

2024 Annual Report



**Girl
Guides**

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta,
Northwest Territories and Yukon

Provincial Commissioner's Message

Provincial Commissioner Bev Burton

Deputy Provincial Commissioner Kathy Dion

Deputy Provincial Commissioner Tara Nielsen

The membership numbers in ANY Council continues to thrive! All the Guiders and girl members are to thank for this work and for continuing to provide great girl centered programming, supporting the Unit Guiders through the work of Commissioners and Advisers and all members continuing to promote Girl Guides.



ANY Council was busy over the past year supporting Guiders and trying to wow the girls. The committees and Youth Forum were busy with many different activities and events. Alberta Girls Parliament continues to provide a wonderful opportunity for girls to learn leadership and debating skills.

Attendance at all training courses continues to increase. Virtual training for the commissioner's workshop and the leadership learning path were held. There were hundreds of Guiders and Commissioners who registered across the country for our virtual training. The Skills Summit in person training happened in the fall.

The committees were very busy putting together the Program of Excellence challenge. This is being refreshed this upcoming year and provides multiple activities that each branch can do to look at doing various aspects of the program. All these activities are taken from the program platform and are designed to help make it easier for our unit Guiders. Also, there is a fantastic crest for this that looks like a Ferris wheel with the different pieces being the different cars.

ANY Council social media presence also continues, with new activities on Facebook, Instagram, and You Tube. The PR committee



has been very busy showcasing all the amazing activities being done over the past year.

The provincial summer camps were held again this year and were enjoyed by the participants and a big thank you to the Guiders who helped make this happen.

I want to give you my sincere thanks to everyone for giving your time and talents and for all you have done this year. We know that Guiding can only continue through the leadership of amazing Guiders such as yourself. You provide unique experiences, fantastic programming and safe spaces for connections to happen and friendships to form. You are also the Commissioners and Advisers who help support the members and provide programming and opportunities in Guiding. You are the catalysts for the girls to create a better tomorrow. I wish you all the best tonight and through the rest of the Guiding year. I look forward to seeing you all next year, for great Guiding and even more fun!



Alberta Youth Forum

Youth Forum Coordinators

Shannon Jaegar, Carly Ash (till May 2024) Kelsey Jones (from May 2024)

The 2024–2025 Guiding year was one of rebuilding, renewed energy, and meaningful connection for the Alberta Council Youth Forum (ABCYF). With a focus on revitalization, the Forum introduced fresh recruitment strategies, reached out directly to Ranger Units, and engaged with members at Area meetings to strengthen ties and encourage participation.

This year brought both new beginnings and fond farewells. We were excited to welcome Kayla, Jayden, and our new coordinator Kelsey Jones to the team, and we extend heartfelt thanks to Sienna, Serina, Hannah, and Anna for their contributions and leadership as they stepped away from the Forum.

Fostering deeper understanding across the Guiding community was a key focus. The *Let's Talk Reconciliation* initiative encouraged important conversations about GGC's ongoing commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, supported by impactful and educational social media content. The *You and the World Challenge* was refreshed to be more relevant and engaging, with plans to extend its reach to Sparks and Embers in the near future.

Creativity and leadership shone through in all of the Forum's projects. Members wrote thought-provoking articles for *Blueprint*, produced a fun and memorable Star Wars-themed *Year in Review* video, and promoted artistic expression through the *ANY Council Creates* Earth Day competition. A summer camp at Camp Jubilee provided valuable time for in-person collaboration and significant progress on the "for girls by girls" resource book—an exciting initiative designed to reflect the voices and ideas of youth members.

Forum members were active participants across Alberta Council committees, ensuring youth perspectives were heard, respected, and included in decision-making. With the strong foundation built this year, the Alberta Council Youth Forum is well-positioned to grow its impact and create an even more vibrant, youth-centered Guiding experience in the year ahead.



Girl Engagement Committee

Girl Engagement Coordinator	- Bev Lipon
Camping Adviser	- Elaine Lingnau
International Adviser	- Vacant
Program Adviser	- Noella Brisebois

The Girl Engagement portfolio oversees the Camping, International, and Program Committees, ensuring that Guiding experiences across the Council remain vibrant, inclusive, and enriching.

