



OVERVIEW FOR GUIDERS

This overview of Girls for Safer Communities (GFSC) will help you:

- Understand GFSC
- Relate GFSC to your branch program
- List and locate GFSC resources and supports
- Identify girls' roles in GFSC
- Identify Unit Guiders' roles in GFSC

1. Understanding GFSC

The Girls for Safer Communities (GFSC) program activity aims to increase awareness about safety concerns of girls and women while mobilizing girls to become leaders in their communities.

Pathfinders and Rangers receive leadership and safety training through their Unit Guiders or at a GFSC workshop that prepares them to:

- Lead younger girls, their peers or other community members in conducting their own community safety audit
- Work with members of the community to make recommendations and create action plans that will improve safety for everyone

The skills girls develop through GFSC are transferable to other areas of their lives.

What is a community safety audit?

Safety audits are a tool for assessing how safe your neighbourhood is. Girls walk around the area using a checklist to assess safety features such as lighting, traffic and signage, to determine what action to take to improve safety. Through this audit, girls become more aware of factors affecting their personal safety while working together to make their community safer.

The audit is followed up by completing an audit report card that summarizes the safety audit findings that Members can submit to local officials to address the safety issues raised by the audit.



Formats for training Pathfinders and Rangers to lead a safety audit

Pathfinders and Rangers learn how to facilitate a safety audit by participating in leadership and safety audit trainings facilitated by their Guiders. The training can be conducted in one daylong workshop or be spread over several Unit meetings as one of the meeting activities. Please see the chart below for different ways the trainings can be broken down and delivered.

Flexible training options









Pathfinders and Rangers who complete the training are designated as Safety Audit Leaders who can lead others in conducting safety audits. Participating Units will go on to work within their community to make recommendations and create action plans that will improve safety for everyone.

GFSC training completion is an accomplishment that can be added to a Pathfinder's or Ranger's membership (iMIS) record. Submit a list of the trained Pathfinders and Rangers to your local membership (iMIS) input site or to your provincial office.



2. GFSC and branch programs

GFSC is a new program activity for the following program awards:

SPARKS	 In My Community keeper
BROWNIES	 Key to I Can
GUIDES	 Street Wise Interest Badge
PATHFINDERS	   Find Your Inner Leader module (leadership training) Safe at Home and/or Out and About module (participating in a safety audit or safety audit training) Community Service Award - Supporting your Community section (leading a safety audit)
RANGERS	Leadership and Management (leadership training) Community Connections (leading a safety audit) Healthy Living challenge (participating in a safety audit or safety audit training)

You can also consider doing the Safety Audit activities as part of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6) and Global Youth Service Day (Spring).



3. GFSC resources and supports

GFSC training resources for Guiders include:

- GFSC Overview for Guiders (this document)
- Facilitator's Guide and handouts for Pathfinder/Ranger Leadership Training that covers:
 - Leadership styles
 - Team building
 - Facilitation
 - Assertive communication
 - Steps to taking social action
 - Public speaking
- Facilitator's Guide and handouts for Pathfinder/Ranger Safety Audit Training that covers:
 - Factors that affect safety
 - Safety strategies
 - Community mapping
 - Assessment - physical safety
 - Planning and facilitating a safety audit
 - Action planning
- Safety Audit Tools:
 - Sparks, Brownies, Guides Safety Audit Checklist
 - Sparks, Brownies, Guides Safety Audit Report Card
 - Pathfinder, Ranger and Adult Safety Audit Checklist
 - Pathfinder, Ranger and Adult Safety Audit Report Card

Units interested participating in the safety audit, can connect with a trained Pathfinder/Ranger in the following ways:

- Contact Pathfinder and/or Ranger Units in your community
- Request a list of GFSC trained Pathfinders and Rangers from your local membership (iMIS) input site.
- Get support from your local Commissioner/ACL or program adviser.

GFSC materials and resources are available in English and French from girlguides.ca for Guiders to download and print.

Girls for Safer Communities was created by GGC in collaboration with Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) and Me to We.

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4. Girls' roles in GFSC

The roles of girls in GFSC are:

Branch	Role	Take part in	Responsibilities
Pathfinders Rangers	Safety Audit Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership training • Safety Audit training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a safety audit with other Units and/or Community Members • Facilitate an action plan to improve safety • Share safety audit results on girlguides.ca
Sparks Brownies Guides Pathfinders Rangers	Participate in safety audit	Activities to learn how to do a safety audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a safety audit checklist • With the Safety Audit Leader, develop recommendations to address at least one safety issue • Share safety audit results on girlguides.ca

5. Guiders' roles in GFSC

There are three roles a Guider can play in GFSC:

Role	Preparation	Responsibilities
Training Pathfinders or Rangers to be Safety Audit Leaders	Take part in GFSC orientation OR Review GFSC Overview and be familiar with training materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate GFSC training and provide mentorship and resources • Ensure that the activity meets Safe Guide requirements • Submit the list of trained girls to local membership (iMIS) input site
Support Unit participation in a safety audit led by Pathfinders or Rangers (any branch level)	Set up connection between Pathfinders/Rangers and Units wishing to do a safety audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mentorship and resources for Unit participation in the Safety Audit • Ensure that the activity meets Safe Guide requirements • Share safety audit results on girlguides.ca
Lead a safety audit (if no Pathfinder or Ranger leadership is available)	Be familiar with GFSC leadership and safety audit training materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a community safety audit • Ensure that the activity meets Safe Guide requirements • Share safety audit results on girlguides.ca

