonton Flight spoke with a Guider selling cookies about donating to the archives. Geoff and I spent time with the former Air Ranger Guider, discussing her time in Guiding, including her trip to Ottawa to participate in the 1952 National Camp at Connaught Range, and her involvement with her unit. We had very little about Air Rangers before this, so we were delighted to have it all. The second donor was a Guide during the 1960’s and had a complete uniform from that time—a shirt and culottes with a beret, belt, badge sash, and purse. We already had examples of all these, but not in a matching set with provenance. For a school project, she made a scrapbook entitled “My Nightlife for Seven Years,” giving considerable details of her time in the organization. The third small donation included a crest and photos of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visiting Edmonton in 1939 taken by Guiding members.

The large donations received early in the year included several obituaries, which prompted me to update our biography/obituary binders to include a few digital articles. We also received several emails from outside of Alberta Council. One such inquiry asked about the history of diversity in Girl Guides with special reference to Ottawa. Another question of interest came from an organization doing research on behalf of survivors of residential schools in Yukon. The museum and archives allowed our membership in the Alberta Museum Association to lapse, but they continue to receive donations at a steady rate. We also had a steady rate of donations throughout the year, although we declined some due to space limitations. One we didn’t decline arrived ten years after the initial donation of Betty Thompson’s Sea Ranger artifacts; we received two more letters sent to her after the crew visited Vancouver in 1966.

I continued to work with PR to produce photos for social media and author articles for Blue-Print. Also, I started offering a new program based on the Girls First “Embers in History” segment, which was successful for two St. Albert Embers Units of 17 girls each.

## Risk and Compliance

### Coordinator

Betty Slater (term Sept 2020 to 2023)  
Vacant since May 2023

### Safe Guide Co-Advisers

Chris Haydon (term May 2020 to 2023)  
Twyla Jenkins (term began May 2020)  
Betty Slater (interim since May 2023)

### Travel Support Advisers

Enidd Issac and Pat McWilliams

### Girl Protection

Donna Leonard Robb

## Safe Guide

### Chris Haydon, Twyla Jenkins, Betty Slater

In December 2022, we received only 43 files, most of which were for events in January. However, January was much busier, with 26 files received in the first five days. We encouraged Guiders to follow up immediately if they did not hear from an Assessor within two business days of sending their forms. The organization transitioned to a new distribution system for submitting forms. The new portal system for distributing forms worked fine for most Guiders; however, they could still use the old system until June

30/23 if they chose. There were 82 forms submitted the old way compared to 118 submitted via the portal from March to May.

Summer was a quiet time for Safe Guide form submission and questions. The lull allowed for changes to be made to Safe Guide without disrupting unit activities. Through the Guiding year, the assessors gave many hours to mentor and support their Guiders. Alberta Council had 30 assessors that helped manage the risk to Guiders, girls, and the organization. Seven assessors stepped back from reviewing files to take vacation or for health reasons, and two new assessors joined. Seventeen Safe Guide Assessors met at the Calgary Guide Centre, to review the updated Safe Guide.

Effective July 1, 2023, all Safe Guide forms were submitted through the GGC Portal. Although, travel forms went to any-travelsupport@girlguides.ca, not through the portal. Guiders followed the updated Safe Guide for all activities. Self-assessment checklists and COVID-19 waivers remained in place for the 2023–2024 guiding year. We reminded Guiders that Adult-only activities must also comply with the new Safe Guide. If Rangers attended activities, then all Safe Guide procedures apply as if it was a girl activity.

Between September 1 and November 2, our units submitted around 240 files for yellow and red activities. Due to insufficient supervisors in yellow and red activities, Assessors struggled to support these activities. The Safe Guide Advisers no longer had access to iMIS; the national office completed all iMIS checks instead. The portal also proved challenging for both Guiders and Assessors as they learned new processes for completing the online forms. For example, a joint sleepover where two units previously submitted separate paperwork, now submitted as a single Safe Guide file.