In 2024, Bev Burton served as the Girl Engagement Coordinator until May, when she stepped down to assume her new role as Provincial Commissioner. In July, Bev Lipon stepped into the role of Girl Engagement Coordinator and has continued to support the committees and advisers with energy and dedication.



Some of the year's key highlights include:

- A successful virtual Standing Committee Workshop with 84 attendees, providing training, connection, and momentum for the work ahead.
- The launch of the Program of Excellence Challenge and crest, which was introduced during the workshop as a welcome activity.
- The successful recruitment of advisers to support the Camping and Program Committees, helping to strengthen leadership and engagement at all levels.
- A series of successful camps held over the summer, offering girls across the Council unforgettable experiences in the outdoors.
- Domestic and international travel by many groups from ANY Council, providing girls with opportunities to explore, learn, and grow beyond their home communities.
- Participation in a national discussion to standardize the role descriptions for the Girl Engagement Coordinator position and all related committees, helping ensure clarity and consistency in leadership roles.

2024 was a strong year for the Girl Engagement portfolio, marked by growth, connection, and exciting programming. We look forward to building on this success in 2025, with even more opportunities for girls and Guiders to thrive.

Camping

This past year has been relatively quiet on the camping front, with many Areas currently without a designated Camping Adviser. In these instances, District Commissioners (DCs) have been stepping in to support camping activities as best they can.

Camping teams continue to be an essential part of the Girl Guides experience, and DCs have been encouraged to recognize the contributions of their Camping Advisers by presenting them with their adviser pins as a token of appreciation.

One of the major projects this year has been the revision of the “Let’s Go Camping” book. Work is ongoing to update the content, and plans are in place to make it available online. Additionally, the team is exploring costs and logistics for printing hard copies, as there has been significant interest in having a portable, physical version that’s more convenient to bring along on outdoor adventures.

The Camping Committee also contributed new ideas for the Program of Excellence Crest, tying in camping themes and encouraging outdoor experiences as a key part of the challenge.

In terms of provincial camping events, the only Provincially-run summer camps in 2024 were the week-long Guide Camp and the Arts Camp (which falls under program), which provided girls with an immersive and memorable outdoor experience.

While it was a quieter year overall, the foundational work completed—especially around resources and program development—will support future growth in camping across Alberta Council.

International

In 2024, the International Adviser position remained vacant and was overseen by the Girl Engagement Coordinator, first by Bev Burton and later by Bev Lipon following her appointment in July.



The committee met once in the fall, during which it was decided that the focus for the 2024–2025 Guiding year would be on refreshing the International component of the Program of Excellence Challenge. The committee committed to promoting WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) through this initiative. Members began developing ways to introduce elements of WAGGGS challenges to encourage units to engage with and complete them in their entirety.

During the fall, discussions at the national level took place regarding the position description for the International Adviser. As a result of these conversations, it was decided that the International Committee will be dissolved by the end of the 2024–2025 Guiding year. The committee will conclude its activities and wrap up all remaining tasks by June 2025.

While 2024 marked a time of transition, the work done by the committee has laid the groundwork for continued international engagement at the unit level through creative programming and a refreshed approach to global Guiding.

Program

The Program Committee held two virtual meetings in 2024. While attendance from Area Program Advisers has been lower than hoped—due to many members

balancing multiple roles within Guiding—we fully understand and appreciate the time and commitment of all involved. We're especially grateful to Tracy Stagg, who recently returned to Guiding and is serving as the Acting Provincial Program Support Person. Tracy has generously taken on the task of organizing our virtual meetings, recording minutes, and ensuring communication flows smoothly among committee members.

Our meetings have provided a valuable forum for sharing updates from different Areas. It's been inspiring to hear about the variety of programming happening across Alberta—from the wide range of opportunities available in larger cities to the creative solutions developed by smaller, rural units. These exchanges are especially helpful in sparking ideas for rural units looking to expand their programming through travel or partnerships with other districts.

One ongoing conversation has been about staggering meeting times to better accommodate committee members whose schedules don't align with the usual meeting night.



