



County Update April 2026



Welcome from the County Commissioner

Thank you to you all for ensuring your annual subscriptions were paid on time. It really makes a difference when each unit has data on Go up to date, has budgeted to include this annual fee and is ready to pay it when the live invoice is due. This is now complete for 2026.

Each year I am invited to the Trefoil Guild annual meeting and am asked to share an update of Girlguiding Surrey East. It's great to take a moment to take stock of what has changed in Guiding over the prior year and what we have achieved. I have shared my [report on the county website](#), if you are interested to read what I said.

Congratulations to 6th Merstham Guides and Rangers who were selected to represent Guiding at the Trooping of the Colour this year. We hope they have an amazing time.

Calling all Young Leaders – please read below about our Young Leader weekend which is happening on 11-13 September 2026 and is open to all existing young leaders and if you are planning to be a young leader next term.

The summer term brings the lighter evenings and a great opportunity for us to take our units outdoors more and have adventures. Thank you for all that you do for Guiding in Surrey East.

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



Surrey East

Young Leaders' Weekend 2026

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

From 7.30pm on Friday 11 Sept to 3.30pm on Sunday 13 Sept 2026

At Bentley Copse, Guildford

[Young Leaders' weekend 2026 - Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

[Register here](#)

Upcoming Training



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

Please book yourself onto the next available course. All events/meetings must have at least one person with a current first response qualification. Next course is [First Response Full Day - Beare Green 12 July](#) or [First Response Full Day - Faurefold 20 September](#). Any questions, please refer to our first response training coordinator, Maria Young, surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

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? 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.

Other training

Is there a specific training that you think would be helpful or a topic that you would like to explore with advisers and other leaders? If so, please contact your local training adviser or Lorna Smith, our county training coordinator directly surreyeasttraining@gmail.com

Potential International Trip for Surrey East Leaders to Our Chalet in 2028

Our Chalet is first World Centre owned by WAGGGs based near Adelboden in the Swiss Alps. We are planning a leader's trip from 17 Sept 2028 to 23 Sept 2028 flying to Geneva and staying at the nearby Alpina Hotel and are keen to understand the level of interest.

In addition to visiting to Our Chalet and the pinning ceremony, we are considering a boat trip from Spiez on Lake Thun to Interlaken, visit to the Maison Callier chocolate factory, visit to Maison du Gruyere cheese factory and a trip to Oeschinensee with walk to the lake.

Interested? Fill in the form below to let us know.

[International trip to Our Chalet 2028](#)

Did you know?

Budgetting for 2027

We know that in 2027 the annual subscription is changing and there will no longer be a fee charged for volunteers. [Read more about it here](#). The amount that HQ will be charging has already been shared and all levels (region, county, division and district) are being asked to agree their levy in June so we can share the detail with you as early as possible. You will only pay for young members in 2027 so for now, please assume that your subs for February 2027 will be **£63.50 per young member plus any amounts your division/district normally charge**. There will be no charge for volunteers at any level. The exact amount will be confirmed later this year.

Risk Assessments

[Risk assessments](#) are required for all Girlguiding activities and are key part of keeping everyone safe and can help you to feel confident about your planning. Do involve others when you complete them especially your unit leadership team. You can also ask your commissioner/advisers or people who have done the same activities before. To help you there are now pre-filled risk assessments for new venues, annual risk assessments, activities at the normal meeting place, activities away from the meeting place, residentials, international trips and large-scale events (over 100 participants). There are also property risk assessment templates too.

Safer Guiding

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 more than 1, you will need to do a webinar or face to face training.

County Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2026

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. Please ensure that you have permission for any pictures to be used before sharing them. We would love to hear from you – no story is too small to be included. The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 3 July 2026.

I look forward to hearing from you!
Alexia Beale County newsletter coordinator

Surrey East Leaders' Weekend 2026 25-27 September 2026

Join us for a weekend of fun and friendship

FINAL CALL

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 is required. 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".

Faurefold Activity days



[Rainbow Activity Day Booking – 17 May 2026 10am to 4pm](#) – Fully Booked
[Brownies Activity Day Booking – 16 May 2026 10am to 4pm](#) - Spaces Available

Fun outdoors – with games, trails, nature table, woodland crafts, outdoor cooking, campfire singing and more.

SCRAM 2026



This year we're celebrating 25 years of SCRAM – For those of you have signed up – a quick reminder that **final numbers and payment is due on 22 May 2026**. Participating leaders to all submit the final activity details and risk assessment.

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! For more information – please refer to the [Scram website](#).

Facebook: /scramlive

X: @surreyscouts