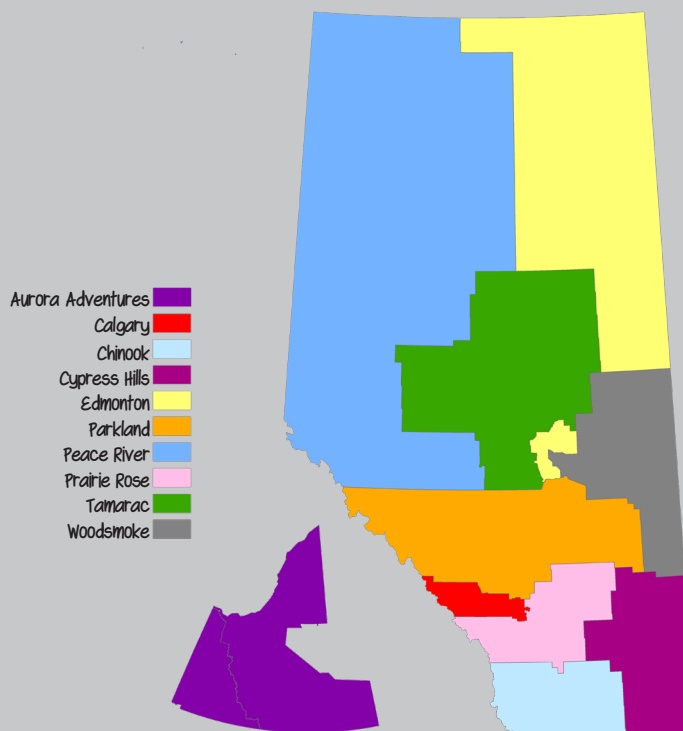


Girl Guides

Alberta Council

For Guiding in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon

2019 Annual Report



Everything she wants to be.

Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council

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2019....

Throughout 2019, the goal of Alberta Council remained putting our girls first. We continued to hold amazing girl opportunities, ranging from our annual summer camps, to the new in 2019, Ranger & Link event, offered opportunities for youth members to contribute to Alberta Council through our Youth Forum and engaged our Rangers in leadership opportunities at girl events and as participants in our training events. The Areas, Districts and Units also continued to provide amazing opportunities for all girls in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon (ANY) through incredible program opportunities, camps and adventures and leadership opportunities at both unit and council levels.

The passion and determination of our adult members is what ensures that Alberta Council continues to provide GREAT Guiding experiences, so she can be *everything she wants to be*.

Girl Engagement Committee

Girl Engagement Coordinator – Liz Maki

Camping Adviser – Julie Kitz

International Adviser – Amanda Saigeon until May, Melanie Murray

Program Adviser – Dana Wagner

Lones Lead – Meribeth Barclay

AGP Lead – Edie Jubenville

The *Girl Engagement Committee* worked diligently to support the Responsible Guiders to ensure that all the planning was complete, and that the variety of summer camps provided our girl members with amazing memories.

Camping continued to be an important part of Guiding. The *Camp Committee* supported many units and individuals travelling to LEAP in Ontario, Voila Quebec and DAWN in Newfoundland as well as overseeing the following experiences:

Summer Mash up Guide Camp – June 30-July 6, 2019, Camp Tangletrees. The *Responsible Guider* for this camp of 48 Guides and 11 adult members was Amanda Farkash. Each day had its own theme, Nature, STEM, Camp Skills, Arts, with options of choosing two out of three or four activities that were running in the morning. Afternoon programming was split into two groups. While one of the groups was at the waterfront, the second group was split into two smaller groups and rotated through the afternoon programming.

Outdoor Adventures Camp - July 14-20, 2019, Camps Mockingbird and Westover. This camp had 40 girls and 8 core staff. The goals for this weeklong adventure was to teach Pathfinders and Rangers camping skills, enhance bridging and of course ensure a ton of fun was had by all. The *Responsible Guider*, Leslie Jones, had to cancel her attendance at the last minute, so Kate Johnston stepped in as RG during the camp.

Voila Quebec ANY Council sponsored a patrol of 8 girls and 2 adults to travel to Quebec in August.