We were excited to see 39 youth members attend Alberta Girls Parliament this year. Although we haven't yet received a full report on how the event went, the strong attendance is encouraging and speaks to continued youth engagement.

At the Standing Committee Workshop, the Program Committee explored the idea of developing program content related to skilled trades—such as plumbing, carpentry, welding, and more. We shared stories of units that have successfully hosted mini “trades shows,” inviting professionals to speak and demonstrate their work. These experiences have shown how impactful it can be to expose girls to career paths outside of traditional roles.

Another creative initiative in development is a "Top 5 Things To Do" list for different Guiding Areas across Alberta. This project, sparked during one of our meetings, aims to share highlights of each area for those who may be visiting. So far, three committee members have submitted their top five ideas, and we hope to include this feature in a future edition of the ANY newsletter.

We were also thrilled to welcome Kaydence, a youth member from ANY Council, to sit in on our next committee meeting. Her interest in joining reflects the importance of hearing directly from youth, and we're excited to have her voice at the table.

As I continue to settle into the role of Provincial Program Adviser, I'm gaining a deeper understanding of the position and feel truly honoured to support this work. Guiding is a passion of mine, and I look forward to seeing where we can take programming in the year ahead.

Lones

In total, there were 19 Lones: 3 Sparks, 5 Embers, 15 Guides, 7 Pathfinders, and 8 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

Alberta Girls Parliament (AGP)

Alberta Girls Parliament (AGP) returned in person from April 2 to 6, 2024, and was a resounding success. Participants and organizers alike were thrilled to gather once again face-to-face for this signature event that blends leadership, friendship, and fun.

This year's AGP welcomed 22 Pages and 27 Delegates for a packed and engaging weekend. Highlights included six debates—ranging from practice sessions to the always-popular alumni debate—giving girls the chance to sharpen their public speaking and critical thinking skills while gaining confidence in a supportive environment.

Participants enjoyed outings to West Edmonton Mall and a local trampoline park, balancing intense learning and debate with fun and friendship. A special moment of the program was a tour of the Alberta Legislature, where girls had the unique opportunity to meet the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

AGP offers girls the chance to:

- Learn about the parliamentary process
- Improve public speaking and debate skills
- Hear from motivational speakers selected by elected delegates
- Explore political careers
- Complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Residential Project requirement
- Receive the exclusive AGP pin and crest
- Build lasting friendships with peers from across Alberta and beyond

AGP 2024 was a vibrant celebration of leadership and learning, and a testament to the continued power of Guiding to create meaningful, empowering experiences for youth.



Arts Camp

The 2023 ANY Council Arts Camp had 60 Guides & Pathfinders attend; 14 were returning girls. There was girls from all areas except Aurora Adventures. 15 leaders volunteered to help make this camp a success; 4 in the kitchen, and 10 for program.



We also had 4 Rangers join the leadership team – Adalyn Cummings, Emily Patriquin, Brianna Penton, and Ember Penton. These young ladies were invaluable at camp and helped wherever needed.

Every morning, girls participated in morning sessions. This year's morning session choices were – Sewing, Culinary Arts, Digital Age Crafting, Drama, Art. The afternoons were filled with a variety of different art –

- Candle Making
- Needle Felting
- Fabric dying
- Button books & bracelets
- Perler beads
- Glass bead magnets
- Macramé
- Paper quilling
- String art
- Spirograph & zentangle
- Bleach shirts



Together, we completed service projects – blessing bags, tied fleece blankets and rag quilts. We ended camp with an all camp paint night.

Wednesday afternoon we had a surprise for the girls. An Edmonton radio station has a Trucksicle. You can book it to come to your event and bring free popsicles for everyone! The girls waited in the rain, they didn't know what for, but they were excited when it got there!



Member Services Committee

Member Services Coordinator	Vacant
Membership Adviser	Lea Semenoff
PR and Communication Adviser	Kim Pap
Training Adviser	Tirzah Wolff

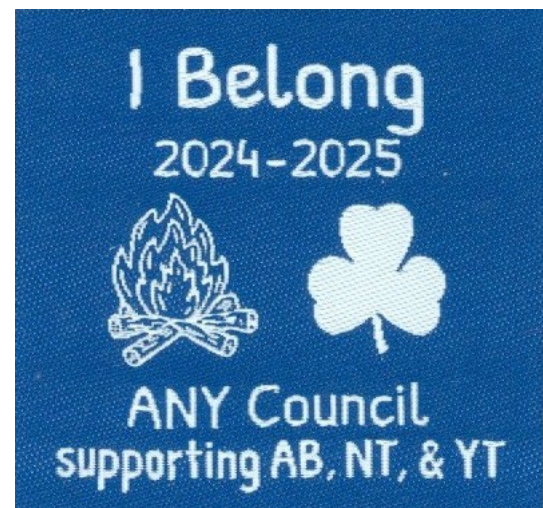
Membership

Awards Lead	Jodi Paulgaard
Link Liaison	Vacant
Trefoil Guild Liaisons	Jan McCraghren

The Membership Committee participated in a national discussion regarding the review and modernization of position descriptions. A common theme across the country is that the introduction of the Member Services Coordinator role may be leading to a diminished need for the traditional Membership Adviser position. Many of the responsibilities outlined in the current role description are no longer actively performed, highlighting the need for a reassessment of its scope and relevance.

Committee members continue to explore creative ways to support and recognize Guiders and Rangers, as well as innovative outreach efforts aimed at increasing membership. These initiatives include developing appreciation gifts and drafting outreach communications to local institutions such as colleges, libraries, and media outlets. The goal is to connect with potential volunteers—including students seeking service hours, former members interested in re-engaging, and community members passionate about contributing to the Guiding movement.

The committee remains focused on evaluating the evolving nature of membership roles and identifying effective strategies to engage and retain volunteers in a changing landscape.



PR & Communications

PR and Communications Adviser

The PR Committee holds monthly meetings via Teams, with participation from approximately seven Area PR Advisers and one Youth Forum member. In 2025, Spotify ads featured personalized scripts from six Areas, and every Area had recruitment ads in the spring. To support volunteer engagement, the committee designed lanyards with the message “Ask me about Girl Guides” and water bottle stickers, which were created from a youth art contest that received 76 entries and selected three winners. In April 2025, all Guiders, Rangers, and Junior Leaders will receive a swag package. Additionally, branded table banners with QR codes linking to registration have been sent to all Districts and Areas.



Training

Provincial Training Adviser

Our Trainers remain committed, but the number of active Trainers is dwindling due to retirements, and recruitment has become a pressing need. In 2024, the Skills Summit event, now called Connect Conquer Camp, replaced the Multifaceted event and welcomed around 50 participants. A well-attended Trainers Workshop, with 20 out of 35 trainers present, focused on wellbeing, new Trainer processes, surveys, and mentorship. The OAL Adventure training continues to be offered both in-person and virtually. Looking ahead, next year's Trainer Workshop will adopt a new one-day format.



In Prairie Rose, one-on-one training was delivered on the platform, and plans are underway for a spring Training Day, pending additional trainer support. Edmonton launched the "Get the Scoop" training, which had 34 registrants and was a great success. The area also piloted a National website navigation session, and offerings like "Fall into Guiding" continue to thrive. In Parkland, trainers are preparing for Multifaceted and other Area-level events.



Chinook hosted several events including ARTS Day, the Mouse Around the House Challenge, OAL Indoor training, and is planning an upcoming Guider Wellness Day. Their fall events included an Outdoor Fun Day and overnight OAL training. Peace River hosted a training weekend in October and fulfilled various other training requests. Calgary hosted 19 training sessions, reaching 368 members, covering topics from OAL to trip finance, and including the "Focus On" series for Spark and Ember Guiders. Tamarac is planning local "travelling trainings" for districts and collaborated with Edmonton Area to offer "Get

the Scoop."

In the ANY-webinar space, Commissioner workshops saw an increase in attendance during the fall, with 157 participants from across the country, including strong interest from Ontario.

