

# ABOUT GIRLS FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

#### What is Girls for Safer Communities?

Girls for Safer Communities (GFSC) provides girls with leadership and safety audit skills to make communities safer for everyone.

#### The main components to a safety audit are:

- 1. Walking through an area to evaluate its physical features.
- 2. Identification of safety concerns.
- 3. Creation of an action plan to improve safety.

#### What is my role in the Girls for Safer Communities (GFSC) safety audit?

A Pathfinder or Ranger who completes the GFSC trainings can be a <u>Safety Audit Leader</u> and lead a group through a safety audit. You can choose to do the audit with Girl Guide Units or other people in the community.

#### As a Safety Audit Leader, you are responsible for:

- 1. Setting up a safety meeting with your group.
- 2. Working with the Unit Guider to ensure that the activity meets Safe Guide requirements.
- 3. Choosing an area or building to look at.
- 4. Leading your group in a warm-up safety activity.
- 5. Leading your group on the safety audit walk.
- 6. Completing the Safety Audit Checklist and Safety Audit Report Card.
- 7. Creating an action plan for improving safety in the area.

The GFSC trainings as well as help from your Unit Guider(s) will ensure that you are equipped with the knowledge and skills to lead the safety activities and audit and be empowered to deliver a successful Unit meeting. Be sure to connect with your Guider(s) throughout your preparation and planning. Talk to her about your ideas and ask for her advice. Your Unit Guider(s) is (are) there to help you every step of the way. You can also recruit other Safety Audit Leaders (trained Pathfinders or Rangers) to help you.

#### How long will the safety audit take to complete?

With Sparks, Brownies and Guides: one Unit meeting (no longer than one hour). With Pathfinders, Rangers or community members: one to two hours, depending on the amount of discussion.

#### How do I use the Safety Audit Checklist and Safety Audit Report Card?

Use the checklist and report card to get your voice heard about safety issues. The checklist helps you to assess the safety factors and identify the safety concerns in your community. The report card is a tool you can use to organize and present your findings. Send it to a local politician or decision-maker to address the safety issues. Use it to explain your safety concerns to a local paper. It can also be used to start a discussion with community members.

Check out the Girl Guides of Canada website at www.girlguides.ca for additional GFSC resources and to share the results of your audit.



| What core program area  | as or badges can be com | pleted through the GFSC? |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| final core program area |                         |                          |

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

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

# WARM-UP SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Prior to the safety audit walk, lead the group through your choice of one of the following warm-up activities. Feel free to add your own creative twist to the activities or create a safety activity of your own. The key is to help girls to start thinking about safety and prepare them for the walk. Your chosen activity should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

#### SAFETY INSPECTOR:

Good for: Sparks, Brownies, Guides. Purpose: To identify things that affect safety. Materials: Nametags, paper, markers or crayons. Advance preparation: Create fun looking sticker nametags that say "Safety Inspector" on them. Make enough for each girl in the Unit.

#### Instructions:

Give each girl her "Safety Inspector" nametag and proudly inform her that she is now a safety inspector. As a Unit, walk through your meeting space and survey your site. Encourage girls to look at and investigate anything that may be unsafe. Ask the Inspectors: Is there enough lighting? Are there any dark places? Can we all move around safely? How do you feel here? Are you comfortable? Is anything broken? What can we do to make things safer? Identify solutions and if possible, improve any safety issues with girls and the Unit Guider. End the activity by reminding girls that we can all help keep each other safe.

#### SAFETY FLOWER:

Good for: Sparks, Brownies, Guides.

**Purpose:** To identify the things and people that make participants feel safe. **Materials:** Paper, crayons or markers. Cut out six flower petals and one stem for each girl in the Unit.

#### Instructions:

Provide each girl with six flower petals. Ask girls to place their name on the stem. (Sparks may need you to write their name for them). Then, ask girls to identify safe people they can turn to if their parent/guardian is not available. Draw or write the answer on two petals. Ask girls to think of what makes them feel safe and place answers on two petals. Ask girls to think of two things that make their neighbourhood safe and place answers on two petals.

