



County Update February 2025



Welcome from the County Commissioner

Thank you to everyone who has joined our [Coffee and Chats](#) around the county. It's been great to chat and hear your views of Guiding in Surrey East. The final one is at [Faurefold on Sunday 16th March](#). It would be great to see you.

We are very excited to invite you to our **County Volunteers Together** day: a day where volunteers from Surrey East can get together and share ideas and celebrate being part of Guiding. There will be opportunity to discuss specific areas such as finance, safeguarding, young leader development and we will explore how to adapt activities for various situations, such as non-readers, physical disability, limited space, no resources. Please do [sign up today](#). Leaders, unit helpers, young leaders, commissioners, advisers – everyone is welcome.

There are spaces on the [next first response course on 17th May](#), so please check on Go or the learning platform to see when yours expires and sign up now, if you would like to attend.

Thank you for everything you do and have fun in the Spring term.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner
Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com



Year-end accounts and annual subscriptions

Please ensure your units annual subs are paid promptly **now** so they can be received and fully processed ahead of the final deadline of 28 March 25. Any issues please refer to your commissioner or contact me directly.

If you are a commissioner, unit leader/unit administrator: Please ensure your annual accounts are completed, independently reviewed and a copy of your annual accounts statement and statement of assets and liabilities is shared with the level above, together with the signed and dated independent reviewer checklist and confirmation form **no more than 3 months** after the end of the financial year. [Check here for further details](#) and requirements for charities with an income over £10k.



Musicals 2025 will be held on **Saturday 29th March 2025**
at **Leatherhead Theatre**.

Join us for an evening of songs, dancing and entertainment featuring over one hundred members of Girlguiding Surrey East from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild!

Tickets £20- on sale now

[Events from January 26, 2025 – December 10, 2025 › LIVE SHOWS › – The Leatherhead Theatre](#) or Box

Office: 01372 365141

Surrey East leaders are welcome to bring their units to watch the dress rehearsal at 2:30pm for the reduced price of £10 per person.

Email: musigalsinfo@gmail.com for further details.

We would love to see you there!

International Opportunities

Applications are now open for young members to take part in region international adventures in 2026. Do you know a Guide, Ranger or young leader who will be 14-17 in Summer 2026 who would be interested? If so, please make sure they find out about our international adventures. Use these [downloadable flyers and text](#) to help you share the word.

To express an interest in being part of this adventure, young members are required to complete the application form before midnight on 31 March 2025. [Find out more on our website](#).

Surrey East Leaders Weekend 2025

Join us for a weekend of fun and friendship

Our county weekend for Surrey East volunteers is being held at [Hautbois Activity Centre](#), Norfolk, costing £135 per head. This price includes all meals from Friday evening including Sunday lunch, plus 3 adventurous activities. Rooms are either twin rooms or rooms of four to eleven. Single rooms may be available subject to availability. Linen and towels provided.

Oh and a badge! If you would like to join us, please email Kate at katefowles@outlook.com

A deposit of £70 will be required by 7 March. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

Modules are available on the learning platform and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars. If you prefer face to face – contact surreyeasttraining@gmail.com for the next available face to face training.



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

- One day full course – 17 May at Empire Hall, Horley 9am-4pm [Book here.](#)

Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires or register your interest by emailing surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

County Volunteers Together

Combines training and celebration in one day. All volunteers are welcome to attend county day on Saturday 26 April at Horley Baptist Church. [County Volunteers Together Celebration and Training Day | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)



Residential training

Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what involved in the Going Away with scheme? Looking for assessment? [Going Away with Scheme | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#). If you need any additional support, please [contact Jane Luff](#), our county outdoor/residential adviser.

Commissioner/Advisers day

held Empire Hall on Saturday 22nd March 2025 from 9am to 1pm

We would like to invite all commissioners, advisers, and county role holders to a morning workshop. This invite is extended to all leaders in the county who may be interested in one of these roles in the future.

During the morning, we will share some of the feedback from the coffee and chats. We will also provide a county update that you can take back to your district and divisions.

Considering the coffee and chat feedback, we will share experiences and best practice to help you manage some of the more challenging situations you may encounter in your roles. Most importantly it will be an opportunity to meet other commissioners and role holders.

[Please register your interest here.](#)

Did you know?

Safe Space 3/safer guiding

It is still essential to have someone at **all** meetings with a valid safe space 3, or the full safer guiding completed since December when it was introduced. If you did safe space 1 and 2 previously, it will say on Go and the learning platform that you are compliant with safer guiding as required for your role, but if you didn't have safe space 3, you still don't! If you want to address this gap, please complete safer guiding on the learning platform.

Young Leader Development

There is a [welcome booklet](#) for young leaders to get started. Once its complete, young leaders will be awarded the 'I take the lead' badge and the unit leader can update their record on Go. Take a look at the [young leader development programme](#), to see what comes next.

Adventure Map

Are you looking for a venue for your next residential? Keen to try somewhere new?

On the guiding website, there is an adventure map which links to approved venues across the UK – including the sites in our county Faurefold and Little Acres.

Find our more here: [Adventures in guiding | Girlguiding](#).

Active Pending

If you have a role that is currently active pending, that you no longer do, please can you let your local commissioner know, or me directly so we can update Go and deactivate the role. It is important that Go is aligned to the role(s) that you are active in.

There are lots of reasons a role may become active pending. It may be because you have not completed the mandatory recruitment checks or training necessary for the role. It may also be because your role has expired, at which stage you should discuss with your commissioner whether to continue in the role or to explore another role.

Volunteering Opportunities

Reigate Division Commissioner

We are actively recruiting for the next Division commissioner(s) for Reigate as Sonia and Emma are coming to the end of their extended term in the role. Reigate division includes the districts of Merstham, Horley East, Horley West, Redhill and Reigate Park.

Becoming a commissioner enables you to influence guiding in your local area in a role supporting volunteers. The division commissioner is also a key member of the county executive committee who meet 3-4 times per year. If you are interested or would like to nominate anyone, please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com, directly.