Travel Support

Enidd Isaac and Pat McWilliams

In 2024, Travel Support facilitated 9 international and 18 domestic trips. International trips included destinations like Switzerland, France, Germany, England, Costa Rica, and the USA (New York, San Francisco), while domestic trips took travelers to BC, Yukon, Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, and the Maritimes.

Looking ahead, 2025 is set to see 22 trips, with 15 international and 7 domestic, while 16 trips are already being planned for 2026, and 5 trips for 2027.

New resources created this year include *A Flying Start to International Trip Planning* and *Steps to Travel in Canada Trip Planning*. Virtual orientations were also introduced:



- *Module 1: Getting Started* – for SG.8 packages
- *Module 2: BEing Prepared* – for RGs and all trip Guiders.

The Travel Buddy Initiative has also been launched to connect Guiders with experienced peers or share itineraries.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from our assessors, finance reviewers, provincial staff, and the national travel team.



Alberta Council Areas

Aurora Adventures Area

Area Commissioner – Vacant

Aurora Adventures Area had a dynamic year filled with learning, creativity, and fun, offering girls opportunities to try new things and build lasting friendships.

Girls strengthened their practical skills by learning how to sew badges onto their sashes and explored the exciting world of science and engineering through hands-on activities. Culinary adventures were also on the menu, as units cooked, baked, and tried new foods, discovering the joy of experimenting in the kitchen.

Outdoor and winter fun were highlights as girls visited a snow-covered medieval castle, embracing the magic of the season. They also enjoyed swimming and other recreational activities that helped build confidence and foster healthy habits.

A special visit to Camp Dechinta offered girls the chance to connect with the outdoors and with each other. Throughout the year, there was a strong focus on trying new activities, making new friends, and celebrating the people who make Guiding possible. Units took time to recognize and celebrate their Guiders, acknowledging the support and dedication of the volunteers who lead them.

Aurora Adventures Area continues to foster a spirit of exploration, curiosity, and community, creating memorable experiences for girls and Guiders alike.



Calgary Area

Area Commissioner - Sarah Brazeau

Calgary Area had a year filled with major events, community engagement, and special celebrations. A highlight of the year was the Calgary Hitmen Game, where over 435 tickets were sold, and attendees received a special crest for wearing Guiding gear. The Transit Trailblazers event, in partnership with Calgary Transit, attracted nearly 400 participants. Ember Camp Academy was another success, with 236 Embers, 60 Guiders, and 29 volunteers attending a full day of outdoor skills learning. The Nite Trek, with a Circus theme, saw massive participation, with 274 Pathfinders, 77 Ranger volunteers, 34 Core Crew members, and 90 Guiders involved. STEM events, including a partnership with the University of Calgary's WISE Club for "Fall into Science," drew 350 participants, and a Marble Run STEM event was held for older branches. The Career Night event saw over 100 youth attend, with 40+ professionals sharing their career journeys.

Community engagement was another focal point. Calgary Area celebrated 25 years as official banner carriers in the Stampede Parade, with over 50 members involved. Youth also showcased their campfire cooking skills to the public at the Kitchen Theatre during the Stampede, and over 60 members represented Girl Guides in the Calgary Pride Parade. For Thinking Day, local landmarks were lit up as part of the Light It Up Blue initiative.



Special events included the Area Awards Dinner, which had a "Paris" theme and saw 330 attendees celebrating achievements, including the debut of the Otter B and Honourable Service Awards. The Youth Awards Ceremony recognized 50 youth, with support from Mayor Gondek and other special guests. Area Council Day at Heritage Park featured

a Famous Five program and dinner at the Selkirk Grill. The Memorial Grove Ceremony at Camp Jubilee honored Guiders who have “gone home,” providing a meaningful gathering for the Guiding community.

Training and skill development were also key elements of the year. Eight Guiders were certified in Intermediate Tandem Lake Canoe through Paddle Canada, and four Rangers completed the Intro course. The Guide Skills Camp, which focused on outdoor and cooking skills, saw 182



Guides participate, while a Geocaching and GPS Training session at Confluence Park attracted over 10 participants.

