



World Association  
of Girl Guides  
and Girl Scouts

Association Mondiale  
des Guides et des  
Eclaireuses

Asociación  
Mundial de las  
Guías Scouts

# LEARNING TO THRIVE



Youth learning in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting

# Learning to thrive

## Youth learning in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting

Every day, ten million young people take part in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting around the world. Inspired and empowered by volunteer leaders, they grow in confidence, develop life skills, and take the lead in their communities.

As members of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, they are part of WAGGGS; the largest educational Movement for girls and young women in the world. Together, we work for a world where all girls are valued.

So how does Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting create empowering youth learning experiences? Through a unique values based approach, shared by Girl Guide and Girl Scouts around the world.

WAGGGS' approach to youth learning is simple and effective:

WAGGGS is a non-formal education Movement...

...that uses the Girl Guide and Girl Scout educational method...

...to develop values...

...and skills for life...

...that empower girls to reach their fullest potential...

...and take action to change the world.

Written by Andii Verhoeven with thanks to WAGGGS' Educational Programme Resource Pool volunteers:

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## WAGGGS is a non-formal education Movement...

Like many youth organisations, WAGGGS uses non-formal educational methods to achieve its mission; to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. Non-formal education is a planned programme of personal and social education designed to improve a range of skills and competencies, outside formal educational structures.

*By encouraging a child in its natural desires, instead of instructing it in what you think it ought to do, you can educate it on a far more solid and far-reaching basis. It is only tradition and custom that ordain that education should be a labour.*

Baden Powell, circa 1913



## ...that uses the Girl Guide and Girl Scout educational method...

WAGGGS uses a unique five part method to support youth learning: the Girl Guide and Girl Scout educational method:



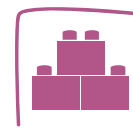
### Learning in small groups

We learn to: support each other, negotiate, make democratic decisions, assert our needs, solve problems together, take the lead



### My path, my pace

We learn to: respect individuals, make our own choices, learn in the best way for us, value our achievements, collaborate not compete, be confident



### Learning by doing

We learn to: take on challenges, learn through experience, take risks, make mistakes, get involved, pay attention



### Connecting with others

We learn to: value others, appreciate diversity, listen, connect, make a difference, develop empathy, communicate



### Connecting with my world

We learn to: be active citizens, get our hands dirty, enjoy the outdoors, get involved in our community, speak out for change, pay attention to the wider world

## ...to develop values...

As a values-based organisation, WAGGGS believes that developing values is central to personal growth.



Girl Guides and Girl Scouts make a commitment to a shared standard represented by their Promise and Law. Each Member Organization uses their promise and law to bring the WAGGGS values to life for their members, and explores these values in their activities.

WAGGGS programmes apply these values by focusing on issues that are relevant to girls and young women, encouraging them to look beyond their own lives to develop an understanding of the wider world and how they, as global citizens, can make a difference.

## and skills for life...

WAGGGS prepares its members to thrive in a rapidly changing world, and empowers them to live the life they want to lead.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts learn life skills that matter, whatever path they choose to follow:

### Character

Self-aware and confident leaders, we take initiative to set and achieve goals, both individually and working with others.

### Creativity

We are creative thinkers and resilient problem solvers. We self-direct our learning to access, evaluate and apply information, and develop innovative solutions.

### Citizenship

We are active in our local communities, and connected to the wider world. We want to take action to make the world a better place.

### Communication

We express our ideas confidently to different audiences, are good listeners and respond empathically to others.

### Collaboration

We are true team players, who understand how to work positively with people and care about diversity.

### Commitment

We are committed to our own learning and development, and invest in it throughout our lives



## ...that empower girls to reach their fullest potential...

Girl Guide and Girl Scout programmes create a safe space for the whole girl to grow. She will develop intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually through age appropriate activities. She will be challenged to see herself as a leader, and develop the skills and confidence to take the lead in the wider world.

### WAGGGS' GLOBAL PROGRAMMES...

...EXPLORE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN, AND CAN BE USED BY ALL WAGGGS ASSOCIATIONS.

#### THEY INCLUDE:

- BE THE CHANGE — A GUIDE TO TAKING ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY
- FREE BEING ME — DEVELOPING BODY CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM
- VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE
- SURF SMART INTERNET SAFETY PACK
- TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE OUR WORLD PACK ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)
- WORLD THINKING DAY PACKS, COVERING DIFFERENT MDGS EACH YEAR
- PACKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

DOWNLOAD AT [WWW.WAGGGS.ORG](http://WWW.WAGGGS.ORG)

## ...and take action to change the world.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts learn about their communities and develop an interest in global issues. They build the confidence to take the lead and speak out. They develop the values that motivate them to put their learning into action.

*Making a difference has been a core value of WAGGGS' education for over 100 years. Today, WAGGGS believes that empowered girls can go even further; they can change the world.*



## Want to learn more?

Read *Prepared to Learn, Prepared to Lead*:  
a guide to creating amazing youth learning  
experiences

[www.waggs.org/en/resources/document/view/24907](http://www.waggs.org/en/resources/document/view/24907)

## Want to be part of the journey?

Contact: [youthlearning@waggs.org](mailto:youthlearning@waggs.org)

## Thank you!

We hope you have enjoyed *Learning to Thrive*, and find it  
a useful tool for reflecting on how to apply the educational  
method to your Girl Guide and Girl Scout activities.

If you want to learn more about WAGGGS' work on  
Girl Guide and Girl Scout Educational Programmes,  
please get in touch with [youthlearning@waggs.org](mailto:youthlearning@waggs.org)

Every child deserves a champion - an  
adult who will never give up on them, who  
understands the power of  
connection, and insists that they  
become the best that they can  
possibly be.

Rita Pierson