## Travel Support

### Enidd Isaac and Pat McWilliams

Approved trips in planning stages through 2023

	2023	2024	2025	2026	Completed
<b>Domestic</b>	22	16	3	-	18
<b>International</b>	9	8	10	1	9

The National Travel team confirmed allowable trip expenses, including pre-trip bonding activities, post-trip get-togethers to reflect on their activities, photo books/albums, craft expenses, and first aid supplies. The expenses submitted should reflect the type of trip, such as hotel or camp accommodation.

We kept Guiders informed of all the news and sent each participant a luggage tag. The National Risk and National Trip Departments created a document to support groups traveling internationally in summer 2023, which we sent to Guiders. We updated information on the website for domestic and international travel to ensure Guiders had current information. We also created a trip itinerary database and travel buddies, which helped girls and Guiders plan their trips and share ideas and tips. We provided trip planning orientations with 13 Guiders attending a Domestic Trip Orientation and 11 attending an International Orientation. These virtual orientations were popular throughout the year. Alberta Council created support resources for Guiders managing their trip finances. In the spring, National announced that new trips could not use EF Tours due to their financial policy change; however, the National trip department continued to work with EF Tours to find a solution. Other news from National included travel to Our Cabana was only approved for trips in 2025 and later. Trips cancelled between 2020 and 2022 due to covid restrictions were set aside as restricted funds. National announced these funds must be used by August 31, 2024.

Effective September 1, 2023, Safe Guide changes to the definition of travel in Canada impacted many Members of ANY Council. There was confusion about new and pre-existing trip units, and the dedicated account the National Unified Banking department required for flying and fundraising trips.

THANKS: To all Area Commissioners for their prompt response to our requests for permission to review a file. To our team of travel assessors: Henny, Beverly, Bev, Twyla, and Philippa, and Enidd and Pat, for their dedication and time supporting Responsible Guiders with their trip planning and paperwork. To staff, Heather, and Hazel, for their support with all things travel. To Betty (Risk and Compliance), Twyla, Chris (Safe Guide Advisers) and Bev B (acting International Adviser) for their support and direction.

## Alberta Council Areas

### Aurora Adventures Area

#### Area Commissioner - Shannon Kmyta

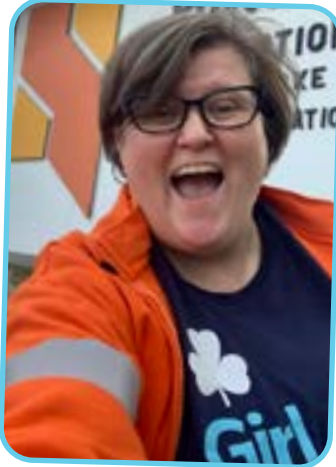
Sparks throughout the area have been working on Camp safety and planning. They had a chance to go swimming and even meet the Yellowknife Mayor! One Spark unit has been working on being me and the World centres including enjoying fondue!

Embers has been learning about uniforms over the years and learning knots by tying their scarves. They have also had the chance to learn some basic sewing skills. Another Ember unit has been perfecting their camping skills and trying all sorts of things into knots.

The Yellowknife Guides Organized a winter sleepover and WAGGGS International Day of the Girl event.

Pathfinders held a sleepover and attended productions of the nutcracker and mean girls to support their fellow pathfinders.

Units have also been busy with cookie selling and a service project with YK Cares who put together packages of food for children in need.



### Calgary Area

#### Area Commissioner - Sarah Brazeau



#### New Area Crest

Calgary Area held a contest to design a new area crest. In the end we chose to merge 2 designs and we love the end result!

#### Thinking Day Fireworks

Calgary Area spent World Thinking Day with 2,300 Calgary Area Guiding members/volunteers at the GMC Grandstand to celebrate with Fireworks!

#### Rally Day

Calgary Area celebrated Rally Day with about 1,500 of our favourite Guiding Members at the Stampede Grounds.

#### Cookies

Calgary Area had about 16,800 cases of Spring 2023 Cookies and about 16,400 cases of Fall 2023 Cookies that hit the streets in town!

#### Program & Camping Events

Calgary Area's Program and Camping Committee's hosted many different FUN events in 2023! The Program Committee held STEM Days, a Career Day, Plays and a few evenings with the History Wrangler. They also partnered with Crate for Bug Hunt and the City of Calgary for Transit Trailblazers.