Calgary Area's cookie campaigns were another success, with approximately 17,000 cases distributed during the Spring and Fall Cookie Days, despite challenging weather conditions ranging from -25°C to +30°C. The area also supported Jasper Area with additional cookie distribution.

Other notable events included Girl Guide Nights, successful outings with the Calgary Stampede and the Calgary Hitmen, as well as the Area-Wide Campfire, Sparklefest, and Calgary Area Sing Along, all of which brought the Guiding community together. The Annual Grab & Go and DC Orientation events continued traditions



supporting Guiders with resources and onboarding.



Chinook Area

Area Commissioner - Allyssa Haight

Chinook Area had an exciting and eventful year filled with engaging programming for both youth and Guiders. The year began with ARTS Day on January 20, where Sparks and Embers completed the *Express Yourself Challenge* through drama, music, crafts, and games, joined by 38 youth, 15 Guiders, and 1 Pathfinder assistant. Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers completed the *Mouse Around the House* and *Pen Pal* challenges, with 28 youth and 14 Guiders participating.

Thinking Day celebrations included lighting up the Yates Theater and City Hall in blue, and a Clarke-Hall District event at the downtown library with 24 youth and 9 Guiders. McCready District Sparks and Embers attended a Drumheller Sleepover, featuring STEM activities, local history talks, and community visits.

Guider events included a successful Fun Day with crafts, self-care, and snacks, followed by a Guider Appreciation Banquet attended by 20 Guiders. In July, 8 girls and 2 Guiders from the England Trip Unit visited Pax Lodge and explored London, Stonehenge, and Brownsea Island, connecting with fellow Guiding members from across Canada and beyond.

Chinook Area also participated in the Lethbridge Pride Parade and Whoop-Up Days Parade, handing out lollipops, tattoos, and stickers to engage the community. Districts were reorganized as Chinook East and West merged to form Chinook Rural District, and a new unit was opened in Stirling.

Program highlights included the creation of *Program of Excellence Challenge Kits* in partnership with Standing Committee Advisers and the *Outdoor Fun Day* at Camp Okeekun with 27 youth and 13 Guiders. An OAL 2 – Tenting and Overnight Training also took place at the camp, with 3 participants completing all modules.



Cypress Hills Area

Area Commissioner - Crystal Watson

Cypress Hills Area enjoyed a cozy and community-focused year, emphasizing traditions and skill-building through unique activities. The Mad Hatter's Trefoil Guild participated in a community craft circle, where they made daisy chains and connected with local crafters, strengthening ties within the community. At the Area Girls' Awards Night, a special colour party was held to honour the achievements of the girls and celebrate their success.

Redcliff Rangers embraced winter by working on Morse code and engaging in seasonal crafts, including building a "Hygge" snowman to bring some extra cheer to the season. Redcliff Guides also enjoyed a toboggan night at Kin Coulee, where they warmed up with hot chocolate and shared plenty of laughter. Pathfinders and Rangers came together for the Winter Frolic Senior Area Camp, where they participated in craft sessions and enjoyed the camaraderie of their peers.

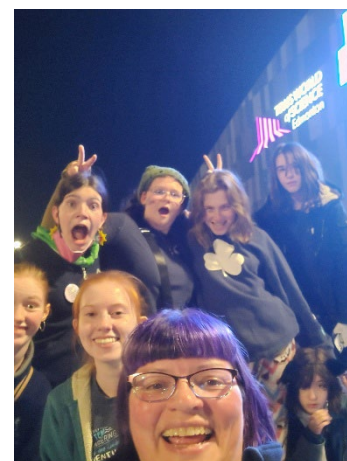


Edmonton Area

Area Commissioners - Sarah Stannard, Kristie McClean, Kate Toews

In the 2023–2024 Guiding year, Edmonton Area proudly supported 2,584 girl members and 736 adult members, spread across 10 districts and the Lones. The Area is fortunate to own and operate five camp properties, including the signature camps at Tangled Trees and Westover. These campgrounds are well utilized by units and community groups throughout the year, offering valuable outdoor experiences for many.