"I had an incredible experience due to the people I met. The volunteers and staff always addressed you with a warm smile and a helping hand. My leaders, as well as the other leaders around camp, were caring, trustworthy and greatly enhanced my experience. Most importantly, the girls around camp and in my patrol, were super amazing. They were inclusive, humorous and extremely nice people to be around." ~Zoe

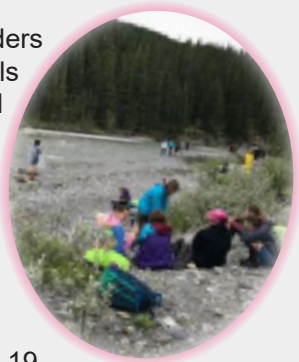




"I am so thankful I was able to go to Voila Quebec. I have never had so much fun at camp with girls that are so encouraging and supportive. Meeting all the girls from different provinces and getting to know about them was a very unique experience. Whether it was the canoeing, hiking or just hanging out this camp is surely one to remember." ~Marie

"We could not have asked for a better group of girls, and the group that we got placed with at camp. We all bonded instantly and have made friendships that will last a lifetime. The entire camp was well run, and I never experienced a camp so willing to adapt to the girl's needs, allowing the camp to be very girl driven! Although we had our hiccups, I will look back on this trip with pride and fond memories. It will be an experience that I will hold dearly." ~Nikki

Summer Backpacking Camp – August 11-17, 2019. The purpose of this camp was to introduce Pathfinders and Rangers to backpacking in the Canadian Rockies. Nine girls, ages 12 – 17, registered. Girls were from Edmonton, St Albert, Wetaskiwin, Innisfail, Calgary and High River. Laurie McIntosh and Elizabeth Jack were the Trip Lead and Trip Assist with Maren Bolster assisting as well. They managed to encounter all seasons – sun, rain, a bit of hail and a touch of snow during the week. They learned about backcountry camping - leave no trace, water purification, self-care and more. Nothing was too daunting for this group and they were the best cheerleaders for each other. A few members were exceptional motivators who kept singing – yes, nearby hikers knew 'We Are the Girl Guides' and they didn't encounter a bear!



OAL Weekend Training for Guiders and Rangers – The OAL Training was held in June with 19 participants. The **Responsible Guider** was Twyla Jenkins who was supported by Kathy Cawthorpe. The camp was unable to have fires due to a fire ban but luckily most of the planned cooking methods, such as haybox, foil ovens, and tin can stoves with buddy burners, were still able to be done.

The **Program Committee** developed and re-developed ANY Council challenges in collaboration with the team at the National Office. The newly created Women of Valour challenge was so popular, it was uploaded to the Girls First platform, with the challenge being taken by units across Canada. The Committee also supported the following girl events:

Alberta Girls' Parliament – March 20-24, 2019. The 48th Session of Alberta Girls' Parliament (AGP) had 42 girls registered, including Pathfinders and Rangers and two members from the Alberta Junior Forest Wardens Association. Members came from all over Alberta plus two Rangers from BC, and one from Saskatchewan.

The Executive Members, elected from last year's session, chose the following debate topics:

"Be it resolved that starting January 1, 2020, stay at home parents be paid \$1,000 per month if their annual personal income is below \$24,000."

"Be it resolved that dental care will be included in the Alberta Health Care Insurance plan effective January 1, 2020."

"Be it resolved that First Nations languages will be offered as an option to all students in grades 7-12 in the province of Alberta."

The Guider team for the 48th Session of AGP was **Responsible Guider** Shannen Jaeger, Gultaj Kara, Heather Robertson, Vanessa Padoani, Julie Kitz, Robin Kitz, and Katherine Lines.

A Link to the Future, Ranger Link Event - This inaugural weekend at the end of April, saw 21 participants register; 12 Link and 9 Rangers, who were offered a wide variety of sessions by 13 adult members. The *Responsible Guider* during the event was Dana Wagner. The sessions offered were chosen based on a survey sent to Link Members and soliciting



feedback from Rangers at a previous event. Session options included: Shadow Box Craft, Archery, Outdoor Cooking, Hiking 101, Packing 101, Trips, References, & Scholarships, Girls First, Glittered Wine Glass craft, Beyond the Unit Guider, Service Project. Although the unpredictable April weather altered a few plans it didn't stop everyone from having a great time and looking forward to the 2020 event.