Calgary Area's Camping Committee hosted Sparklefest, Ember Camp Academy, Guide Adventure Trek, Challenge Camp Camping 101, and Nite Trek. And as usual, had a waitlist for all their events!

### Transit Trailblazers

Calgary Area Girl Guides partnered with Calgary City Transit for a special event called Transit Trailblazers! This event was designed to help create some young and confident transit users, and we had so much fun learning all about Calgary's City Transit!



### Summer in Calgary

Over the summer we had members from Calgary Area Girl Guides out and about around town! We had members participate in the Calgary Stampede Parade, Otter B Guiding went to a couple of pancake breakfasts, and we participated in Calgary's Pride Parade! We also had many different units traveling across Canada and abroad!

### Training

Calgary Area's Training Committee hosted 41 training courses during 2023, training 708 Guiding Members!

### Awards

Calgary Area had 136 youth members attend our Youth Awards to be presented with their Lady Baden-Powell, Canada Cord and Trailblazer Leadership Awards.

165 Adult Members received awards in 2023 for all their hard work and dedication.

### Camp Jubilee's Playground

Our \$212,000 playground finally became a reality and opened for our members to use while at camp! Thank you to the Cochrane Rotary Club for making this dream a reality.



### Chinook Area

#### Area Commissioner - Allyssa Haight

Chinook Area saw some changes in 2023. As of the end of June, we no longer have our Guide Centre. Many of our units who met there have now found new homes in schools and the Pemican Club. The Galt Museum has kindly taken several of our historical Guiding artifacts to be kept in the archives where our members can view them. Many other artifacts are being stored by Guiders in our Area. We hosted our first ever Camp Carnival in Lethbridge's new Festival Square. Community members had the chance to join us for carnival games and to learn about Guiding. Our Guiders ended the Guiding year with a Guider Fun Day, Resource Fair, and Appreciation Banquet all hosted for the last time at our hall.

In May we held our Rally Day with 125 girls and Guiders in attendance. Sparks and Embers had a chance to play relay and singing games, decorate marshmallows, make edible campfires, and make camp hat crafts. Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers completed a Girl Guide escape room, made decorated boxes and

woven bowls, and enjoyed edible campfires and decorating cookies. The day ended with a group campfire. At the beginning of June McCready Leaders, Rangers, and Junior Leaders attended a weekend long retreat at Camp Okeekun where they bonded, learned new skills, and were trained in DEI and to become AdventureSmart Hug-a-Tree and Survive and Survive Outside educators.

We saw our Crowsnest Pass Trip Unit travel to the BC coast for an amazing 10-day experience. A new trip unit has formed with girls and guiders from 3 of our Districts that will head out on a trip to England in the Summer of 2024.

At the end of August we had several girls and guiders participate in the Whoop-up Days parade. Even though it poured rain on us, our members marched on and handed out swag and some seeds with Guiding information on them to the public watching the parade.

In the fall we held a Taste of Guiding event and had several Guiders in attendance. Clarke-Hall hosted their District camp, and we had an Outdoor Fun Day planned for the end of September that unfortunately was cancelled due to pouring rain.

## Cypress Hills Area

### Area Commissioner - Crystal Watson

Our areas rally was organized by all of our districts with something to interest every branch. The youth were introduced to new crafts such as wood burning and new team skills like smooshing.

The Pathfinder units in our area bridged for a neon themed camp. They made neon t-dyed t-shirts, had a neon dance party, and did outside activities.

The Mad Hatters Trefoil Guild and one of our Ember units volunteered at our local food bank.

Night Hawk is our fall area event, and this past year was nursery rhymed themed. They had Mary's litter lambs for the youth to learn about. One station was about the twinkling of little stars and the stories that are about them. The humpty dumpty station was building devices to cushion his fall. The gingerbread house station was also the snack station.



## Edmonton Area

### Area Commissioners - Sarah Stannard, Kristie McClean, Kate Toews

Thank you to Edmonton Area Guiding Members for embracing new ideas and helping to support our sisters in diverse, equitable and inclusive ways.

Our greatest appreciation to all the Guiders who create Brave spaces for youth in Edmonton Area, as well as all the Trefoil Guilds, Committees and Support people, behind the scenes organizing, creating, and maintaining amazing events and camps.