This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming 72 new Guiders, a testament to the ongoing enthusiasm and commitment within our community. Edmonton Area deeply



appreciates the dedication of our volunteers, whose hard work makes it possible for girls to experience adventure, friendship, and leadership. A special thank you goes to our Area Council, District Commissioners, Advisers, and Trainers, whose time and expertise are vital in keeping Edmonton Area strong and thriving.

Area events remain a core part of our programming. One of the most popular events was Area Arts Day, where over 200 girls had the chance to express themselves creatively through various artistic experiences. The Ranger Recruitment Camp, now in its second year, invited 30 girls from the Pathfinders and Rangers to a winter camp where they learned about the Ranger program and the

opportunities available to them. We also celebrated the achievements of 23 girls who earned Girl Guides of Canada's highest youth awards, with a special ceremony that included friends and family to honor these outstanding accomplishments.

In addition to our youth events, we hosted two well-attended adult gatherings. Camp Nite Out saw nearly 60 Guiders come together for a fun-filled evening of camp-themed games, food, and socializing. The Adult Training Camp, returning after a pandemic pause, brought over 50 adult members together for a weekend of skill-building, learning, and sharing knowledge.

Edmonton Area is deeply grateful to the many volunteers who devote their time and energy to make these events possible. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on the momentum of this year and further grow an inclusive and vibrant Guiding community within Edmonton Area.



Parkland Area

Area Commissioner – Natalie Bruinius

Parkland Area was full of energy and adventure throughout 2024–25!

In June 2024, Airdrie, Alberta's two Districts hosted a memorable two-night camp welcoming over 200 members from Sparks to Rangers. The event kicked off with a dazzling *Star Party* led by Dr. Stephen Jeans, featuring telescopes, movie



domes, and expert-led astronomy stations. The next day was packed with fun and variety—ceramic mug painting, giant outdoor games, meaningful service projects, real and plastic axe throwing, a cozy campfire, delicious food, and great friends. Even a little rain couldn't dampen the excitement at this incredible bridging camp to close out the Guiding year!

Parkland girls were also busy traveling across Canada and beyond. In July 2024, a group of 8 Rangers and 2 Guiders explored Pax Lodge, Italy, and Our Chalet—returning home with unforgettable memories and plenty of photos. In August, 11 Pathfinders and 3 Guiders ventured north to the Yukon for another incredible experience.

Throughout the year, Parkland Area proudly celebrated girls and Guiders alike at advancement ceremonies and award events. We were especially thrilled to have two Ranger-aged members receive scholarships—an achievement we are incredibly proud of!

Winter adventures were plentiful too! Kussamo and Diamond Willow Districts hit the slopes together with a fun tubing event at Canyon Ski Hill, while countless unit camps kept the spirit of Guiding alive all season long.

As the 2024–25 Guiding year winds down, excitement is still building with another independent trip unit preparing to visit Pax Lodge—this time with an amazing 19 girls! Plans are also underway for a large Area-wide camp for Guides to Trex in June 2025, featuring canoeing and a wide range of outdoor skills and activities.

Parkland Area is definitely on the move—and we can't wait to see where we go next!

Peace River Area

Area Commissioner – Diane Wereley

Peace River Area had a busy and rewarding year filled with learning, camping, and community engagement. One of the year's highlights was hosting their largest-ever *Big Sister, Little Sister Camp* at Camp Kupaswin, where younger and older girls had the chance to build friendships, develop leadership skills, and enjoy classic camp activities together. The Area also held a vibrant *Arts Camp*, where girls expressed their creativity through music, drama, and a variety of hands-on crafts.

Units across the Area participated in meaningful community events, including a joint *Thinking Day* celebration with local Scouts, fostering a spirit of unity and shared purpose. Girls also took part in a *Remembrance Day* service, proudly representing Girl Guides and paying tribute to those who have served.

Guiders in the Area came together for a weekend dedicated to learning, connection, and fun. The event provided valuable opportunities for training, sharing ideas, and strengthening the bonds of sisterhood that help support great Guiding experiences year-round.



Prairie Rose Area

Area Commissioners - Vacant

Prairie Rose Area had a fun and adventure-filled year with a wide variety of activities that helped girls connect with each other and their communities while building skills and having fun.