Arts Camp - The Arts Camp was held at Camp Jubilee, August 18 – 24th, 2019. This year's camp was the largest attended with 53 Guides, and 27 Pathfinders, supported by 5 Rangers and 19 Guiders, with the *Responsible Guider* being Jacqueline Emes. As the demand from campers far exceeded the original capacity (60) for camp and with enough volunteers secured we were able to offer an additional 20 campers the opportunity to attend camp. Overall, the camp was a success with many campers and guiders sharing it as one of their favourite events to have attended.

The theme was 'Art Around the World', and the programs offered campers the opportunity to try different art forms from various countries. Campers chose their morning program ahead of camp (Culinary, Fabric Arts, Art, Photography or Drama) and spent each morning of the week focused on that specific art form, allowing them to specialize/focus on an area of interest. The afternoons/evening were filled with round robin style program and included: Henna, Pysanka Eggs, Hammered Art, High Tea (including personalized fascinators, Tea Service provided by Leslie Maksymetz from Sipology), sewing toiletry kits, Paint Night, Collaged Birds, Rock Painting, African Beads, Inspire me Jars, Japanese Writing, Wired Art and Needle Felting.

Additionally, campers were able to go swimming twice at the local community pool, make hat crafts, participate in wide games, attend/lead campfires, complete patrol duties (including leading daily reflections/flag raising, meal prep, leading graces and general camp clean up), camp movie night (Popcorn donated by Cineplex Movie Theatre), Guides Own and completed two service projects. This year's camp service projects benefited AARCS (dog toys and treats) and Soap for Hope YYC (travel sized toiletries were collected and packaged).

The camp included a visit from the *Deputy National Commissioner of Pakistan*, Mrs. Rukhsana Nazir, who joined the campers for High Tea to learn about Guiding in Pakistan.

The *International Committee* supported the following initiatives:

Colour Your World – July 14 – 20, 2019, Camp Jubilee. There were 25, 3rd year Guides and 1st year Pathfinders. This camp continues to grow in numbers and activities while teaching our youth about International Guiding. We had 5 adult volunteers of all experience levels participate in the fun and learning along with the girls. The *Responsible Guider* was Adette Lacerte.

Sangam Day was extra special as we had a special guest attend. Mrs Rukhsana Nazir, who is a pioneer of the PGGA Islamabad Capital Territory Chapter with the Pakistan Girl Guides Association. Mrs Nazir was a Chairperson of Shield & Awards as well as a Deputy National Commissioner. She taught the girls about Guiding in Pakistan and the girls inundated her with questions to learn more. It was a once in a lifetime experience!



Nationally Sponsored and Independent Travel – Nine out of eleven Areas were represented on 2019 Nationally Sponsored Trips. Our 33 members included 26 Girls, 2 Alternates, 4 Guiders and 2 Alternate Guiders. Alberta Council was also able to support 44 domestic and 19 international travel opportunities by offering Safe Guide support and travel assistance throughout the year.

Member Services Committee

Member Services Coordinator – Sheila Morrison until May, Shannen Hoffman

Membership Adviser – Bev Burton

Link Liaison – Shannon Callaway (*Congratulations on your marriage*)

Trefoil Guild Liaison – Sue Schroder

Awards Lead – Henny Smit-Nielsen

PR & Communications Adviser – Rosemary Smith

ANY-Guidenews Editor – Maren Bolstler until September

Blue-Print Co-Editors – Samantha Boys and Finley Rogers

Web Coordinator – Angela Smith

Training Adviser – Chris Burton

The Member Services Committee work towards supporting our Adult members through membership, communications and training initiatives throughout 2019. Our official 2019 Membership Count saw growth for the **Eleventh** consecutive year, 16,301 members in 2018 to 16,564 members in 2019; an increase of 263 members!

The **Membership Committee** continued Recruiting, Retaining and Rewarding our members. The annual 'I Promise' crest and Spring registration membership postcard were distributed to all girl members. The Committee completed the 'Membership Growth Achievement' award, which was presented for the first time in 2019 at our Annual Banquet. Other committee work included finalizing the Pocket Pals, a Guider resource for all branches, working through the adult inquiry, potential member and PRC renewal lists, connecting with people to work towards getting through the processes. Taste of Guiding rallies took place in some of our Areas and the entire committee continued to look for new opportunities for membership growth such as advertising at kindergarten registrations, post-secondary institutions etc., encouraging mentorship for new Guiders, and creating more 'Bring A Friend' instant meetings. Business cards were created so Link and Trefoil Guild members can distribute to others to encourage staying connected.

The **CPR Team** (Connecting People and Resources), "*Breathe new Guiding life into your Area*" was formed with a purpose to:

1. Help build capacity within Areas to start new units in communities previously underserved in Guiding
2. Support Areas in starting new units in communities without current Guiding
3. Start a "starter unit" within Alberta Council (pilot project from National)

The 38 **Trefoil Guild Units**, comprising of 475 members across the province and two territories continue to be active and busy by being involved in a diverse array of service projects and supporting units, district and area events in a variety of ways.

A successful **Trefoil Roundup** was held in May following the HLM Luncheon. The 2019 National Trefoil Guild Gathering in Ontario saw 15 of our members attend. The Trefoil Gleanings continues to be produced to connect Trefoil Guild members across Alberta Council.

This year work began to better connect **Link Members** to the Area where they are currently living. A new Link crest was created and distributed to members, with support from the ANY Council staff. The office also included information about Link in the annual letter to Rangers turning the age of majority in the province or territories. The 1st Alberta Council Link Unit continues to be an option for those who do not have an Area Link Unit.

It was a very busy year for the **Awards Committee**. A wide variety of awards were presented throughout the year including 3 Alberta Rose, 3 Provincial Commissioner's Promise, 5 Fortitude, 4 Honorary Life, 10 Medal of Merit, and 2 Valour. The Committee started recruitment of a Ranger aged member to join the team in time for the 2020 Awards season.



A new Alberta Council Ivy Award was approved to begin accepting nominations for Spring 2020. The Ivy Award will be presented to long time Guiders who exhibit the qualities of reliability, loyalty and friendship. These members are always available to lend a hand, or continue to serve in a unit or district, on a committee or as a member of a Trefoil Guild.

The Awards booklet was updated and, with collaboration with Training, an award letter writing webinar was added to the Alberta Council website as a great member resource.

The **PR & Communications Committee** worked to ensure the ANY Council electronic and printed communications were delivered professionally, in an effort to keep our members up to date on all relevant information. Our main communications included 4 printed issues of Blue-Print, ANY-GuideNews, and the ANY Council Website. ANY Council requested more focus be placed on Social Media, and this continues to evolve.

The **Training Committee** ended the year with a team of 12 Trainer Candidates and 63 Trainers, as well as 3 OAL Resource members. 2019 included 13 Trainer Candidates appointments, 10 Trainer appointments, 26 trainer reappointments, and 2 OAL Adventure reappointments. This integral group of volunteers, along with the National Girl-Driven Ambassadors, New Guider Community Mentors and Diversity & Inclusivity Facilitators, supported 6,300 Guiders with over 920 hours of training.

Multi-Faceted – March 15 – 17, 2019, Red Deer. ‘*Back to the Future*’, 2019 Multi-Faceted was held at the Radisson Hotel in Red Deer. The **Coordinators**, Donna Leonard Robb and Nyna Marr welcomed five Rangers and 136 Guiders to this annual training weekend. This year offered the best of what Guiding had to offer – traditions, ceremonies, history as well as sessions on the Girls First program. Trainers/resource people enhanced the theme by wearing uniform pieces from the past, displaying items from the past and demonstrating how skills used in the past are still valuable and relevant in the Girls First program. Sunday morning included an inclusivity plenary session including a panel with members from the Central Alberta Pride Society. Chris Taeger, Executive Director, spoke briefly about her identity, introduced members of the panel, as well as asked and fielded questions from the floor.

Trainers’ Workshop – April 12 – 14, 2019, Red Deer. Theme ‘*Moving Forward Together*’. The **Coordinators** were Rose Ward, Erin Dixon and Natalie Taylor. Seventy participants, of which 21 members participated in the Trainer Stream training, the highest number of members we have ever had!

New Commissioner Training – June 8 – 9, 2019, Calgary Guide Centre. ‘*Getting Started – New Commissioner Training*’ was designed to provide a Calgary-based training opportunity for new District Commissioners and Deputy District Commissioners to complete the five ‘Getting Started’ DC TEAM training modules. Providing Commissioner training at this time of year gave an opportunity for those becoming Commissioners in July/August to start building a secure understanding of the scope of the role, readying them for the new Guiding year. Eleven participants registered, of which ten were new District Commissioners, and one was a new Deputy Area Commissioner. Participants were mostly drawn from Southern Alberta, however one participant travelled from Whitehorse YT. The **Trainers** were Kathy Watson (Parkland Area) and Debbie Morgan (Calgary Area)

Commissioners’ Workshop – September 27-29, 2019, Red Deer. The goals of “*Illumination*” Commissioners’ Workshop was to work with new and experienced Area and District Commissioners by giving them some basic information of what and where to find things, who to talk to and a basic outline of the position requirements. The **Coordinators** were Leah Cooney and Tirzah Wolff who supported 5 Trainers and 63 participants.

Telephone and Webinars - ANY Council has a growing pool of Trainers creating and delivering webinars. We continue to utilize previously unused features of Adobe Connect to improve the quality of training provided. Many Trainers have taken part as presenters or in a support role!

OAL Adventure Training - Facilitators, Anna Robertson, Leah Betker and Erin Eacott, hosted weekend training sessions during September and October in Edmonton, where participants worked through the OAL Adventure modules.

Alberta Council Youth Forum

Youth Forum Coordinator – Noreen Remtulla until May, Amanda Farkash and Jacqueline Emes

The Alberta Council Youth Forum’s (YF) recruitment campaign was a success, making a full team of 10 youth. A small sampling of the YF initiatives include:

- ◇ Our team has been going out to different units, of all ages, in their respective areas to represent the Youth Forum and spread awareness of who we are. Outreach was one of our many goals this year, to hear what girls have to say, as well as to get some new ideas and suggestions on what needs to be changed and improved in our organization.
- ◇ All members of the Youth Forum attended Grassroots Huddle, which was a great opportunity to gather input on issues, spread awareness about the YF and its purpose. Skylar and Anita assisted Liz with facilitating a session

on Girl Engagement. The workshop was an opportunity for brainstorming and sharing strategies for helping girls of all branches have input on their Guiding experience. Emily was responsible for facilitating the “Fireside Chat” with the PC team, where attendees could improve their understanding of those roles. In addition, Youth Forum led campfire, with assistance from other Rangers at the event.

- ◇ Lucy and Emily’s planning paid off and Welcome camp was a big success! The girls got together at the Scout Hall in Canmore to brainstorm new goals and ideas for this upcoming year, meet each other and explore the mountains. The girls got to know each other by making gingerbread cookies (in the spirit of the holidays) and laughing about how we decorated them. The next day Laurie popped by and participated in our yearly planning and budget talk. That evening we invited Anya, from the National Youth Council, to come for a visit. We were grouped together based on where we live and talked about issues that impact the girls in our area.



‘in our Backyard’ Tri-Annual Rally - May 11 was Rally Day, a tri-annual opportunity for Area-wide gatherings. The Youth Forum took the lead on developing the theme, the activities and even the SWAG for the event. Although support was provided at an ANY Council level, each Area took the theme and ran with it, making each rally their own. Guiding in our Backyard was celebrated in different ways with service projects, like painting fences, making mats for the homeless, planting a garden and decorating butterfly houses. Participants also had the chance to learn about services in their communities with visits from EMS, fire departments, and other organizations. Most importantly girls and Guiders had the chance to connect and celebrate the sisterhood of Guiding.

Honorary Life Luncheon - May 25, 2019, Red Deer. The PC Team, on behalf of Alberta Council, celebrated the 178 Honorary Life Members that reside in our jurisdiction by hosting the annual HLM luncheon. The luncheon was coordinated by the Alberta Council Office Staff and provided HLMs an update on all happenings going on in the Guiding.

GrassRoots Huddle -The second ever Grass Roots Huddle was held from September 13-15, 2019 at Camp HeHoHa. This event brought together over 100 youth and adult members from a wide variety of demographics from within Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon for a weekend of generating thoughts, ideas and feedback. Sessions included: Youth Engagement (facilitated by members of our Youth Forum), Adult Engagement, Diversity and Inclusivity and Social Media.

Member Highlights from the weekend:

- ◇ *‘I really enjoyed the youth engagement session and I really enjoyed having the Rangers at the event.’*
- ◇ *‘Sitting around the campfire. Such an overwhelming sense of sisterhood and feeling of peace.’*
- ◇ *‘Getting to voice my opinions and share my thoughts in a safe space as well as hearing what others had to say from all Areas within Alberta Council.’*
- ◇ *‘Hearing what the Rangers had to say (and their campfire).’*



Operations

The Coordinators, Advisers, Liaisons and Leads, under the lead of *Deputy Provincial Commissioner* Laurie McIntosh, ensure that the operational side of Alberta Council initiatives and events continue to flourish. Operations continued to look for ways to ensure that the Advisers, Liaisons and Leads were more engaged and supported.

We began 2019 leveraging Office 365 to bring Alberta Council onto a shared National platform starting with @girlguides.ca email addresses. Through this, we formalized our rebranding as ANY Council, reflecting the diversity of our members from across Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

Treasurer – Pam Sigvaldason

Cookie Adviser – Linda Hallonquist until May, Tanya Morin

Scholarship Chair – Donna Leonard Robb

Casino Lead – Beverly Simpson Headon

Fund Development Administrator – Mary Chibuk

Member, Property Management - Margaret Utgoff

In 2019, Alberta Council made the difficult decision to increase the girl registration fee by \$30, to \$150. The extra \$30 is used solely to assist in funding the extensive amount of unit meeting space rental costs, which became the responsibility of Council in September.

Girl Guide Cookies continue to support all things and every level of Guiding. In 2019 ANY saw 64,232 Classic and 57,465 Mint for a total of 121,697 cases of cookies flood their communities. The ANY Council portion of the cookie case price was increased by \$1.00 to \$5.00 per case in 2019. This was the first increase since 2005 and was used to continue supporting girl and adult initiatives throughout our jurisdiction. An additional \$0.75 per case continued to be collected to support Member Subsidy and in 2019 provided registration support for over 1000 girls.

Alberta Council was extremely proud to be able to provide scholarships to members in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon. The *Scholarship Committee* with support from staff, worked diligently through all the applications. Elena Favaro was the recipient of the Margaret Utgoff Scholarship. The very first recipient of the Joyce Foster Scholarship, was Gemma Page.

Property Management continued with collaboration with the National Office, Areas/Districts with owned or leased properties (buildings and camps) and many outside entities to provide guidance and information. With the release of National's 'Red, Amber, Green (RAG)' report, significant effort to relinquish properties falling in the red category took place, with more continuing into 2020. At the end of 2019, GGC in AB, NT & YT was responsible for 8 buildings and 17 camp properties.

Risk and Compliance

Risk & Compliance Coordinator – Jennifer Dougherty

Safe Guide Co-Advisers – Marg Easson and Kathy Kibblewhite

Girl Protection Lead – Donna Leonard Robb

The volunteers who fill the roles of Safe Guide Adviser and Assessors are extremely hardworking volunteers ensuring that the safety of our members remain at the forefront for all activities. The *Safe Guide Co-Advisers*, along with the 38 Assessor volunteers, diligently reviewed over 1,750 Safe Guide file submissions 2019.

Our Water Assessors began the '*Water-Wings Support Network*', a country-wide mentoring network, where seasoned (waterlogged) water assessors provide mentorship to new water assessors.

Archives & Museum

Archives Lead, Janet Allcock and her husband Geoff, continued to improve operations and collections management policies. The activities in Archives continue to follow similar patterns to those of the last few years. There is always something requiring attention – donations to process, new program badges to archive and unit program sessions to arrange.

Several significant donations of uniforms were received and have been accessioned as part of the permanent collection or were added to the uniform collection used by units when coming in to do Museum program.

The Museum visit program continued to be popular. The girls have fun and gain insight into the history of Guiding. A visit from former Ranger members from the 1960s was particularly rewarding because they were able to view our extensive collection of films, photos and other memorabilia. One former Ranger managed to spot herself in one of the photos.

The Committee was happy to once again have a volunteer history student helping. She read through early reports to Council and compiled a data base of topics of interest. In addition, she is learning some of the other aspects of the committee work and supporting archive tours for our youth members.

Our Areas

Alberta Council encompasses Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon and is divided into ten very unique areas with both rural, northern and urban populations. The Area Councils manage the day to day operations within each of the Areas, with the Area Commissioner being the senior volunteer and Chair of the council. The Area Commissioners continued to be supported by Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Julie Perras.

Area Commissioners

Aurora Adventures Area Commissioner - Andrea Korpel

Calgary Area Commissioner - Arzmund Teja until June, Michele Harding

Chinook Area Commissioner - Tracy Burton

Cypress Hills Area Commissioner - Jamie Lowry until June, Stephanie Lindstedt

Edmonton Area Commissioner - Heather Monahan until April, Kathy House & Cheryl Skorobohach

Michener Area Commissioner - Michelle Andersen until June

Parkland Area Commissioner - Rose Ward until June, Denise Cruz

Peace River Area Commissioner - Crystal Power

Prairie Rose Area Commissioner - Tracey Stagg

Tamarac Area Commissioner - Patricia Wilson

Woodsmoke Area Commissioner - Cheryl Ryan

Here is a taste of what our **Areas** had to say:

Aurora Adventures Area - Aurora Adventures Area had an exciting year in 2019. We celebrated Evelyn Neave's 60 years of membership, the area was presented with the ANY Council membership growth award for 2019 and our 493 members sold 1335 cases of Classic cookies and 705 cases of mint cookies. Guiding was represented in Inuvik, with Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Ranger units, Hay River, with Sparks, Brownies, Guides, and Pathfinder units, Yellowknife, with Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Ranger units and Yukon, with Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and a Trex unit. In the fall units opened in Watson Lake, Haines Junction and Teslin.



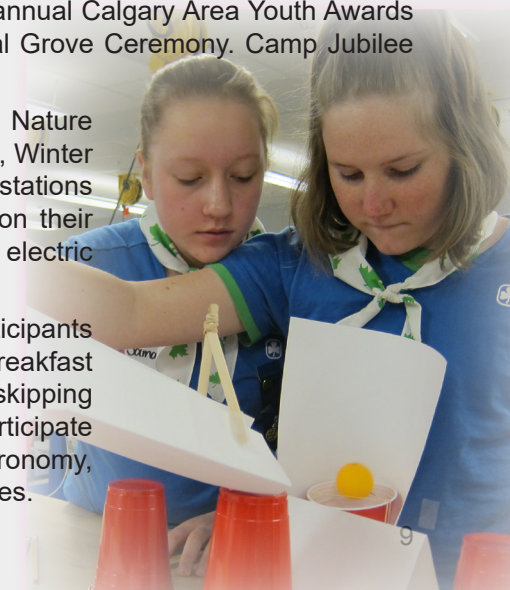
The Districts, Communities and Units participated in Canada Day parades, Pride Day, a bridging 'pink tea' to learn about the Famous 5, built a cookie machine, and held a district camp at the beach. Members travelled to Grassroots Huddle, the Indigenous Engagement Circle, Trefoil Gathering, London, Netherlands, Switzerland, LEAP, and DAWN.