It's truly an honor to be a part of this great Area and we value the advice and wisdom and support of those who came before us.

*Sarah, Kristie, and Kate*



### Edmonton Oil Kings Girl Guides Night

An exciting night for our members and families! Oil Kings take the win 3-1.

Area Council consists of District Commissioners, Committees and non-voting members that help organize and run many aspects of Edmonton Area. Edmonton Area consists of 13 Districts and 2489 Girl Members 479 Adult Members

### Cookies

Edmonton Area's total Spring Cookie order for 2023 was 10,214

Edmonton Area's total Fall Cookie order for 2023 was 10,261

Travel groups were responsible for 25% of sales!

Big Thank You to our Partner AMJ Campbell for facilitating distribution of more than half of these cookies! Rural distribution as always greatly appreciated!

### Committees

Committees continue to meet and brainstorm, supporting units with virtual meetings ideas, training, and on-going membership support.

### Facilities Committee

#### Highlights of 2023

- ◇ We almost fully recovered from the pandemic this year with 65 unique bookings at Sandy welcoming 1487 participants.
- ◇ 68 unique bookings at Tangletrees welcoming 2357 participants
- ◇ With spending restrictions fully lifted this year, we were able to give our camps some additional attention and completed many repairs and maintenance projects. We even completed a few key camp improvements, including:
- ◇ Redesign and retrofit of Hilltop House at Sandy Lake, brought an increased person capacity and more energy efficiencies.
- ◇ New roofing, eavestroughs, fascia and downspouts on cookshelters at Tangletrees and Sandy Lake

### Training Committee

- ◇ The Training Committee hosted several different training courses this year.
- ◇ January 2023 – We hosted our first “Jammies in January” event. This event was an on-line only event which encouraged Guiders to come to sessions in



their jammies when the weather and the roads would make it challenging to attend an in-person event. We offered a variety of sessions including Leading Active Games, Dramatic Arts, and Promise and Law. The sessions were offered twice, once on a weeknight and once on a weekend. We had a total of about 10 participants over the course of all the sessions.

- ◇ March 12, 2023 – We hosted an in-person OAL Indoor training day. We offered all 4 modules so participants could earn their light green OAL pin. The sessions were attended by 6 participants.
- ◇ May 6-7, 2023 – Edmonton Area Trainer, Ruth Ball, hosted a OAL outdoor training at her property “Ball’s Bush.” 6 participants camped out and covered the OAL tenting modules.
- ◇ August 25-27, 2023 – We had planned a welcome back, kick off camp for Guiders, but unfortunately due to the changeover between Eply and Eventmobi, registration did not have enough participants to make the event a go.
- ◇ September 2023 – Annual Buzzard Bash – Sherwood Park district training. 22 participants attended this event and attended a variety of sessions including active games, dramatic arts, and communications.
- ◇ October 2023 – We offered the New Guider learning stream modules online. Each session had between 2-3 registrations.
- ◇ October 29, 2023 – Fall Friendship Frolic. For this in-person session, we offered 2 streams of training. The first was the New Guider learning stream, and then a second for experienced Guiders with topics such as fire safety and crafts to do with friends.
- ◇ November 15, 2023 – We offered an online training for navigating the national website and MemberZone. It was attended by 6 participants.
- ◇ During the fall we also continued to offer Safe Guide training to help move non-members through the screening process.

We have noticed that Guiders have been slow to come back to in-person training. The training team is continuing to find ways to reach as many guiders as possible, with both in-person and online training options.

We launched our new training crest and the Edmonton Area Training Challenge. If you attend 3 sessions of Edmonton Area training, you will earn a scoop for your ice cream cone (the first scoop also includes the cone.) We currently have 2 scoops with plans of adding more in future years.



## Parkland Area

### Area Commissioner – Tara Nielsen

2023 was an exciting, fun filled year for Guiding in Parkland Area.

Parkland Area was pleased to provide funds for Girl Engagement. These funds were allocated to the districts for each registered girl member and were to be used to enhance programming and engagement for the youth members in the 2023 year.

