

## Welcome to 2nd Kingsbridge Guides

This leaflet will explain a bit about our Guide unit and what we do. All Guide units are a little bit different so this letter is specifically about our unit. **PLEASE read it carefully so that you know what you are signing up for!!** Our aim is to give girls the opportunity to learn practical skills, have lots of fun, make new friends, work as a group known as a Patrol, to develop team work and leadership skills.

**Guides is a commitment, we have a waiting list for places so members should attend regularly and let us know, in advance, if you can't come to a meeting – call / text / email We encourage the girls to do this themselves especially as they get older.**

**Our unit has a very good leadership team....**

**The Unit Guiders are....** Vicky Smith 07975537863, Sarah Bretherick, Sarah Budgen, Jackie Franklin and Elysia Jones plus a small team of younger leaders in training. We are volunteers (we don't get paid!) and work hard to provide an interesting and varied programme, we appreciate your support by filling out forms carefully and returning them on time, keeping subs payments up to date, and letting us know if personal details, e.g. phone numbers, change.

**We meet on a Wednesday evening in term time from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Kingsbridge Scout hall, Derby Road.** Membership subscription (subs) is paid at the **beginning** of each term and is currently £35, you may wish to pay £17.50 every half term if this is more convenient. Cheques payable to '2nd Kingsbridge Guides'. Please bring any cash in a sealed envelope with the Guides name, the amount and what it's for, written clearly on it, and if you would like to pay by bank transfer please ask for the details. Thanks.

**Uniform: We wear our uniform for all activities, and are genuinely proud to be 'seen' as Guides,** if you are not happy to wear uniform then this may not be the right Guide group for you. The official Guide uniform is currently undergoing some changes moving from navy blue to bright blue and red! (The old navy uniform can be worn until at least 2016.) Officially the Girlguiding say that girls 'should' have at least one piece of 'official uniform' but **mostly we wear our own navy blue unit hoodies (£15) and t shirts (£7)** which we are happy for the girls to wear as uniform, **if you want to buy an official t shirt of either the old or new style we can order them for you through our District Depot.** When a girl makes her Guide Promise the unit gives her a neckerchief and Promise badge which we wear with our uniform.

**Guides will OFTEN need the use of a sensible and properly waterproof coat and ideally waterproof trousers and strong walking shoes / boots or wellies for many outdoor activities!**

**The G File: This is the current Guide 'Handbook' / Programme book.** (We believe that the G file is under review and due for an update / rewrite). The G File costs £7 and we can order one for you, **however** we do give each guide a free 'pocket G File' in a mini ring binder when they join the unit and we expect the girls to bring this and a pen with them every week. We use it to record progress, meeting dates, useful info etc. and we have lots of additional resource pages that go in it.

**Camps and Residential's: We aim to have a range of residential activities each year, these are an optional part of our programme.** We usually have a week long camp in the summer. Camping is a big part of being a Guide and much of our summer programme will be geared to learning skills for camp and other outdoor activities, we hope that as many girls as possible have the chance to take part in these events. Our aim is to keep the cost of residential's as low as possible (much cheaper than school events) and we often subsidise them with unit funds or fundraising events....so we really appreciate your support with fundraising activities.

**Guides who take part in these events will need to have** the use of a sleeping bag, camping roll mat, 65 litre backpack, wellies or ideally waterproof walking boots, a waterproof coat AND waterproof trousers, and a reliable torch (head torches are the best.) **We suggest that Guides put these things on future Christmas / Birthday lists. If you need advice please talk to one of the leaders.** We wear **BLUE** plain and sensible clothes on all camps, holidays & events.

**Transport:** When we have activities which are not at the Scout Hall, Guides will usually need to provide their own transport to these events. Each Guide should keep a list of other girls phone numbers, people who can help out with transport / share lifts etc. **The contact details that you give us when joining Guides are CONFIDENTIAL – we cannot give them out to other parents or guides!**

**Leaders do not usually help with transport as we often have to arrive very early, leave much later and have equipment to transport.** (Girlguiding UK also suggest that there are motor insurance implications for us.) Please try to organise your own transport well in advance so that we know everyone is able to get to the event.

**Patrols:** Each Guide is a member of a Patrol, we currently have 5 patrols. This is a group of between 5 and 8 girls of **mixed** ages. Each Patrol has a Patrol Leader and a Patrol Secunder and these will usually be older Guides who can help and support the newer members. It isn't always possible to be in a Patrol with all your friends from school but being a Guide is an opportunity to make new friends, this is especially important for when they move up to KCC as having a wide circle of friends from different age groups really helps.

**Outdoor activities & Consent Forms: For any camps, holidays, outings, activities outside of our normal meeting times and/ or away from the Scout hall you will need to fill out the appropriate consent form. Without a consent form we cannot take your daughter as our insurance would not be valid – PLEASE don't put us in this difficult situation.**

We regularly go out from the Scout Hall on a Wednesday for walks, or to do other activities. These outings will be listed on the programme which each Guide will get a copy of every term. For activities like this, which start and end at the Scout Hall, we do not ask for written permission from you – if you are concerned about any activity please come and talk to one of the leaders.

**Our Website: We have a unit website which we update regularly, please refer to it if you need to check out what's happening. We have also just started using Facebook for our Guide unit and may ask FB users to join a 'secret group' so that we can share more photos and updates easily.**

[www.2ndkingsbridgeguides.org.uk](http://www.2ndkingsbridgeguides.org.uk) our email address is:  
[2ndkingsbridgeguides@gmail.com](mailto:2ndkingsbridgeguides@gmail.com)

**Remembrance Sunday Parade: We always show our respect by taking part in the Kingsbridge Remembrance Parade – keep this Sunday free it is an important part of our programme and we expect ALL our Guides to attend. We hope that all parents will support their daughter to enable her to take part in this event.**

**Activites:** We do some quite traditional Guiding and Scouting activities which are sometimes perceived as potentially risky, for example the girls are taught to use certain tools and knives, we regularly do archery and we regularly do campfire cooking, firelighting etc. As leaders we take great care to make sure the activities that we do are as safe as possible, that we have appropriate qualifications and follow the Girlguiding guidelines where they exist. If we are not qualified to run an activity we use a properly qualified instructor / activity provider. (eg for climbing and watersports)

**Fundraising:** Sometimes we will need your help and support..... please!! If you can – please sign the Gift Aid declaration on your membership form - we can claim money back from the Inland Revenue!!

**Leaving.... Eventually you will leave us!** The official Guide age range is 10 – 14 years, a few leave before 14 often when the move up to secondary school and the demands of homework and other activities fill their time, many girls stay until they are 14+ and leave the term they turn 15, often girls stay on as Young Leaders / Rangers. **When** you do decide to move on to do something else, let us know, we won't be cross and we like to say goodbye properly. Many of our ex Guides keep in touch and some even go on to be Guide Leaders. If we know you're leaving we can offer someone else your place and take them off our waiting list!