



## County Update May 2026



### Welcome from the County Commissioner

It's great to see so many units enjoying being outdoors and planning summer residentials. Thank you for making these amazing memories for our members and may your efforts be rewarded in the fun and adventure that you have.

At the end of last month, I attended the Region weekend along with commissioners from across the region. It was time to celebrate all that the Amanda Teasel and the Region Chief team have achieved together and to welcome the new Region Chief designate, Dawn Archer. We wish her all the best in her new role.

I was delighted to present [Kate Fowles with a Region Chief](#) award for her outstanding service to guiding as assistant county commissioner, for all that she does within Surrey East and as a region first aid trainer. It was also lovely to have a celebration tea in Reigate division where [Sonia Naughton and Emma Marsh were awarded County Good Service](#) awards in recognition for their excellent service as joint division commissioners for Reigate. Congratulations to them all.

Enjoy the rest of the half term break and thank you for all that you do for Guiding in Surrey East.

Beverly Heywood-Jones  
Surrey East County Commissioner  
[Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com](mailto:Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com)



### 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](mailto: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

## Upcoming Training

### **Leadership Development**

We have one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules plus risky business) and the opportunity to meet other Surrey volunteers. The next one is planned on 6 June in Camberley – please [register here](#) if you would like to attend. Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars. If you would like to [become a qualified leader](#), logon to the learning platform and complete Becoming a Leader.



### **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](mailto: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.

## 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](#)

[Sign up now!](#)

## County Mentors

We would love to recruit some more county mentors to support new volunteers in completing the Leadership Development programme. If you are actively volunteering and are interested in helping others as a mentor – please do take a look at this [Become a leader in training mentor | Girlguiding](#) and/or contact Janet Coninx directly on [lqsurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto:lqsurreyeast@gmail.com) to find out more.

For more information about the leadership development programme, please take a look at the website [Become a Girlguiding leader | Girlguiding](#)

## Did you know?

### Going Away With (GAW)

Have you held a GAW residential qualification for years? The new GAW scheme has top-up modules available on the Learning platform, so you can be up to date with current practice including Teamwork, Programme and Venue management.

It includes a comprehensive resources bank with items such as fire, gas and safety guidance, contingency planning, catering and food safety resource. Are you fully up to date with current practice? [Going away with scheme | Girlguiding](#)

### Residential Event Notification

A quick reminder that if you are planning a residential in the UK, please ensure your REN part 1 is submitted at least 12 weeks before the event to enable time to address any issues. Ensure you use current forms from the Guiding website including the pre-filled risk assessment for residential detailing how you are managing the areas within. Thank you for completing your RENs on Go which really helps us all with managing the approval process. Your final REN, plan and risk assessment should be submitted for approval at least 4 weeks before your event. All international events are reviewed and approved by the Region International adviser and Region Chief.

### Volunteer Recruitment Tool

The new [volunteer recruitment tool](#) is proving very useful to help people to find and apply for specific roles. If you are looking for additional volunteers for your unit, please do share details with your local commissioner, so they can post an advert for you to share.

### 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.

## 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](#)

## PGL Opportunity for Brownie units – 16-18 October 2026



Surrey West are looking to takeover PGL at Marchants Hill in October for Brownies if they can fill all the spaces so would like to extend the invite to any Surrey East brownie units that might be interested.

Please do signup here - [Brownie PGL weekend 2026](#)

## SCRAM 2026



For those of you have signed up for Scram 2026, please note that the deadline for **final numbers and payment has now passed** – so please pay this immediately if its outstanding. 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](#)