Crimson Star District used their funds for a district trip to the Battle River Railway. The girls took part in round robin games, singing and crafts. They all built fairy gardens, took a train ride on an old-fashioned train, visited the Forestburg museum and had many opportunities for bridging.



Yankee Valley and Nose Creek held a joint District Rally Day which was well attended and had rave reviews from participants.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!!! How can we not forget groups selling cookies!? Of course, cookie sales in Parkland Area are always successful.

Thinking Day celebrations were in full swing in Parkland Area with Red Deer, Rimbey, Olds, Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House participating in the “Light It Up Blue” campaign.

Many Districts held events

with a focus on activities from the WAGGGS World Thinking Day package.

Parkland Area was excited with the return of the Parkland Area Awards Banquet. The turnout was impressive, and we were honored to have Deputy Provincial Commissioner Sheila Morrison in attendance. It was a time to reconnect with old friends and celebrate all the hard work of our members.

Many of our members were honored with awards that evening and throughout the year. We were able to present 7 Bronze Merit Awards, 5 Silver Merit Awards, 6 Gold Merit Awards, 2 Medal of Merit Awards, 4 Commissioner Awards, 1 Ivy Award, 4 Gold Thanks Awards, 4 Bronze Unit Guider Awards, 2 Silver Unit Guider Awards and 1 Gold Unit Guider Awards.

Golden Poplar and Crimson Star Districts participated again at the Girls in Aviation event where they hosted a booth allowing participants to take apart old household appliances.



On September 23rd Parkland Area Training Team put on a successful training day at Camp Sherbino. A Trainer and Guiders from Prairie Rose Area joined us. The sessions included Programming for the Girl and Building Unit Guider Skills. The group took part in a short scavenger hunt to find specific areas and points of interest around camp.

Of course, units and districts took place in so many camps, outdoor activities, and community events.

## Peace River Area

### Area Commissioner - Bev Lipon

2023 started out slowly in Peace River Area, with cold temperatures keeping units indoors and postponing planned outdoor activities.



Our first big event of the year was Thinking Day. Several locations across the area “lighted up blue” and units and districts across the area came together to celebrate the birthdays of our founders. There were sing-a-longs, family suppers and ceremonies enjoyed by all.



Spring brought more outside activities: camping, travel and cookie selling!

Unfortunately, in May the rally was cancelled for Peace River Area as guiding communities in all corners of the area were being evacuated for wildfires. Wildfires and smoke impacted many camps in the spring, with more evacuations and poor air quality causing more cancellations.



We didn't let the fires stop us completely, and June and July brought opportunities for travel for groups in the area. Units from Grande Prairie and Peace River traveled to Edmonton to visit the Girl Guide House and explore our provincial capital. Also, a small group of girls and guiders were finally able to travel to Europe and see London, Paris and participate in a session at Our Chalet.



September brought the start of the new Guiding year and with it, more cookies, camps, service projects and day trips.

Girls of all ages participated in district camps, learning camping skills, sewing, and completing service projects for homeless shelters. Units in Jasper and Edson “stuffed a tent” for their local food banks and girls from Falher had a fall camp at Camp Kupasiwin.



As we settled into our routines for the year, we were excited to learn of the Cirque Du Soleil performance being held in Edmonton at the end of December, and as a final trip for the year a group of 43 girls and guiders from across the area got on a school bus to attend the performance. A great trip and a great time was had by all.

It was a busy year, and there are many plans for 2024 to be even better!

## Prairie Rose Area

### Area Commissioners - Noella Brisbois and Lisa Penzo

It has been a very unique and busy year in Prairie Rose Area. We have seen growth in our membership for both Guiders and youth in our area! Here are some of our 2023 celebrations and highlights...

Many districts and units in our area worked to complete badges and challenges and participated in kindness for local seniors and Veterans, outdoor activities, the Prairie Rose Area Winter Challenge and Chocolate Challenge, WAGGGS Thinking Day challenges and activities just to name a few. Participating in local parade and community events, helping out where they could and showcasing the importance of being kind, lending a hand and paying it forward.

There were many overnights, day camps and camping throughout the year! From drive-in movie camps, Dino sleepover, Harry Potter, pajama party, adventures in the dark, iron chef and baking themed camps. To hostels and hiking, bunk beds and tenting. Campfires and friendship. You name it, we did our best to do it! Locally, district and area wide we went outdoors and brought the outdoors inside too!

