

## AGINFO 38 (2025)

### New Volunteer Position - STEM Program Champion

#### INCREASING THE CONFIDENCE AND CAPABILITY OF GIRLS

The Girl Research we undertook in October 2024 identified a number of program areas that girls really care about. Body image, leadership and financial literacy made the list, which happily we already have amazing programs in place for, like Free Being Me, Guide Your Money and Fly and Ignite Leadership programs. Girls also want to be in a position to consider opportunities for all kinds of employment including roles typically held by men. They want to have equal opportunities in the working roles available to them.

In Australia, Girls, young Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders and those from lower opportunity areas and regional areas are all underrepresented groups in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Guiding has always valued STEM activities in all aspects of our program, however providing a wider variety of STEM activities and making them more accessible to all our volunteer leaders would certainly ensure that girls get wider exposure to these core skills.

#### CSIRO STEM TOGETHER

STEM Together is a national program delivered by CSIRO in partnership with the BHP Foundation. CSIRO engaged GGA in 2024 extend the STEM Together initiative to our volunteers. As such, a pilot program has been worked on by passionate volunteers with Girl Guides Victoria.

GGA are now in a position to extend the program nationally to provide professional learning webinars and strategies to volunteers to boost their impact on Girl Guides. Ensuring more girls get to benefit from undertaking STEM activities at Guides.

Training resources will be developed and implemented on and offline in line with surveyed needs of volunteers. The whole program is facilitated by CSIRO and a GGA STEM Program Champion who will coordinate a STEM Working Group of representatives from each State Girl Guide Organisation.

In early 2026, Leaders will be given the opportunity to share their experience of STEM at Guides and their needs. The outcome will lead to interactive workshops where attendees can learn more about STEM facilitation and share their experiences

By building the confidence and capability of our volunteers, and providing them with transferable skills, we expect to see STEM skill and knowledge sharing increasing nationally, and more varied activities being offered to girls – keeping them engaged at all ages.

#### EXCITING NEW ADDITION TO AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

So, in June 2026, we plan to make available a fully catalogued and searchable repository or library of STEM activities for all volunteers to benefit from. The repository will enable leaders to search by badge, by age, by topic and more, and consequently be provided with a list of relevant activities to suit their needs. They can then download the activities they choose. Not only will this save volunteers time looking for ideas, but it will reduce precious session planning time. The greatest benefit is that it will ensure a variety of activities are offered so that girls need never do the same activity twice.

## STEM PROGRAM CHAMPION ROLE

Development and implementation of this program will be a team effort during 2026. Working directly with the GGA Partnership Manager, GGA Program Coordinator, National Coordinators Youth and Adult, and Graphic Designer, this Program Champion will ensure all aspects of the program are developed in consultation with volunteers and that outputs are in line with best practice STEM practises and the Australian Guide Program Process.

We are seeking a volunteer to liaise with the GGA Partnerships Manager and the delivery team at CSIRO and to coordinate the STEM Program Working Group as we prepare to survey and train volunteers and deliver the repository.

The volunteer will be the font of all knowledge for the program resources for SGGOs. This Program Champion will be responsible for chairing the working group, reporting outcomes, keeping to schedule, quality checking and uploading activities to the repository and gaining feedback.

This Program Champion will support our guiding community to embrace and facilitate this program at launch and ongoing as the face of the program and the monitor of participation, feedback and success measures.

## COULD THIS BE YOU?

This role would suit someone who is passionate and committed to helping volunteers to gain increased confidence and capability in facilitating STEM with girls. Someone passionate about finding ways to ensure girls gain more experience with STEM.

This role would suit someone with great collaboration and communication skills. The ability to run efficient and productive meetings, excellent organisational skills and attention to detail are also key to the role. If you enjoy gathering feedback, works well with others and are efficient and practical – this could be for you.

This role will not be responsible for designing the program, training or material development but it will coordinate the subject matter specialists and the appropriate feedback channels for volunteers within guiding nationally.

This role could also be a perfect volunteering opportunity for young women 18yrs+ that have managed projects, events or initiatives coordinating a number of stakeholders in their State or nationally. Equally this could be great for Olaves or Queen's Guides looking for their next challenge, or those who've undertaken WAGGGS Seminars and projects.

Between Jan 2026 and June 2026, you might require up to 4-6 hrs a week to help launch the program. Once launched the role would require less time. Likely a monthly meeting with the Working Group, a monthly participation and feedback report and ongoing uploads of activities to the STEM repository. This role would monitor and respond to ongoing queries from participants.

**If this sounds like you, please send a cover letter telling us about yourself and why you're interested in becoming our STEM Program Guardian to [applications@girlguides.org.au](mailto:applications@girlguides.org.au) by 9 January, 2026.**