#### RACE FOR SAFETY:

**Good for:** Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers, other community members. **Purpose:** To identify the things that affect safety and to list safety strategies. **Materials:** Paper, pens or pencils or markers (optional: prize).

#### Instructions:

Organize participants into small groups. As a game, have each group spend two minutes identifying things that make their community safe. Whichever group comes up with the longest list wins. In the same small groups have the participants repeat the game, but this time listing what they do personally to keep safe. Motivate them to come up with as many strategies as possible.

#### INTRODUCTIONS:

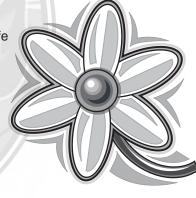
**Good for:** Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers, and other community members. **Purpose:** To identify the things that affect community safety.

#### Instructions:

Have participants introduce themselves and name one thing that makes their community safe. Next, ask them to name one thing that should be done to make their community safer.







#### COMMUNITY MAPPING:

**Good for:** Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers, other community members. **Purpose:** To illustrate participants' ideas of community. **Materials:** Paper, markers or crayons (optional: stickers, other craft supplies).

#### Instructions:

Ask participants to work in small groups to draw a map of their community. They can include anything that matters to them including places (e.g. homes, schools, places of worship, parks, community centres, businesses, etc.) and people.

You can simplify the activity for younger girls by asking them to draw a place in their community such as a park, school, store, fire station, etc. You could also make a large map to put on the floor and ask girls to build the area using toy building blocks or bricks. You also have the option of printing a large map of the area using Google Maps. Ask participants to mark their favourite and least favourite spaces.

Ask them to describe what they drew or constructed. What are some of the things that make their community safe? End the activity by asking the participants to draw themselves on the map since they are an important part of the community.



PHOTO REVIEW

handout

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Public space: indoor



Public Space: alleyway



handout

#### Residential: urban



Residential: suburban



handout

#### Public space: rural



Seasonal: Winter



# SAFETY AUDIT WALK INSTRUCTIONS

#### Preparing for the safety audit walk

After the warm-up activities, prepare the participants for a walk in the neighbourhood or inside a building or facility. If you're going outside for the walk, ensure that everyone is dressed for the weather. Give each participant a pen or pencil and copies of the Safety Audit Checklist and Safety Audit Report Card. (Sparks won't need their own pen and copies since you'll be discussing and completing the checklist and report card with them). Let them know that during this walk, you will all look at the different things that make the area safe or unsafe using the checklist. With the group, quickly review the questions on the checklist. This will help them become aware of what to look out for. Inform the group that at the end of the walk, you will all decide on the main thing that should be improved using the Safety Audit Report Card.

Remind everyone to stick together and apply the buddy system. Unit Guiders should be with you at all times to assist and ensure that the activity is safe for all. Here are some pedestrian safety tips that you should follow with your group:

- · Cross streets safely. Cross at a corner, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing, and keep looking as you cross.
- Walk. Do not run across the street.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- · Be a safe pedestrian around cars. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

#### Conducting the safety audit walk:

Lead the group on a short walk. Be mindful of traffic and be sure to take pictures as you go along. Pause at several safe areas on your route and ask participants to observe their surroundings. Encourage participants to point out the safety features in the area.

Find a safe space on your route to stop and answer the Safety Audit Checklist section by section. Read each question aloud. Then, discuss the answers as a group. Answers may vary within the group; this is okay. Different people may have differing reactions to the same place. On the checklist, participants also have the opportunity to write their own safety questions and responses regarding their area.

#### **Completing the Safety Audit Report Card:**

With the group, grade each area of the checklist. Together, identify up to three safety issues. From that list, choose the main safety issue that the group would like to address. Lastly, ask the participants what should be done to address this safety issue. The participants can record their answers on their copy of the report card. Younger girls also have the option of drawing a picture to illustrate their idea. Collect their report cards and let them know that you will be showing their report cards to those who can help make the community safer. Ask the participants if they would like to be involved in the action planning and make a commitment to follow-up. End the meeting by thanking the participants for helping make their community safer for everyone.



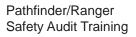
SAFETY AUDIT CHECKLIST FOR SPARKS, BROWNIES, GUIDES

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| Your    | name:   |          |          |
|---------|---|----------|----------|
| Unit:   |   |          |          |
| How     | nany are in your group?                                       |          |          |
| Name    | of the community:   |          |          |
| Area/   | Building:   |          |          |
| How     | do you feel about this area? 😳 😐 🔅                            |          |          |
| Descr   | ibe the area:   |          |          |
| Lighti  | ng: Good lighting helps you see the area that you're in       |          |          |
| 1.      | Are all the lights working in this area?                      | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| Vision  | : Being able to see clearly makes people feel safe            |          |          |
| 2.      | Can you see clearly what's around you?                        | 🗆 Yes    | □ No     |
|         |   |          |          |
| Traffic | and roads: Good traffic signs and roads increase safety       |          |          |
| 3.      | Is there a safe place to cross the road?                      | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 4.      | Are there sidewalks or a safe place for people to walk on?    | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 5.      | Is there a safe place for people to ride their bikes?         | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 6.      | Are the play areas away from the roads?                       | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| Clean   | iness: Areas that are clear of litter and graffiti feel safer |          |          |
| 7.      | Is the area clean and clear of litter/graffiti?               | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 8.      | Are there enough trash bins in the area?                      | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| People  | e: Having people around makes an area feel safe               | 7        |          |
| 9.      | Are there people around in this area?                         | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 10      | . If you need help are there people who can help you?         | □ Yes    | □ No     |
| 11      | . Who would you call for help?                                |          |          |
| Add y   | our own safety questions and responses here.                  | AND COMP | NUNIFIES |
|         |   | LLS FOR  |          |



### SAFETY AUDIT REPORT CARD FOR SPARKS, BROWNIES, GUIDES hand

Name of the community: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Area or Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of audit:

Number of Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

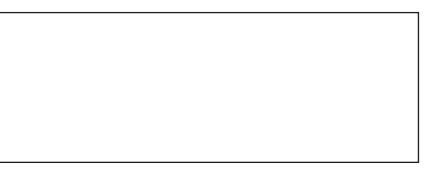
Grading: 🙄 🙄 🛞

Draw how you feel about each issue in the Grade column below.

| Safety Issue              | Grade | Details or Comments |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| OVERALL                   |       |                     |
| Lighting                  |       |                     |
| Vision                    |       |                     |
| Traffic and roads         |       |                     |
| Cleanliness               |       |                     |
| People                    |       |                     |
| Your own safety questions |       |                     |

#### Our top safety issue is: \_\_\_\_\_

What should be done to make the area safer? You can use words or pictures to show your ideas.





# SAFETY AUDIT CHECKLIST FOR PATHFINDERS, RANGERS AND ADULTS handout

Please fill in the checklist below to review the safety issues in your community. Complete only the parts that are applicable to your community. Be sure to add additional questions that are relevant to your area. Take pictures to document your findings.

| Date and time of audit:   |                |                     |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| Audited by:   |                |                     |
| Number of audit participants:   |                |                     |
| Name of Safety Audit Leader:  |                |                     |
| Name of community:  |                |                     |
| Area/building being audited:  |                |                     |
| Reason for auditing area:   |                |                     |
| What is your first impression of the area?                                      |                |                     |
| Which five words would you use to describe it?                                  |                |                     |
| Part 1: Lighting: Good lighting allows you to see the area that you're in.      |                |                     |
| Are all the lights working in this area?  | □ Yes          | □ No                |
| If no, which lights need to be fixed?   |                |                     |
| Do any lights need to be added in this area?                                    | □ Yes          | □ No                |
| If yes, where?  |                |                     |
| NOTES:  | Q              |                     |
| Part 2: Sightlines: Clear visibility allows you to see entrances, buildings and | into corners.  |                     |
| Can you clearly see what's around you?  | □ Yes          | □ No                |
| If no, what is blocking your vision/view?                                       |                |                     |
| Are there places where someone could be hiding?                                 | □ Yes          | □ No                |
| If yes, where?  |                |                     |
| NOTES:  | GIRLS FOR LAND | NUNITIES REPORT     |
| nfinder/Ranger<br>etv Audit Training  | ( <b>3</b> )   | FILLES POUR UNE COM |

| Part 3: Signs: Good signs let you know where you are and help you bec  | come familiar with the | e location. |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| Is there a sign telling you where you are?   | □ Yes                  | □ No        |
| Are there signs that show where to go for help in emergencies?   | □ Yes                  | □ No        |
| Are there maps that show where major facilities (like schools, police stati hospital, nearest payphone, etc.) are located? | on,<br>□ Yes           | □ No        |
| Are there signs missing in the area (like street and building names)?  | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| If yes, which ones?  |                        |             |
| If signs were added, what other language(s) should they be written in? _   |                        |             |
| NOTES:   |                        |             |
| Part 4: Traffic and roads: Good traffic signs and roads ensure fewer acc   | cidents and improve    | road safety |
| Is there a safe place to cross the road?   | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| If no, where should a crosswalk or pedestrian traffic signal be added?   |                        |             |
| Are there sidewalks or a safe place for pedestrians to walk?   | □ Yes                  | □ No        |
| Is there a safe place for people to ride their bikes?  | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| Are the roads/parking lots a safe distance from the play areas?  | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| Are cars going at a safe speed?  | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| Are the roads clearly lit?   | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| Are the roads well maintained?   |                        |             |
| (i.e. snow is cleared during the winter, no potholes)  | □ Yes                  | 🗆 No        |
| If no, what needs to be done?  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
| NOTES:   |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |
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|  |                        |             |
|  |                        |             |

**Part 5: Public transit:** Areas that provide public transit allow people to get to where they need to go safely. (Bus can be replaced by another method of transportation.)

| Do the bus stops have bus shelters?                           | □ Yes | □ No |
|---|-------|------|
| If not, where should they be added?                           |       |      |
| Do the bus stops have up-to-date time schedules?              | □ Yes | □ No |
| If not, where should they be added?                           |       |      |
| Are there any bus routes that need to run later in the night? | □ Yes | □ No |
| If so, which ones   |       |      |
| Does your area need additional routes or stops?               | □ Yes | □ No |
| If so, where?   |       |      |
| NOTES:  |       |      |
|   |       |      |

| Part 6: Isolation: Areas that people regularly use decrease feelings of lone | liness and increase | feelings of safety. |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| If you need help are there people who can help you?                          |                     | □ No                |
| How far away is the nearest person that you can call for help?               |                     |                     |
| How would you call for help?   |                     |                     |
| How many people are likely to be around during the:                          | day                 | evening             |
| NOTES:   |                     |                     |

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| Part 7: Movement: Good movement allows you to move freely in spaces. |       |      |
|--|-------|------|
| Is there an alternate route or path for you to use?                  | □ Yes | □ No |
| Is there a shortcut that is used often?                              | □ Yes | □ No |
| Do you feel safe using shortcuts during the day?                     | □ Yes | □ No |
| Do you feel safe using shortcuts at night?                           | □ Yes | □ No |
| If no to either above questions, what would make it safe?            |       |      |
| Are there places where you can get trapped?                          | □ Yes | □ No |
| Can you find an escape route?  | □ Yes | □ No |
| Is there more than one exit?   | □ Yes | □ No |
| NOTES:   |       |      |

|  |                              |                         | handou                   |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Part 8: Maintenance: Areas that are clear of litter and g      | raffiti and that are regular | lv cleaned to           | end to feel safe.        |
| Is the area clean and clear of litter?                         | Ŭ                            | ∫<br>□ Yes              | □ No                     |
| Are there enough trash bins in the area?                       |                              | □ Yes                   | □ No                     |
| Do community members care about this area?                     |                              | □ Yes                   | □ No                     |
| If yes, why do you feel this way?                              |                              |                         |                          |
| Is the area free of graffiti, vandalism and inappropriate n    | nessaging (such as sexis     | st posters, ra<br>□ Yes | acist comments)?<br>□ No |
| If no, where are they located?                                 |                              |                         |                          |
| NOTES:   |                              |                         |                          |
|  | 2                            |                         |                          |
| Part Q. Security and curveillance: Areas that have goe         | d working appurity factures  | a oon maka i            |                          |
| Part 9: Security and surveillance: Areas that have good        | □ Yes □ No                   |                         |                          |
| Do the police patrol my area?                                  |                              |                         |                          |
| Do you feel comfortable speaking with police officers?<br>Why? |                              | □ Yes                   |                          |
| NOTES:   |                              |                         |                          |
|  | SPILE                        |                         |                          |
| Part 10: Accessibility: Areas that are accessible and b        | arrier-free make everyon     | e feel safe             | and welcomed.            |
| Is it easy to move around the area if you are using a wh       | eelchair or stroller?        | □ Yes                   | □ No                     |
| Are the emergency exits easy to use for persons with dia       | sabilities?                  | □ Yes                   | □ No                     |
| Are there people in the area with special needs whose r        | needs are not being met?     |                         |                          |
|  | □ Yes □ No                   |                         | Don't know               |
| If yes, please describe:                                       |                              |                         |                          |
| NOTES:   |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |
|  |                              |                         |                          |

| Part 11  | I: Water safety: Barriers and safety equipment can help   | p prevent drowning | g.                    |                |
|----------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|          | ere fences or barriers to prevent people from accidentall be a deep ditch, pond, stream, river, lake or any other b | , 0                | es of water?<br>□ Yes | □ No           |
|          | e rescue equipment available?   |                    | □ Yes                 | □ No           |
|          | Ing people swim unsupervised? □ Ye  | s 🗆 No             |                       | Don't know     |
| NOTES    | S:  |                    |                       |                |
| Part 12  | 2: Youth services: Areas that provide services for yout   | n make youth feel  | welcomed.             |                |
| Is there | e a community centre located in my area?  |                    | □ Yes                 | □ No           |
| If yes,  | do you use and feel safe in the community centres loca  | ted in your area?  | □ Yes                 | □ No           |
| If yes,  | check off the community services you use the most:  |                    |                       |                |
|          | Recreation centre   |                    |                       |                |
|          | Employment centre   |                    |                       |                |
|          | After-school programs   |                    |                       |                |
|          | Walk-in clinic/health centre  |                    |                       |                |
|          | Library   |                    |                       |                |
|          | Girl Guide Units  |                    |                       |                |
|          | Other, please specify:  |                    |                       |                |
| What is  | s one change you would like to see in any of the service  | es you use?        | 21                    |                |
| NOTES    | S:  |                    | 1                     |                |
|          |   |                    |                       |                |
|          |   |                    |                       |                |
|          | 3: Sense of safety: Areas where people feel comfortal the feeling safe.   | ole or where perso | ons are free f        | rom harassment |
| Do you   | i feel comfortable entering public/community spaces in  | our neighbourhoo   | od?                   |                |
|          |   |                    | □ Yes                 | □ No           |
| Have tl  | here been incidents of violence, assault, or harassment   | in the area?       |                       |                |
|          |   | s □No              |                       | Don't know     |
| NOTES    | S:  |                    |                       |                |
|          |   |                    |                       |                |
|          |   |                    |                       |                |

#### Part 14: Our own safety questions:

Please add any other safety related questions you come up with and would like to answer. In coming up with your own safety questions, consider the following:

- People in your community (Would certain community members have specific safety needs? Consider seniors, children, and people with special needs.)
- Physical features that are prominent in your community (farms, hills, valleys, abandoned buildings, construction area, high-rise buildings, etc.)
- Season and weather (A relatively safe road in the summer might be unsafe in the winter due to snow and ice. Snow banks might be safety hazard during the winter.)

SAFETY AUDIT REPORT CARD FOR PATHFINDERS, RANGERS AND ADULTS

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| Name of community:                |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Area or building being audited: _ |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| Date and time of audit:           |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| Number of participants:           |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| Grading: A – Excellent            | <b>B</b> – Good | <b>C</b> – Okay     | <b>D</b> – Bad | F - Awful         |  |  |
| Safety issue                      | Grade           | Details or comments |                |                   |  |  |
| OVERALL                           |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 1. Lighting                       |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 2. Sightlines                     |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 3. Signs                          |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 4. Traffic and roads              |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 5. Public transit                 |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 6. Isolation                      |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 7. Movement                       |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 8. Maintenance                    |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 9. Security and surveillance      |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 10. Accessibility                 |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 11. Water safety                  |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 12. Youth services                |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 13. Sense of safety               |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
| 14. Other issues                  |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
|                                   |                 |                     |                | UNITIES ()        |  |  |
|                                   |                 |                     |                |                   |  |  |
|                                   |                 |                     | GIRLS F        |                   |  |  |
| nfinder/Ranger                    |                 |                     | Ì              | UNE COMMUNICATION |  |  |

| Good features | Comments |
|---------------|----------|
| 1.            |          |
|               |          |
|               |          |
| 2.            |          |
|               |          |
| 3.            |          |
|               |          |
|               |          |

| Needs improvement |          |                            |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Issue or concern  | Location | Recommendation and details |
| 1.                |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |
| 2.                |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |
| 3.                |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |
|                   |          |                            |

Report Card Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAFETY GUIDELINES

#### Lighting

- There is enough light to see a person's face from at least 15 metres away. Lighting should be uniform to avoid areas/pockets of darkness.
- All outdoor paths, signs, sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, bicycle racks, backs and sides of buildings, exits/entrances and emergency doorways should be lit when it's dark.
- Lighting along a path should enable a person to see their way and to be seen by others.
- All lights found to be burned-out or broken should be fixed or replaced immediately.

#### Signage

- Outdoor signs should identify all public buildings.
- Indoor signs should describe the layout of each floor of a building, operating hours for the building and floor, and location of washrooms.
- Safety feature signs should indicate where the emergency phones, intercoms, alarms, exits, safety protocols, and other safety features are located.
- · Clear signage should indicate the direction/location of accessible areas.

#### Sightlines

- Trees, bushes and shrubs should be trimmed so that people can read signs clearly and so that they do not create hiding places.
- Trees, bushes and shrubs should be trimmed down to a minimum height and the bottom of trees cleared so that a person using a wheelchair can see clearly around an outdoor area at eye level, that is, 75 to 135 cm from the ground (Canadian Standards Association, *Barrier-Free Design: A National Standard of Canada*).
- · Safety or convex mirrors should be used for safety, security and traffic purposes.

#### **Isolation and entrapment**

- · Emergency exits should be clear and visible.
- Pathways or walkways should be paved, well lit and with sufficient signage.
- The use of public areas should be advertised and encouraged to reduce feelings of isolation.

#### Maintenance

- · Broken windows and other signs of vandalism should be replaced quickly.
- There must be fast clean-up of garbage and waste.
- There should be quick removal of graffiti (within 24 hours for hate graffiti).

#### Accessibility

- Paths, sidewalks, ramps, and parking lots should be paved.
- Snow and ice must be quickly removed from outdoor spaces.
- All buildings, washrooms, building floors, classrooms, and offices must have wheelchair access.
- All parking lots should provide wheelchair accessible parking spaces.
- There should be indoor signage inside elevators that include Braille. Signs should reflect the first language of those who may commonly use location.
- There should be indoor access to TTYs/TDDs (Tele Type writers or Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf) for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.



#### **Security services**

- Outdoor paths and walkways (including indoor tunnels and hallways) should include a way to access emergency assistance. This should be available every 35 metres (e.g. emergency phones, payphones, security intercoms, security personnel, or monitored security cameras).
- Emergency phones or security intercoms with a direct connection to security services should be available inside public elevators and washrooms.
- Where necessary and within a reasonable time frame, security cameras should be installed in areas identified by community members.

NOTES:



### ACTION PLANNING GUIDE

Use the results of your safety audit walk to create your plan of action. Choose an issue and devise a plan to address it. You can go through with your plan individually or you can choose to create a team to assist you. Follow these Seven Steps to Social Action to organize and track your progress on your safety audit project.