Many units had visits to local services and had guest speakers in on a multitude of topics. Some of the memorable moments include learning about the medicine wheel and drumming circle by a local indigenous knowledge keeper, life of a sailor, stars and planets, robots and coding, campfire singing at the seniors residence, budgeting and grocery shopping to name a few. From talent shows to tours, many visited the local police stations, fire stations, grocery stores, the Military Museum, Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, Royal Tyrrell Museum, Hangar Flight Museum, Granary Road and the Calgary Guide Center, to explore and experience the world around them. We had units participate with other units across the country / world and had Pen Pals in Ottawa, Seattle, Utah and New Brunswick.

Our Prairie Rose Area Pathfinders and Rangers headed into the City of Calgary for a weekend of fun at the annual Area in the City event! Challenging themselves and working together, the weekend was spent doing a little bit of window shopping/ shopping, swimming, attending Jubilations Dinner Theatre, completing a community service project for the Calgary Humane Society, fellowship and fun.



The Prairie Rose Area Rangers met in Canmore for an overnight. They headed out to explore the town of Canmore, followed by a late supper and overnight stay at the chalet. Making their way to Banff the next day they explored the Cave and Basin, soaked/swam at the Banff Upper Hot Springs and explored the Banff Park Museum National Historic Site and town.

We had several 3rd year Pathfinders complete and receive their Canada Cord Award and several Rangers achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold Trailblazer Leadership Awards with distinction! We ended the guiding year on a very positive note looking forward to what the next guiding year would bring.

We had a patrol of nine youth and three leaders from Moonlight District attended Crocus 2023 in Manitoba in August 2023, where many friendships and memories were made!

In our area and districts, guiding continued to serve our local and greater communities with good deeds and service projects. We had districts and units participate in community clean ups, write seniors and Veterans for thank you's, thinking of you and winter holiday messages, collected food for Veteran and local food banks, participated in Remembrance Day services, collected items for a winter clothing drive, women's shelters and more. We learned our guiding promise and laws and found creative themes for enrollment celebrations.

It has been a year of adaptability, creativity and resilience. We worked hard this fall to keep our youth, guiders and units connected, and continue to help them grow in the sisterhood of guiding together. We are looking forward to what the new year brings!



## Tamarac Area

### Area Commissioner – Roxy Pedersen



Tamarac Area came together in Westlock for the first time in many years, to participate in "The Four Seasons" ANY Council Rally Day. We celebrated the seasons with all Branches participating in a scavenger hunt for Spring and played games including bunnock to recognize Summer. The Fall season activities included coffee filter and clay leaves by the Sparks, Embers & Guides. Winter included snowflake art by the Pathfinders & Rangers, tealight snowmen by the Guides and popsicle stick hot chocolate mugs by the Sparks & Embers. We ended the day by coming together for a campfire before boarding buses to go home.

Onoway Sparks, Embers, Guides, Pathfinder and Rangers enjoyed a Winter Wrap up in December making Personalized Water Bottles with Permanent Vinyl with personalized names and stickers, enjoyed flavoured water with natural additives, Watched Winter Themed Shorts and decorated cupcakes and shared hot chocolates. They also enjoyed an overnight Nature Camp in the Onoway Hall which included outdoor play, a history tour of Onoway, natured themed crafts, meals prepared by the Guides and Pathfinders, free play with Lego, board games and cards and watching a theatre style movie projected on the wall!

In January 2023, St. Albert merged Fireside, Pinedale, and Rainbow Districts to become a single District supporting the girls and guiders of St. Albert. During the spring, St. Albert District held a Spark/Ember Day Camp, a Guide / Pathfinder /





Ranger Camp, did tree planting with the city and attended the Tamarac Area Rally. In August 2024, we held our second annual Guiding in the Park event to kick-off the new year and engage members of our community in a night of games, crafts, and girl guide cookie smores. Our first District training day 'Beautiful, Strong and Uniquely You' was held in October for Guiders and Rangers and we participated in the St. Albert Volunteer fair to help recruit new members to guiding.



