

COMMONWEALTH AWARD SYLLABUS

The Commonwealth Award is open to older Guides (aged 13+) and Olave Program members aged 18-30 in all Commonwealth countries. The award must be completed before you turn 25.

To earn the Award you must complete challenges 1, 2 and 3, plus two of the optional challenges. This Award can be completed individually or as a group. Think about who can help you while you do the Award. You may know people who are knowledgeable about some of the subject areas, like the environment or history of Guiding. How about relatives, friends or other people in your community?

You and your Award Support Group need to agree how you will decide that you have achieved your goals. Remember, each clause you do should be a challenge to you.

You must send in the application form to your State before you start working on your Award.

Compulsory challenges:

You need to do all the clauses within each challenge.

1. History of Guiding:

- a) Be able to talk about Guiding from its beginning at the Crystal Palace Rally in 1909, including the development of World Guiding.
- b) Know how Guiding developed in your own country.
- c) Understand the basic aims and principles of Guiding.

2. Knowledge of the Commonwealth

- a) Know something about the development of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- b) Be able to talk knowledgeably about a Commonwealth country other than your own. Your knowledge should include:
 - a little about the cultures and religions of the country
 - a day in the life of its people
 - how Guiding began and how it has developed.
- c) Do something practical in relation to the country of your choice. For example, you could correspond with someone, prepare a typical meal, produce a scrapbook, learn a craft or make a collection of stamps.

3. Community action

Carry out service within the community. This should cover a total of at least 20 hours over a minimum period of three months, and within a maximum period of six months. Explain why you have chosen this particular form of service.

Optional challenges:

Unless otherwise stated, you should complete all tasks within a clause.

4. Health

- a) Know what health services are available in your own country. Find out what immunisation is required for entry into two other Commonwealth countries in an area of the world other than your own. This information should be correct at the time you are doing the challenge.
- b) Explain how nutrition and sanitation can affect the health of your family.

5. Environment

- a) Study in detail one of the following in your country: environmental pollution, water supplies, forestry, conservation, soil erosion, sustainable resources.
- b) Find out about environmental issues in another Commonwealth country and investigate how that country is addressing them.

6. Cultural heritage

- a) Know about the cultural heritage of your own country on two of these subjects: art, music (vocal or instrumental), dress, literature, poetry, dance, craft. Produce a collection of items, such as pictures, programmes, instruments or books, for your chosen subjects. Be able to demonstrate or perform an item from one of your choices.
- b) Discuss three religions, denominations or faiths found in your country with a group of your peers.

7. Fit for life out of doors

Do either a or b.

- a) Take part in or learn about a physical activity (sport or skill) new to you. Explain the benefits of regular physical activity for young women.
- b) Participate in a camp of not less than two nights on two occasions within three years.

8. Public speaking or debating

Do either a or b.

- a) Give a talk to a group of your peers on any subject you choose, which should last not less than five minutes.
- b) Take part in an organised debate as the principal speaker for or against the motion.

9. Creative writing

Write a short story or a poem about life in your own country, or tell a legend from your cultural heritage.

10. Citizenship

- a) Describe your own system of government and that of a different country in the Commonwealth.
- b) Demonstrate knowledge of how your country is prepared for disaster. This could include flooding, hurricanes, forest fires and other natural disasters. Find out which agencies in your country are responsible for dealing with natural disasters.

11. Investigation

Do either a or b.

- a) Investigate the public education and nature conservation programmes of an institution such as a national park, wildlife sanctuary, zoo or botanical garden. How does this fit in with the United Nations Environment Programme?
- b) Talk to your unit about architectural developments in your town or area over a specific period. Take them to visit at least two historical buildings or monuments you have investigated.