The Rangers took a memorable trip to Canmore, where they enjoyed hiking,

crafts, and making the most of the rainy weather. They also explored the outdoors further with a trip to Kananaskis, attended several camps, including a Leap Year Bridging Camp, Snow Camp (with plenty of snow!), and participated in the thrilling Nite Trek.

Units across the Area embraced community service and creative projects. Girls made soap, created Hearts for the Heart Sense as part of a community service initiative, and organized a "Birthday Party in a Box" donation for the local food bank. They also visited the local fire station and learned about the important role of firefighters in the community.

There was no shortage of adventure and friendly competition—girls took part in an Iron Chef competition, a cardboard building challenge, and

the Secret 3K walk in support of inclusive sports and movement.

Celebrations and outings included participating in a local parade, enjoying a Pink Tea, and attending a performance of the Wizard of Oz. In the highlight of the year, girls traveled for a memorable Vancouver Island trip.

The HoKahNah District brought Guiders together by hosting a dedicated Guider event, reinforcing support and camaraderie among volunteers.

Prairie Rose Area continues to offer diverse, exciting experiences that empower girls and Guiders to grow, lead, and have fun.



Tamarac Area

Area Commissioner – Dougie Edwards

Tamarac Area Guiders and girls had a fun and memorable year. A major highlight was Thinking Day, where over 400 members gathered at the MacKenzie Conference Centre in Drayton Valley for a day of round robin activities, trader exchanges, and joyful campfire singing.

Twin Rivers District enjoyed strong unit programming and a winter camp at YoWoChAs. Two leaders and five girls travelled to Costa Rica for an unforgettable 10-day adventure.

Members also honoured veterans on Remembrance Day and launched a district crest design contest.



St. Albert District began 2024 with 16 units and marked Thinking Day with a WAGGGS-themed event. Their first-ever cookie blitz combined door-to-door, mall, and drive-thru sales. Units participated in branch-specific camps, attended the musical *The Clover Report*, and wrapped up summer with Guiding in the Park.

The STARS Trefoil Guild, celebrating its 20th anniversary, continues to support St. Albert District and Tamarac Area through monthly gatherings and community involvement.

Prairie Wind District had a sleepover at the Edmonton Valley Zoo, which the girls loved. Northern Rivers District saw exciting events including bison farm visits, Harry Potter-themed

enrolment, pajama parties, and sleepovers in Morinville, Barrhead, Gibbons, Whitecourt, and at TWOSE in Edmonton.

Tamarac Area's spirit of adventure and community continues to shine, thanks to the dedication of our Guiders and the enthusiasm of our girls.

Woodsmoke Area

Area Commissioner – Sara Swanson

Woodsmoke Area had a busy and exciting year. The Jr Branch Winter Camp, *Full STEAM Ahead*, focused on STEAM-based activities including robots, LEGO, Oobleck, and more. It was a fun and engaging adventure for budding scientists. The Sr Branch Winter Camp, *A Trip to the Tropics*, brought warmth to winter with beach-themed activities that our older girls thoroughly enjoyed. The Area also hosted the annual Woodsmoke Area Awards Banquet, which included special recognition for our Sr Branch members. Members from across the Area took part in Thinking Day celebrations, and Guiders and girls from Lloydminster proudly continued the tradition of hosting the 82nd Annual Strawberry Tea.



A better world, by girls.





Gone Home

Iola Lemon (Woodsmoke Area)
Joyce Genereux (Tamarac Area)
Mary Carter (Prairie Rose Area)
Carol Douglas (Calgary Area)

Winie Hammerlindl (Calgary Area)
Helen Backhouse (Calgary Area)
Paula Dunbar (Tamarac Area)
Lissi Westergaard (Edmonton Area)
Crystal Power (Peace River)

And any others that held a spot in our Guiding hearts.

Honorary Patrons

The Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta
The Honourable Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon

Honourary Vice Presidents

Rosalyn Schmidt
Donna Leonard Robb
Chris Burton
Betty Slater

Margaret Utgoff
Beverly Simpson Headon
Kathy Batty
Tracy Burton

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

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Many donations are received in support of Guiding by the
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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](#).