#### Seven steps to social action

**Step 1: Issue:** Identify the safety issue you'd like to focus on. (What's the top safety issue that came out of your audit?)

**Step 2: Research:** Find out more about your issue. (What's the main cause of your safety concern? Whose responsibility is it to fix this issue?)

**Step 3: Build a team:** Identify people who can help you with your safety project. (Who can help you make positive safety changes in your community?)

**Step 4: Have a meeting:** Meet with your team to discuss group goals and planning. (What would you like to accomplish as a group? What are your goals?)



**Step 5: Make a plan of action:** Use the following chart to keep organized while planning. (What needs to be done to achieve your goals?)

| Roles: What needs to get done?                  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Responsibilities:</b> Who is going to do it? |  |
| Timeline: When do things need to be completed?  |  |
| Allies: Who can help you?                       |  |
| <b>Resources:</b> What is available to you?     |  |
| Challenges                                      |  |
| Solutions                                       |  |

**Step 6: Take action:** Conduct your plan and take action. Be sure to take pictures to share and keep the memories. (What happened because of your group's actions? How did your community benefit?)

**Step 7: Have FUN!** Celebrate your victories, big and small. Be sure to let GGC know about your safety activities. (What did you do to celebrate your efforts? How did you let your community know about the results?)

### SAMPLE ACTION PLAN

**Step 1: Issue:** Identify the safety issue you'd like to focus on. (What's the top safety issue that came out of your audit?)

There is a burnt out streetlight on a residential street. It makes the area really dark.

**Step 2: Research:** Find out more about your issue. (What's the main cause of your safety concern? Whose responsibility is it to fix this issue?)

Streetlights are important because it makes people feel safer walking at night. It also gives drivers more visibility. It is the responsibility of the municipality to make sure that the streetlights are working.

**Step 3: Build a team:** Identify people who can help you with your safety project. (Who can help you make positive safety changes in your community?)

Pathfinders and Rangers in my multi-branch Unit are interested in helping out. Our Unit Guider and parents are also interested in helping if needed.

**Step 4: Have a meeting:** Meet with your team to discuss group goals and planning. (What would you like to accomplish as a group? What are your goals?)

For the meeting agenda, we are going to discuss the issue and our goal of making sure that the streetlights in our neighbourhood are lit up.

**Step 5: Make a plan of action:** Create a plan listing what needs to be done, by whom and by what date. (What needs to be done to achieve your goals?)

Jenny is going to gather information about the streetlight and take pictures. (Nearest address, any identifying numbers on the streetlamp, condition of the streetlight, and if possible, how long the streetlight has been out for.)

Sunita is going to find out the information on who to contact to report the streetlight. Amy is going to write the letter and ask others to proofread it.

**Step 6: Take action:** Conduct your plan and take action. Be sure to take pictures to share and keep the memories. (What happened because of your group's actions? How did your community benefit?)

Sunita contacted the municipal public works office to report the burnt out streetlight. Jenny checked on the streetlight daily. After a week, it still hasn't been fixed. Sunita followed-up by phone and e-mail. The streetlight was fixed in the following week.

**Step 7: Have FUN!** Celebrate your victories, big and small. (What did you do to celebrate your efforts? How did you let your community know about the results?)

Took pictures of the fixed streetlight and sent them to the public works office to show them what a difference the streetlight makes. Shared the success story with friends and family. Encouraged them to check out the streetlights in their neighbourhoods and report other burnt out lights. Excited about this success. Planning another safety audit. Asked Guider to share story and photos with other units and GGC national office.



