



County Update July 2025



Welcome from the County Commissioner

As the summer term draws to a close, it is great to reflect on all the wonderful things we have been doing. Please look at our amazing [Spring/Summer County Newsletter](#). Thank you to everyone who contributed to it and to Alexia, our newsletter editor.

There are some important updates in the **Did you Know** section this month so please do read them. Also you should be aware that the old young leader qualification has expired so any young leaders who wish to earn a qualification now need to do the [young leader development programme](#) introduced last June.

For everyone going on guiding residential in the UK and international, have a great time. Please enjoy the summer break. There will be no update in August so the next one will be September. Thank you for everything you do.

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



Commissioner update

Reigate Division

To support transition to a new division commissioner, Sonia and Emma have agreed to continue as joint division commissioners until the end of 2025. Fi Exley has been appointed Division administrator and will support them over the next term.

Leatherhead Division

We are delighted to share that Priya Sharp has been appointed district commissioner for Bookham and Effingham. Thank you to Sharren Bridges and Sue Irons for all that they have done as DCs and for supporting Priya as she transitions into the role.

We currently have vacancies for Division commissioners in Epsom, Downs Heath and Leith Hill. This role is important to oversee activity within your local area and provide the essential link between the units and the county. It really makes a difference having someone in this role. Please do contact [Beverly](#) or [Kate Fowles](#) to find out more.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

Surrey East and West organise one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules. We have dates available through 2025 – so [please register now](#) to attend.

Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars. If you have a training query, please refer to county training led by Lorna Smith surreyeasttraining@gmail.com.



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

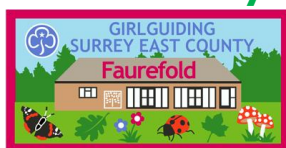
Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires. Our next county courses are [28 September](#) and [4 October](#). Any questions or to be added to the waitlist for the next available course, please refer to our first response training coordinator, Maria Young, surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

Residential training

Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what involved in the Going Away with scheme? Are you a leader who needs to refresh your knowledge? Please register for the next residential training day in March 2026 – [Residential Qualification Training Day – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#).

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.

Faurefold Activity days



Guides Activity Day Saturday 20 September 2025

[Book places](#) for your guide unit now.

We have a fabulous day planned, just what guides need to kick off the autumn term. Activities will be willow-weaving, bottle top tree, fencing (the sport), campfire pizza's, rope worms, giant games and a low ropes team challenge. Get active in the woods. Max 75 guides.

Did you know?

Volunteer notifications of A Safe Space expiry

All guiding volunteers have a responsibility to comply with the code of conduct including being responsible for keeping your training up to date. This is detailed more fully on the [guiding website](#).

You can see when your own mandatory training is due to expire by looking on Go at the options under your name and reviewing '**My safe practice summary**'.

You will receive reminders via Go when they are due, but please do ensure you take the time to complete it ahead of the deadline. Your role will become active pending when you are at risk (ie within 40 days of the deadline) and your volunteering and access in Go will be limited until your DBS or safer guiding has been renewed.

Clarification on Safer Guiding and DBS checks for members turning 18 and residential

Once a member turns 18 years old, the 14–17-year-old A Safe Space course expires as does their role as a young leader. The member can then volunteer as a unit helper or a leader in training and both roles require Safer Guiding full course. Once registered as an adult volunteer there is a 40-day period to complete the recruitment and vetting procedure and complete safer guiding and a DBS check.

In short, an 18-year-old must complete the Safer Guiding full course before staying over on a residential – and must be supervised if visiting for the day. A REN cannot be authorised if the adults staying over are not on Go with a completed Safer Guiding and DBS.

If you are planning an event and you need to request the DBS check before a young member turns 18, the event organiser or commissioner needs to check they've signed up to the event on GO. Email disclosures@girlguiding.org.uk, with the subject line 'Under 18 Disclosure check', to ask Girlguiding HQ to trigger it manually. There's no need to do this more than 3 months in advance.

Update on external first aid course verification

We are aware that volunteers are experiencing difficulties getting their external first aid courses verified via the Learning Platform. As such, to use your current external first aid qualification please use the following [process](#) which will be administered by the L&D team in the region office:

- volunteer to send a copy of their certificate, syllabus and the completed external first aid information form (refer to process above) to info@girlguidinglaser.org.uk
- The L&D team will confirm they have everything the verifiers need, and that the volunteer has completed the e-learning course.
- The information will be sent to our county verifiers to review.
- If the verifiers identify gaps, solutions will be given to fill them such as additional reading, or meeting with one of our 1st response trainers.
- Once confirmed the syllabus has been covered, the L&D team will update the volunteer's GO record (this will match the dates of the external training course completed)