



County Update September 2026



Welcome from the County Commissioner

The Autumn term is here and so is the new uniform. I'm looking forward to seeing the transition and I know many people who are excited about it. Please do order from your local volunteer shops if you need any new uniform.

We have held 2 of our 6 Coffee and Chats – informal events around the county for volunteers to pop in, see some of the new uniform and say hello. We would love to see you, hear your guiding stories and answer any questions that you have. Details below. All volunteers are welcome.

I'm delighted to share our [Spring/Summer 2026 newsletter](#). Please do take a moment to see some of the amazing things we have been doing. Thank you to everyone who contributed to it.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Leader Weekend at Youlbury in Oxford. It was great to see representatives from all divisions there.

Thank you for all that you do for Guiding in Surrey East.

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



Save the Date – Saturday 11 March 2028 Apply to be on the committee – deadline now



Girlguiding Surrey East are now in the process of planning Musicals 2028, a musical extravaganza to be held at Dorking Halls for units to get involved in.

Right now – we are looking for volunteers to join this amazing, event planning team.

Interested? Please click the link below for more details.

[Get involved](#)

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 for 14 March 2027 at Faurefold – 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. We are finalising plans for a blended course in Nov/Dec 2026 so please use the link above. Next one day course is [First Response Full Day -Faurefold – 13 March 2027](#). 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

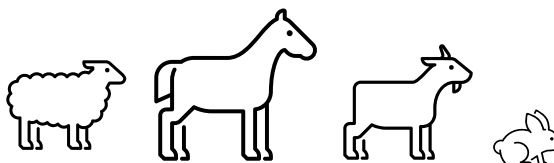
Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what's involved in the Going Away with scheme? Are you a leader who needs to refresh your knowledge? Looking for assessment? [Going Away with Scheme | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#). If you need any additional support, please [contact 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

Rainbows at Godstone Farm Saturday 12 June 2027

Rainbows will be celebrating being 40 in 2027
Surrey East is planning a county Rainbow celebration at Godstone Farm
Save the date to bring your Rainbow unit
Details will follow.



Surrey East county 'Coffee and Chat' drop-in

You are invited to an informal drop-in. Meet members of the county team or simply catch-up with your guiding friends. We have dates to suit everyone. All volunteers welcome.

The remaining dates are as follows:

Saturday 3 October 3-5pm at Empire Hall, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7AW

Wednesday 7 October 7-9pm for a sausage sizzle at Little Acres, Horton Lane, Epsom Surrey KT19 8PT

Tuesday 13 October 7.30-9.30pm at Banstead HQ, The Drive, Banstead SM7 1DA

Monday 19 October 7-9pm (half term) Oxted Guide hut, Limpsfield RH8 0EW

You will be able to visit guiding properties in Surrey East

See some of the new uniform and books

Pick up some marketing materials to promote guiding in your area



Find out about local training opportunities, young leader development and the leader development programme and finance and gift aid.

Dates to suit everyone. Uniform optional

Everyone who attends will receive a badge

It would be great to see you!

Did you know?

DBS checks

Please be aware that DBS checks are taking longer than usual to complete. Please do them when you receive the first reminder, particularly if you are planning to attend a residential, to give the maximum time for this to complete before your event. You can check your own renewal dates by logging into Go – selecting the drop down under your name in the top right-hand corner and choosing My Safe Practice Summary.

Unit finances

The Girlguiding [accounts package](#) gets better every year and now includes a budgeting tool and a Gift Aid register. If your unit doesn't currently use the package, please do consider using it for next year's accounts. There is guidance, e-learning and plenty of local people who can help with it if you need it. Please check you're your own unit's accounts and ensure you are compliant

Going Away With – checklist for properties

Guiding have introduced a [new residential venue approval checklist](#). County will prioritise venues within our Surrey East to assess over the next few months and approved venues will be added to the [Adventure map](#). If you are a leader in charge and are uncertain whether your chosen venue is approved, please get in touch with [Jane Luff](#), our county outdoor adviser, directly. Once completed, this checklist will need to be reviewed every 2 years.