



County Update March 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. I'd like to thank the 70+ people who joined us and have us lots of great ideas that we will include in our county plans.

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



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 to confirm your place. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

County day

At the coffee and chats we asked for your views on County day.

What is county day? Historically county day was a mandatory training day for volunteers. This has changed over the years as much of the training is available via the learning platform and as a result attendance has declined too.

This is what some of you who have attended in recent years said:

- Good experience to speak with other leaders and learn new skills, gain ideas from others. (brownie leader)
- Love county day for getting together with other leaders and catching up. Some sessions more interesting than others. (brownie leader)
- Valuable day. Good networking and sharing ideas. (rainbow/brownie/guide leader)
- Enjoy meeting people. Value the training – like to make full use of the day. (brownie/guide leader)
- Useful for specific courses, meeting connections, sharing ideas (guide/ranger leader)

We are very lucky to have a county day, where volunteers can come together and share their experiences. We focus them on key areas like county-wide updates, recent changes and share ideas that you can use in your unit meetings. There is also plenty of time to chat with friends and celebrate being a volunteer in Surrey East.

In 2025, we have called our county day '**County Volunteers Together**' – everyone who attends will receive an exclusive badge. It is being held on Saturday 26th April 9.00–3.30 at Horley Baptist church. You will be able to try various skills builder activities and leave with the confidence to run them with your units, including ideas on how to adapt the activities to support individual needs and perhaps with limited space and/or minimal resources.

Please do [sign up today](#). Leaders, unit helpers, young leaders, commissioners, advisers – everyone is welcome. 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](#).

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.

Are you due/overdue an award?

If you are due to receive a long service award, or any other guiding award, we would be delighted to present it to you at County Volunteers Together. Long service awards are given to members who have completed 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60 years' service. To check your length of service you need to log in to Go and view your profile. Find out more about guiding awards [here](#).

Simply sign up to attend and let the following person in your division know by 11th April so we can purchase your award:

Downs Heath – surreyeastcc@btinternet.com

Epsom – chowlers@aol.com

Leatherhead – Clare.Coker@girlguidingsurreyeast.org.uk

Leith Hill – Jodi.L.Morton@outlook.com

Oxted – godstoneedivision@gmail.com

Reigate – ggreigatedivision@gmail.com

If you are unsure which division, you are in, please refer to surreyeastcc@btinternet.com.

If you have received your award and it's not recorded on Go under My achievements, please email surreyeastcc@btinternet.com stating the award and presentation date, and we will add it for you.

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 out 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.

County Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2025

If you would like your activity or event included in our next edition of the County Newsletter to be published in July, please submit your article to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com.

Any article is always better if accompanied by photos but please ensure that you have permission for them to be used before sharing them. Please give a contact name, email and telephone no. with every contribution (even if you wish it to be published anonymously), and mention that it is for the County Newsletter. We would love to hear from you – no story is too small to be included. The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 4th July 2025

I look forward to hearing from you!

Alexia Beale County newsletter coordinator