



County Update September 2023



Welcome from the County Commissioner

After the summer holidays, I always find the first few weeks busy as we get into the new term. Last week I attended the region steering meeting and afterwards joined Leith Hill at their Leaders weekend in Faurefold to present George Ede with her Region Chief Commissioners weekend. I was made to feel so welcome. Congratulations again to George and my thanks to Leith Hill. I met up with the division commissioners over the summer to hear about what you are all up to across the county.

This weekend Surrey East is hosting the Peer Education training weekend. We have 4 Peer educators in Surrey East and it would be great for us to have someone to be their coordinator, to liaise between region and the young members visiting units.

The old Leadership qualification is finally being withdrawn on 30th September as it has been replaced by the leadership development programme which people are finding significantly better. Thank you to everyone involved in supporting this transition.

Enjoy your autumn term.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner



Final reminder to sign up for our County Day

All volunteers in Surrey East are welcome to join our County day on Sunday 24th September from 9.30 to 3.30pm at Faurefold, Dorking RH4 3LX

Please [click here to book you place.](#)

Choose from a range of outdoor activities to share with your units.
Meet the county team and other volunteers across the county.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

Click here to register your place - [Upcoming Events > Training > Leadership Development Programme > – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

County Day

Sunday 24th September 9.30am to 3.30pm – training for all volunteers across Surrey East with an outdoor theme. Firelighting, whittling, nature craft.

Register here [Upcoming Events > Training > County Day > – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)



First Response:

[First Response | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

Sat 2nd December – Full one day course face to face – Empire Hall, Horley.

Safe Space 3:

Sat 18th Nov 9-12 Face to Face – Fetcham Guide hall.

[Training | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

A leader with safe space 3 is required at all meetings, events and activities. Please do sign up above if you haven't done one before. A renewal e-learning is now available on the learning development

Did you know?

Getting set for the new term:

All units must have at least one leader with a safe space level 3, and at least one with first aid training. In practice, we'd recommend that more than one leader hold these qualifications, so they're still compliant if a particular leader can't attend.

If you have completed your safe space 3 before, you can now renew via e-learning on the learning platform. Anyone completing it for the first time, must attend a webinar or face to face training.

Annuals subs/budgeting:

We already know that annual subs for 2024 will be £42 plus whatever levy amount County, Division and Districts apply. Please do ensure unit leaders/treasurers are [budgeting effectively](#) and are ready to be able to pay the annual membership fee next February.

Young Leaders/DofE volunteers

Please ensure that they complete the appropriate [new starter form](#) and are registered on GO within the first 2-3 weeks of joining.

Volunteering Opportunities

Division Commissioner

We are looking to appoint new Division Commissioners in Leatherhead, Leith Hill and Downs Heath as these roles are currently vacant. This is an exciting opportunity for people within these areas to join the county team and to support leaders in their local area.

Interested? Please speak directly Kate Fowles or contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more.

Peer Education Coordinator

Do you have a little time to support guiding?

We would love a volunteer to provide some support to the peer educators in Surrey East, liaising with region and managing requests from units for them to attend to share important topics such as Think Resilient, Breaking Free and Safe the World.

We currently have 4 peer educators and would ideally like to encourage a few more rangers/young leaders to consider this. Find out more about peer education [here](#).

This role would suit a District/Division/County Helper.

Please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more.

Queens Guide Coordinator

Do you have a little time to support guiding?

We currently have 2 Queens Guide candidates working on the new scheme introduced last year and need a coordinator to take time to understand the scheme, liaise with other Queens guide coordinators and support these individuals – ideally promoting the scheme across the county to other young members aged 16-30. Find out more about the Queens Guide scheme [here](#).

This role would suit a District/Division/County Helper.

Interested? Please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more.

County Newsletter

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion in our next county newsletter is Friday 15th December. We welcome all contributions from units, districts, divisions, or county – please email them to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com.

County Outdoor Day – Sunday 24th September 9.30–3.30 at Faurefold

Outdoor County day will be a fantastic opportunity to spend time at Faurefold learning new crafts, skills and ideas. It is open to all volunteers in girlguiding Surrey East including leaders, young leaders and unit helpers.

Drinks and snacks will be available – If possible, please bring your own mug and let us know about any allergies or dietary restrictions we may need to be aware of.

Session one is a choice of:

- **Low ropes Team Challenge**– Leader briefing and entry into a team competition. – A Chance to learn how to take your girls on the low rope challenge course at Faurefold, followed by a friendly timed competition to complete the course quicker than your guiding friends.
- **Basic Fire lighting including UMAs and Skills builders for all sections.** – Perfect for Rainbow and Brownie leaders and less experienced Guide leaders who would like to gain the confidence to complete some of the Unit Meeting Activities and Skills builders
- **Indoor training- Promote units through social media**– including setting up twitter etc/ rules Facebook pages and using Social Media and Good photos (Taking and management / storage)

Lunch

Please bring your own lunch for a long lunch break with chance to socialise with other leaders, verify your identity for your DBS, find out about become a leadership mentor, visit the volunteer shop (pre order available), try the trails and orienteering at Faurefold attend a campfire sing song.