Twin Rivers District started 2023 with a trip to TELUS World of Science & Clip n Climb in Edmonton. At TWOS girls had a blast building a roller coaster, watching an IMAX, and exploring all the science centre has to offer! Even building a scribble bot! At Clip 'n Climb some girls conquered fears, and some had no fear, but all had a blast climbing!



Throughout the year all units had fun completing the program, doing bridging activities, hiking, and camping. In February a new pool opened, and all units took time to enjoy time at the pool.

May brought challenges to Twin Rivers District. On May 4, the town of Drayton Valley was evacuated due to the Buck Creek wildfire. This affected most of our girls and leaders. Thankfully everyone was able to get to a safe place and no one lost their homes. During this time, Tamarac Area held a rally in Westlock. 3 leaders and 8 girls were able to attend. Twin Rivers Girl Guides would like to thank all the firefighters who worked tirelessly to ensure our community was safe.

Spring also saw our Pathfinders start planning and fundraising for a trip to Costa Rica. Throughout 2023 6 girls and 2 leaders have been working on numerous fundraisers towards their goal and selling cookies; lots & lots of cookies!

Pathfinders also planned our District advancement ceremony. The theme chosen was rubber ducks with tie dye and bubbles.

We ended our year with a sleepover at Edmonton Valley Zoo with a stop at Launch Pad trampoline park.

Whitecourt Sparks spent their year learning the Spark song, getting to know each other, and participating in a forest interpretive centre fairy walk. They enjoyed fall crafts, cookie selling at their local store and door to door and created promise bookmarks. The girls participated in a sleepover at the forest interpretive centre and completed their enrollment. They have enjoyed a TELUS World of Science sleepover, focusing on STEM, and working with McMasters University to participate in more STEM activities.

Whitecourt Embers enjoyed 2 sleepovers and have participated in multiple STEM activities. They enjoyed a movie night, writing to their pen pals and selling cookies in their community. They worked on their Gender Power and Being you badge and completed their enrollment.

Whitecourt Guides learned their horseshoe formation, chose a unit song for their meetings, and participated in a fairy walk. They have learnt their promise and law, eagerly sold cookies in their community, and completed their enrollment. They crafted soapstone necklace pendant carvings and learnt important life skills.



## Woodsmoke Area

### Acting Area Commissioner – Tracy Burton

The Guiders and girls in Woodsmoke Area have been really busy this past year! They have participated in an area winter camp. They also participated in an area-wide revel and cook-off competition! The Pathfinders and Rangers had a brunch to gather together. There was also a year-end celebration for Guiders with an awards ceremony.

The units and districts have been busy as well. In Battle River District, the Provost Spark, Ember, and Guide units were busy doing badge work. They wrote letters to Pearl Wenjack and mailed them to her. They discussed International Day of the Girl and looked at issues facing women today. They also made kindness rocks, coffee filter leaves and made lava lamps. They had a fun dress like your favourite animal party with pizza and crafts. They had Lois Johnson come to talk about her bluebird trail, where they also had tea and did a bluebird craft. When the skies were dark enough, they also went star gazing, learned about planets, made star wheels, and created a constellation craft. The Wainwright units have been very busy out in the community visiting the food bank, bowling alley, firehall, Bevans Nature Park, Ascot Hgts Rec center for skating. All units held their Advancements and gave the girls pins and badges earned. All the Units have been working hard on various program badges and Guides are eager to earn some Discovery Badges as well.

Lakeland District got off to a great start this past year. In March the District went tubing at Kinsoo Ski Resort, helped with collecting food for the food bank, and went to the Awards banquet in Wainwright. A couple of units went to Ashby Lodge to camp. Lakeland District had a joint Advancement Ceremony with all units partaking. Each unit presented the Girls with the badges they earned and had cake and juice before leaving for the evening. An area summer camp was held, and it did rain, but they managed to have some sunny moments and I believe all enjoyed their time there. It was such a nice spot we hope to have the 2024 summer camp there as well. The leaders and family members helped with fixing up the camp for the next year of camping. New flooring was laid, the outhouses were fixed up and the wood shacks were filled. Fall came quickly and the units started up with the usual visits to the police stations, fire house, libraries, museums and helping the food bank and sent cookies to the troops overseas.

Lloydminster District has been busy as well! The Lloydminster District Hall sale has been finalized. Possession by the new owners is March 6th. Guiders worked together in September to pack most of our belongings and have rented a storage unit. We held a garage sale and donated any leftover items to charity. We were pleased to see all our chinaware go to a local organizer who will use it for fundraising in our community. Pathfinders camped at Happy Haven in September for an Art Camp. Guides camped there in October and earned their basic camper badge. Embers also had their first sleepover of the year at the Hall and had fun experimenting for their Science Lab badge. Sparks have been out and about in the community visiting the Fire Department and doing a Nature Walk at Bud Miller Park. All branches participated in the “No Stone Left Alone” and their local Remembrance Day ceremonies to recognize our veterans. They also had Enrolment Ceremonies to welcome new members to the Sisterhood.



For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

# A better world, by girls.

## Resolution of Thanks

Each year at the Annual General Meeting, members of Council bring forward the following resolutions of thanks to our Guiders, Staff, Families and outside entities for their continued support.

**To ANY Council Guiders MOTION:** On behalf of Alberta Council, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our Guiders for the countless hours you give to Guiding, through your involvement in our districts, units and with the girls. The strength and wisdom you share with the girls will benefit not only the girls and our communities, but the Girl Guide Movement as well. We appreciate the unselfish giving of your time and your family's time. These young women are the leaders of tomorrow and you should be proud to have had a hand in their growth as they take their place within our communities. This past year has had many challenges, but you have risen to meet these challenges and provide amazing experiences for the girls. I would like to make a Resolution of Thanks to all the Guiders in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon for their dedication and enthusiasm for the Guiding Movement. You help all girls to be everything she wants to be.

**To the Staff under Alberta Council Jurisdiction MOTION:** On behalf of Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council, I would like to move a Resolution of Thanks to the ANY Council office staff and other personnel under Alberta Council's jurisdiction. Our staff are superb; friendly, knowledgeable, professional, and supportive. They are often the public's first contact with Guiding and therefore present a welcoming and helpful first impression. The staff have had many changes this past year but have managed to carry on their duties diligently and with enthusiasm.

**To the Families and Friends of members under Alberta Council jurisdiction MOTION:** On behalf of Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada, Alberta Council, I move a resolution of thanks to our Families and Friends of Council. We appreciate and thank you for the support and encouragement that you have given in sharing your family with Girl Guides of Canada Guides Du Canada. Your patience and understanding of the many hours of commitment have made Girl Guides in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon a strong force, dedicated to making a difference with the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for your support.

**To Outside of Guiding Entities MOTION:** On behalf of the Members of Alberta Council, I move a resolution of thanks to all the Public Support Groups in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. I would like to express our organization's gratitude to all the individuals in our communities, Community Associations and Service Groups who have supported our youth members, guiders, and units this year. I also want to acknowledge the Corporations, Religious Organizations and Government Entities that have provided meeting space, financial support, and in-kind donations that have made Guiding possible. We recognize that your support of our organization is critical to our ability to fulfill the Vision of a better world, by girls.





## Gone Home

Mary Adams (Peace River)  
 Carrie Charron (Peace River)  
 Sheri Graham (Aurora)

Robin Wenzel (Prairie Rose)  
 Margot Jennings (Aurora)  
 Lynne Beamer (Calgary)

## Honorary Patrons

The Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta  
 The Honourable Margaret M. Thom, Commissioner of Northwest Territories  
 The Honourable Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon



## Honorary Vice Presidents

Rosalyn Schmidt	Betty Slater
Lissi Westergaard	Margaret Utgoff
Donna Leonard Robb	Beverly Simpson Headon
Chris Burton	Kathy Batty



## Donations and Grants

We are grateful and thank each individual and organization for the generous support towards Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council. This support helps us offer girls quality programming and expanding opportunities.



### Government of Alberta

Sports, Parks and Recreation

### City of Edmonton

Edmonton Community Foundation



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Many donations are received in support of Guiding by the Areas, Districts, and Units, and are not recorded here, but are recognized at those levels.

Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council extends our appreciation to all supporters of Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon for the contributions so she can be **everything she wants to be.**