# GENERAL CONTACTS FOR SAFETY ISSUES

UNE

FILLES POUR

| ISSUE   | WHO TO CONTACT   |  |
|---|--|--|
| Traffic signals or traffic signs are missing or broken          | Municipal office: transportation, public works or police department  |  |
| Street lights are out or broken                                 | Municipal office: Public works department or local hydro agency  |  |
| Plants, trees or shrubs are blocking sightlines                 | If at public place - Municipal office: Public works or parks and recreation department<br>If on private property - Property manager or owner |  |
| Damage to a bus shelter   | Municipal office: Transportation department  |  |
| Sidewalk and walkways need repairs                              | Municipal office: Public works or by-law enforcement department  |  |
| Leaking or broken fire hydrant                                  | Municipal office: Fire department  |  |
| Graffiti  | Municipal office (some may have a graffiti hotline), police department or property owner   |  |
| Broken parking meter  | Municipal office   |  |
| Broken or damaged newspaper boxes                               | Newspaper company  |  |
| Litter on street/sidewalk or overflowing garbage or recycle bin | Municipal office: Waste management department  |  |
| Request new bike rack, report damaged racks or abandoned bikes  | If at public place: Municipal office<br>If on private property: Property manager or owner  |  |
| Water main breaks   | Local water agency or utility company  |  |
| School damage   | School principal, superintendent or trustee  |  |
| Property damage   | Property manager or owner  |  |
| Park maintenance  | Municipal office: parks and recreation department  |  |
| Road maintenance  | Municipal office or<br>Ministry of Transportation  |  |
| Safety and people   | Police department,<br>hospital or local mediator   |  |

### SAMPLE MESSAGE TEMPLATE

handout

Your Name Your Address Telephone e-mail

Date

Name of recipient and title Organization Address

Dear (name of recipient and title),

*Introduce yourself.* State your name, grade, school and community. State your reason for writing. Briefly describe your issue and what you want to happen.

*Express your thoughts and feelings.* Describe the issue in detail. Express how you discovered it. Tell them how this issue affects you and the community.

*Explain what you would like to happen.* Describe the solution. End with a strong and positive statement to support your cause.

Thank the reader for their time.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Your name



### PREPARING FOR A SAFETY AUDIT

#### How do I prepare for facilitating a safety audit with a group?

- 1. Identify people who can help you with your project (e.g. parent/guardians, Guiders, girls in your Unit, other community members). Talk to your Unit Guider and fellow Pathfinders or Rangers about your ideas and your plan on how to proceed.
- 2. Inform others of your safety audit project and invite them to participate.
- 3. a) If your participants are girl Members:
  - Contact another Unit near you.
  - Your own Unit Guider can help you with connecting with a younger Unit by helping you find the contact information.
  - Let the Unit Guider know about the project and invite the Unit to be involved.
  - With the Guider, agree on a suitable meeting time and date. Note down the location of the Unit, the number of girls and Guiders in the Unit, and any other information.
  - You may also want to ask if the Unit has art supplies that you can use.
- 3. b) If you'd like your safety audit participants to be members of the community
  - (other adults or, girls who aren't Members i.e. your non-Guiding friends):
  - Start by brainstorming a list of groups that may be interested in this project. (e.g. community association, children or youth groups, women's centre, seniors group, running club, local business owners, parents group, etc.)
  - Then, identify a group you're interested in working with, contact them and introduce them to your project.
  - Once they've expressed interest in participating, identify a meeting time and date that works for everyone
  - Please note, your Unit Guider or your parent/guardian must to be there at all times.
- 4. Work with the Unit Guider to ensure that the activity meets Safe Guide requirements. Review your plans with the Unit Guider and discuss the time required.
- 5. Become familiar with the neighbourhood where the Unit or group meets. Identify a suitable area for a safety audit walk. Discuss your choice with the Unit Guiders or your parent/guardian you'll be working with.
- 6. Prepare copies of the Safety Audit Checklist and Report Card for your group.
- 7. Choose your warm-up activity and prepare any materials that you need.



# HEAD, HEART, HANDS AND FEET REFLECTION

handout



#### Head:

Touch your head. Think about what happened today. What did you learn today from participating in the training?



#### Heart:

Touch your heart. Think about what it meant to you. How does this experience make you feel? Does it change any of your values – what you believed in?



#### Hands:

Feel your hands. Think about the activities you did today. What skills did you gain or improve?



#### Feet:

Touch your feet. Think about what you can do with all the new knowledge and skills. What are you going to do with your new knowledge or skills? How is your life going to be different?