Session two a choice of:

- **Basic Map reading/ Basic navigation**– the opportunity to learn some basic map reading skills and take some skills and ideas back to your unit.
- **Low ropes Team Challenge**– Leader briefing and entry into a team competition. A Chance to learn how to take your girls on the low rope challenge course at Faurefold, followed by a friendly timed competition to complete the course quicker than your guiding friends.
- **Intermediate fire lighting and cooking – with links to UMAs and Skills builders**

Please click here to book

<https://forms.gle/S36x2iN4brDbDwzm6>



Faurefold News

House Availability

After a busy summer, the Holiday House is now booked up almost every weekend until December- there is one weekend free at the house **21st- 22nd October**. Book quickly to avoid disappointment!

There is limited availability on weekends through March and April and we are currently taking bookings from June on.

Don't forget we have camping equipment available and lots of activities onsite, including our brand new Low Ropes adventure course. Please note: Leaders need to attend a short training before using the course. There are training sessions available during County Day on 24th September.

Checkout our on-site activities and download activity sheets here <https://www.faurefold.co.uk/activity-finder/> or plan an offsite adventure <https://www.faurefold.co.uk/out-and-about/>



Training and Activity Centres

You will no doubt have seen the update in August which announced the sale of the Guiding training and activity centres (TACs). Everyone is welcome to attend the **all member call** on 27th September to hear from the chief exec directly. Please do watch the recording of the last one to understand the rationale for this decision. <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-volunteers/updates-for-our-members/activity-centre-update/>

Ultimately their future will depend on the proposals they receive, and the outcome of any negotiation. The trustees will be looking to provide the best outcome for girlguiding.

Our nearest sites are Blacklands in Sussex and Foxlease in Hampshire. All suggestions and proposals should be raised to HQ via enquiries.property@girlguiding.org.uk which I done myself and have encouraged Surrey East members to do. The sites remain open until 31st December 2023.



Scoutabout 2024 has launched!

The triennial event for over 6000 Surrey Scouts and Guides will be held at Ardingly Showground **28 – 30 June 2024**. If your Guide unit has been before you will know what good things are in store and if you are new to Girlguiding or have never been, prepare to be amazed! It really is a weekend to remember.

The Scoutabout 2024 website is now open at www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/scoutabout which will give you lots of information and more will be added in the coming months.

If you have not been before or if you just want to relive the good times, please do look at the gallery pictures and see what it is all about. If you are a new leader, do talk to your Division Commissioner or other leaders who have been. If you're not with a Guide unit there are lots of volunteering opportunities on offer! Just go to the website for details and to register.

You can follow Scoutabout on social media here:

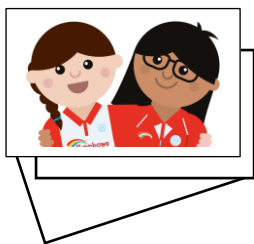
X: www.twitter.com/scoutaboutlive

Facebook: www.fb.com/scoutaboutlive

Instagram: www.instagram.com/scoutaboutlive

Every Guide main unit leader has been emailed these details already but if you have any questions please contact Mary Zoeller (Surrey East Scoutabout representative) at: Mary.Zoeller@scoutabout.org.uk





County photo competition

We are launching a Surrey East county photo competition. It will have 4 categories for you to enter:

- The best of unit guiding
- Adventurous young members
- Fun in volunteering
- Including all.



*Its aim is to increase our stock of quality images to use in social media.
To encourage all to consider the new girlguiding photography principles
To have fun.*

Why not have a photography evening and select the best photos for the competition?

Rules:

- Open to units and all members and recognised volunteers in girlguiding Surrey East.
- Photos must be originals that you have taken.
- Young members (under 18) must submit their photos via their leaders or local commissioner to ensure appropriate written consent has been obtained. It is recommended that units select their favourite images to enter one or more of the categories.
- When photographing children and young people under the age of 18, leaders need to get written consent from their parent or carer. This should be noted on their membership record on Go – 'Photos/videos can be shared and published and used for marketing'. Ask the girls as well for their permission when taking photos of them.
- For adult members (18+) obtain their permission too, and ensure they update their membership record on Go as above to given permission for the photo to be shared and published and used for marketing.
- Images should comply with the [girlguiding photography principles](#). They should feel colourful and bright as we're a vibrant youth brand.

Please submit your entries via the [Photography submission form](#). The closing date will be **Friday 20th October 2023**. The winning photos will be used to promote guiding in Surrey East.

If you have any questions or would like to be on the judging panel, please email me – surreyeastcc@btinternet.com.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner