

2004 National Link Service Challenge -Information and Resource Package

Introduction

This document is meant to provide background information, ideas, and suggested resources to help Link members participate in the 2004 National Link Service Challenge. It would be appreciated if the Provincial Link Advisers make this information available to all Link members who are interested in participating in this challenge.

Official Announcement

Citizens of the World

The Mission of WAGGGS is "to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world". In spring 2004, Link members across Canada will carry out various service projects united by a common international theme, showing that we are definitely "citizens of the world". These projects can involve:

- service to Guiding such as helping in a girls' unit
- community service such as helping an existing charity
- or perhaps both (coordinating girls' participation in a community service project for instance).

Possible ideas for carrying out the challenge include: incorporating the WAGGGS' Triennial theme "Our Rights Our Responsibilities" (information at <http://www.wagggsworld.org/aroundtheworld/projects/oror/index.html>), sharing information about your international experiences with girls' units, or other service projects that have an international component.

Project ideas plus resource information will be compiled and made available via the Provincial Link Advisers and the National Link e-group/ mailing list. This challenge is flexible on purpose to allow for the varying circumstances of Link members and their local communities. You can participate in this Challenge individually, with a few other Link members, or with your entire Link unit.

Once you've done a service project, make sure to tell the National Link Adviser about it, so we can let others know about your projects. We want to promote this Challenge within Guiding, so that people learn more about Link and realize that Link members are active contributors to Guiding and to their communities. If you want to help by sending an article to your local Guiding newsletter about this Challenge and your project, let us know and we can send you information to get you started.

It would be nice to have a crest available for participants to order this year– if you can help with the planning and ordering process, please contact the National Link Adviser.

The first-ever National Link Service Challenge in 2003 was a big step toward building more "National Link Spirit", so think of ways that you can participate in 2004!

Content possibilities

- Learning about WAGGGS <http://www.wagggsworld.org> – including other countries with Guiding/Girl Scouting, World Centres, World Projects, World Thinking Day 2004 <http://www.world-thinking-day.com/>
- WAGGGS' triennial theme "Our Rights Our Responsibilities", information at <http://www.wagggsworld.org/aroundtheworld/projects/oror/index.html>
 - WAGGGS' Olympia Badge
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/newsroom/documents/pdf/rights%20responsibilities/olympia%20with%20letterhead.pdf> [responsibilities/olympia with letterhead.pdf](http://www.wagggsworld.org/newsroom/documents/pdf/rights%20responsibilities/olympia%20with%20letterhead.pdf)
 - UNICEF Partnership Pack
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/newsroom/documents/pdf/rights%20responsibilities/unicef%20with%20letterhead.pdf>
- WAGGGS' Initiative on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/aroundtheworld/projects/adolescentpregnancy/index.html>
- WAGGGS and WOSM Working for Peace
<http://www.wagggsworld.org/newsroom/wbcirc/documents/sept%2003/wb3282%20SHORT%20EN.pdf>
- Some Brownie and Spark Units may have registered to participate in the WAGGGS' Project 75, information is available at <http://www.girlguides.ca/default.asp?id=253> and <http://www.browniechallenge.org/>
- Global Youth Service Day - <http://www.gysd.net>, the 2004 dates are April 16-18, 2004, you may want to tie into this.
- Raising money for the Canadian World Friendship Fund
<http://www.girlguides.ca/default.asp?id=97>
- Learning about other countries, cultures, and/or customs from a guest speaker (many Link members have travelled to other countries and are willing to share their experiences).
- Covering international-themed challenges in the girls' programs (see list of program tie-ins).
- Working with existing international-themed charity organizations to promote their work or help with fund-raising.
- Raise awareness of international issues within your community.
- Helping with the 2004 World Thinking Day Chat
<http://www.geocities.com/trefoilchat/>

Tie-ins to Guiding program

Sparks:

-Themes such as "Friends in Other Countries", "Same and Different"

Brownies:

-Program Challenges related to Thinking Day, learning about Brownies around the world, etc.

-Outlooks such as Guiding, Heritage, World Friendship.

Guides:

-Program Challenges related to Guiding around the world (e.g., World Centres, World Flag, talking to someone about living/Guiding in another country,

International Events, Twinning Projects, global issues, teaching Sparks/Brownies a song/game/etc. from another country, etc.).

-Interest Badges such as Interpreter, Peace, Traveller, World Guiding.

Pathfinders:

World Emblem – various challenges in all four sections (Canadian Mosaic, Global Understanding, Travelling, World Guiding).

Senior Branches:

Core Program #14 – Consider the benefits of membership in WAGGGS.

#15 – Discuss ... travel opportunities available through Guiding.

#23 – Service

Cadet/Junior Leader Program #6 – Help girls understand ...the same age group in another WAGGGS Member Country.

Ranger Program – Cultural Diversity, Global Awareness, Guiding Service, Service, Women's Concerns Interest Areas.

Commonwealth Award - #2 Knowledge of the Commonwealth, #6 Cultural Heritage, several other challenges could apply.

Promotion

-The official announcement was posted in the National Link e-group/mailling list, and was also in the Fall 2003 Link Connections national newsletter.

-We are asking that the Provincial Link Advisers inform all their Link Members about this challenge and encourage their participation, in order to ensure all Link Members have heard about it one way or another.

-It would be appreciated if Link Advisers (Provincial and Area) or other Link contacts could send articles to their local Guiding newsletter, with some information about local Link projects. This will raise awareness of Link within Guiding, and also let Guiders know about local Link Members who want to help out.

-Please be sure to send information to the National Link Adviser about Link service projects when they are completed so that participants can be recognized (Jennifer Walker, guidemd@niftyguidinglinks.ca), and feel free to again send articles to local Guiding newsletters about what you've done. It would help for future planning if you send a copy of any articles published to the National Link Adviser as well.

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR PARTICIPATING –
YOUR EFFORTS WILL HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF LINK!**