



County Update January 2026



Welcome from the County Commissioner

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026. I'm delighted to share our Autumn/Winter edition of the [County Newsletter](#) which provides terrific round up of our guiding adventures in Surrey East for Autumn/Winter 2025!

2026 is my 5th year as county commissioner and I am in discussion with region about potentially extending. I am very keen to focus more of my time in recruitment and retention of volunteers this year. You can really help me by ensuring that you renew your DBS and safer guiding when asked and certainly **before it expires**. Not only does this ensure that you are fully up to date with current practice but also eliminates the unnecessary chasing and processes that follow when people reach the final deadline and sadly membership is denied or withdrawn for non-compliance. Please do ask if you need help and don't wait until you get to this stage.

For those of you who are commissioners/advisers and the county team, I cannot thank you enough for all that you do to support guiding locally. I am so proud to be county commissioner for Girlguiding Surrey East, to lead such an amazing team of volunteers who do so much to help girls and young women know they can do anything.

As we get setup for the Spring term and the lighter evenings, I know you will have lots of lovely things planned in your units and hope that you have a great term.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner
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County Badges



We have identified that the woven county badges are now only available as a bespoke order with a minimum quantity of 1000. Volunteer shops can now buy smaller quantities from [Jan White](#), our county badge secretary, so they are available locally to unit leaders/administrators.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

We have one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules. The next one is 8 March at Faurefold, Westcott, so [please register now](#) to secure your place. More dates will be scheduled through 2026 in the new year. Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars.

LDP Mentors – If you are an existing LDP Mentor or a volunteer who is interested in finding out more about being a mentor to support volunteers to become leaders, please sign up for the [Mentor Training – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#) on 28 January 2026 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Adjustment plans – are you a leader or leader in training, who would like a better understanding of the [adjustment plans](#) and how to use them to support individuals in your units and events? If so, please complete the [Adjustment plan training form](#) to register for the 1-hour zoom training being offered by the inclusion team on Thursday 22 January 2026 at 7pm.



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

Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires. We will be adding more very soon. 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's 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.

Leaders who have Young Leaders – if you would like to know more about the Young Leader Development Programme, Surrey West county have some spaces on their training to help leaders with young leaders to know more about the scheme being held on 25 January 1.30–3.30pm in Woking. Please sign up directly if you are interested – [Supporting Young Leaders – Girlguiding Surrey West County](#)

If you have a training query, please refer to county training led by Lorna Smith surreyeasttraining@gmail.com.

Surrey East Leaders' Weekend 2026

25–27 September 2026

Join us for a weekend of fun and friendship

Our county weekend for Surrey East volunteers is being held at [Youlbury Scout site](#), based in Oxford, costing £135 per head. This price includes all meals from Friday evening including Sunday lunch (some of which will be catered by us), plus 3 adventurous activities and a badge for all participants. We have booked Bear's Den, a purpose-built lodge with en-suite rooms of 1, 2 and 4 people. It includes a kitchen, hall and drying room. If you would like to go please email Kate at kate.fowles@ggse.org.uk.

A deposit of £70 will be required by 6 March. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Payment to be made to "Girlguiding Surrey East" sort code 40-52-40 and account number 00022824 and state the reference "LW Oxford".

Surrey East

Young Leaders' Weekend 2026

We are excited to offer an activity weekend exclusively for young leaders

Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Signup details will be shared next term.

Faurefold Update



Faurefold is our county holiday house and campsite in Wescott, near Dorking. It is widely used for activities days, residentials, trainings and meetings.

HELP WANTED:

Prefer to be outside? **Join the site working party on Sunday 25 January 9am to 3pm.** Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for working outside and bring gardening gloves/tools, if possible. Your help will make a huge difference – we can't do it without you.