



County Update October 2025



Welcome from the County Commissioner

We've just returned from the Leaders away weekend. It was lovely to spend the weekend together at Hautbois activity centre in Norfolk sharing our guiding experiences and enjoying the fun ourselves. Thank you to Kate Fowles and Jane Luff for organising this for us and I'm excited to share we are already exploring ideas for next year.

It was also great to see some of our commissioners at the Region Horizon's conference in Horsham. We had a chance to talk face to face with staff from Headquarters who support us and hear more about guiding strategy and development and ask questions. I am also delighted to share that you were all recognised with a Team Award at the [Central Surrey Volunteers Awards](#) for running units throughout the county, week after week, giving girls fantastic opportunities that they will always remember. Be proud of what you do, your time, your efforts, your fun, you are valued and recognised!

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



Annual subscriptions 2026

The county levy for 2026 is confirmed as £1.75 per member as per 2025.

The [annual subscription](#) to be paid in February 2026 will therefore be £49.25 per member (volunteers and young members) plus any levy set by your division and district, if applicable.

Sad News

We are sorry to share the news that Joan Wigham has passed away. Joan was a brownie leader with 1st Ockley Brownies from 1987 to 2007. She was a division residential adviser and then became Leith Hill division commissioner in 1999, for which she received the county good service award. She was also a founder member of Leith Hill Trefoil. In the county, she was a county enquiry coordinator and comms and PR adviser. Most recently Joan also helped at Beare Green rainbows and brownies.

Joan's funeral was held at Leatherhead Crematorium on 17 October and was attended by a few of her guiding friends. Our condolences to her family and friends.

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 course is [22 November](#). 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. Also if you have an external, non-guiding first aid qualification based on a recognised course that is a minimum of 6-hours, you can ask region to verify this via this process – [Approving non Girlguiding 1st Response courses | Girlguiding LaSER](#).

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.

Young Leader Development

Do you have any young leaders in your unit? Young leaders are volunteers aged 14-17.

We are keen to support leaders with young leaders so are introducing a dedicated young leader coordinator in each division. Their role is to help you and your commissioner to develop young leaders in your unit. Due to their age, they are unable to contact YLs directly.

Downs Heath – Ella Witney
Leith Hill – Madeleine Powell

Epsom – Alex Lorenz
Leatherhead – Ash Lloyd

Godstone – Steph Leeson
Reigate – Joanne Hayward

You can help your young leader(s) by introducing them to the YL [welcome leaflet](#) which provides them (and you, the leader) with step-by-step instructions. Once this is completed you can give them the 'I take the lead' badge.



Once this is done – please encourage them to move onto the YL development Programme – [Take our young leader development programme | Girlguiding](#)

Did you know?

Safer Guiding – need help to complete the quiz?

[Safer Guiding](#) is an e-learning made up of 4 modules (Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Including All and Data Protection) available on the Girlguiding Learning Platform and the full course is required for everyone who volunteers in a girl-facing role.

The safer guiding e-learning has 4 short quizzes that volunteers need to pass to complete the course. There are 3 attempts to pass each quiz, and after the third attempt the quiz will show as locked. You should complete other modules in the course but unless all 4 quizzes are passed then the overall course will remain as 'in progress'.

If you fail 1 quiz

Please contact your commissioner to arrange for [Lorna Smith](#), our county safer guiding trainer, to contact you check to your understanding of the topic. Once satisfied, completion will be added directly to GO as a local training. Please do double check the remaining sections and quizzes are fully completed on the platform before doing this.

If you fail 2 or more quizzes

Please book yourself onto one of the trainer-led sessions on the [learning platform](#). You can choose a webinar or face to face training, whichever you prefer.

Not sure who your commissioner is?

Please ask your leader or contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly.

Having technical issues with your e-learning?

It is best to complete all guiding e-learning on a computer or tablet.

Please read the onscreen instructions carefully to ensure you follow it through, and complete questions asked. If you experience problems, take a picture of the screen to show your progress and email this together with your membership or enquiry number to memberships@girlguiding.org.uk.

SCRAM 2026



This year we're celebrating 25 years of SCRAM in a new location!

The triennial event for Surrey Cub Scouts and Brownies will be held at Apps Court Farm on the 20 June 2026. If you are new to Guiding or have never been, prepare to be amazed! It really is a day to remember!

If you are not in the Brownie section, the Brownie leaders would really appreciate your help with running events, so please consider offering to support a unit on the day.

The SCRAM 2026 website is now open at <https://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/scram> which will give you lots of information and more will be added in the coming months.

We encourage all Brownie units to join us for what promises to be an incredible day of activities!

Facebook: /scramlive

X: @surreyscouts

Walking Level 1

Do you like walking? Would you like to know more about navigating and map reading? Would you like more confidence in taking your unit out for adventures in the countryside? Then the Level 1 Walking Qualification could be for you!

This 2-day course is open to volunteers in Surrey East and Surrey West. 28th Feb 2026 at Little Acres Campsite, Epsom and 14th Mar 2026 at Holmbury St Mary Village Hall

It covers everything from map reading and route planning to risk management and leadership.

[Full information and booking](#)