Area wide opportunities are challenging given the geography of Aurora Adventures, however the Aurora Bear Project started in 2019. Aurora started travelling around the Area to visit with each Unit.

Calgary Area - Calgary Area was excited to grow to 6000 members in 2019. Fun and engaging programming at the unit, district and area level continued to make Guiding a program of choice for families in Calgary, Cochrane, Canmore, Banff and Chestermere. We recognized the contributions of our amazing members at the annual Calgary Area Youth Awards Ceremony, Trefoil Tea, Area Dinner, Volunteer Awards Celebration and the Memorial Grove Ceremony. Camp Jubilee celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a commemorative crest.

New Area events in 2019 included Heritage Train trips at Aspen Crossing (all ages), Nature Day (B,G) at Ralph Klein Park, Stampeder Sleepover at McMahon Stadium (all ages), Winter Fun Day (S,B,G), Adventure Trek (G) with girls hiking and completing challenges at stations along the way, and Camp Cook Off Competition (P,R) where teams were judged on their ability to create a three course meal including three secret ingredients without using electric appliances.

Alberta Council Rally Day was held on May 11 at the Stampede grounds with 1750 participants of all ages and 200 volunteers and presenters. The full day event included a pancake breakfast and an entertaining stage show at lunch time featuring an opera singer, competitive skipping demonstration and Mayor Naheed Nenshi as special guest. Girls could choose to participate at over twenty different hands-on activities such as African drumming, line dancing, astronomy, water and nature, service project for Meals on Wheels, curling and self-defense classes.



Chinook Area

- Guiding continues to be great in Chinook Area! We had several Area events that were a great success. We had Arts Day with Sparks through Rangers learning about craft, drama and music. The Sparks and Brownies got to make their own puppet gloves to retell the stories of the Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks. They really huffed and puffed and had a good time. There was also an indoor-outdoor fun day in the fall. Due to a severe storm that came through in September, we changed our outdoor fun day to an indoor fun day. Everyone still had a great time and even enjoyed outdoor cooking inside!

Great Guiding only happens with Great Guiders. There were several trainings that occurred, with many of the Guiders doing Girls First training. As well, we held the New Guider Learning Path training in the fall. We had a great turnout for our Guider Appreciation Banquet. We had a fun time together enjoying the sisterhood of Guiding and playing a pub quiz.

In Chinook Area we are very fortunate to have the great Camp Okeekun. Many girls got the opportunity to try out camping, either indoor at Olave House or Chalet, or tenting at Jennifer Peters and Nancy Rutt sites.

As always, we have amazing staff that support all of us. Tracy is the friendly face of Guiding as the first contact at our office and Donna always has a smile on her face and is extremely supportive of all our Guiders. Don keeps Camp Okeekun in amazing shape and allows the girls and Guiders the chance to enjoy camping together.

We had several community events that brought Guiding out to the public. Several units came out for the Hurricane's hockey game where they cheered on the hometown team and sold cookies (and the Hurricanes won!). We had a great turnout for the ANY Council Rally Day in May and members from all over the area got to join for a fun day in the park.



Cypress Hills Area

- We had 383 members in in Medicine Hat, Redcliff, and Brooks. Winter Frolic, Winter Frolic Jr, and Winter Frolic Sr. were held in January and February at Elkwater. The themes are different for each camp and year, but usually include winter outside activities and are well-attended. Many Unit and District camps are also held at our Elkwater campsite. We held our Song and Dance event on March 9 at Hillcrest Church for all members. Each unit performs for all the other girls and Guiders and all participants get a crest.

We participated in the ANY Council Rally Day in May in Kin Coulee where girls were engaged in various learning & fun activities, and could interact with other Guiding members, role models and leadership opportunities. Maiden's Quest, this year with an EcoWarriors theme, was held for all branches July 7-12. We had a great turnout with 41 girls and 14 Guiders camping for the week. We hosted a table for the

first year at Pride in the Park where we incorporated some of the ANY Council 'Taste of Guiding' activities. NiteHawk, our annual bridging event had a theme of Neon Nature was held in Brooks in October and had 124 participants.

Guider Enrichment Weekend was held in November at our Elkwater Girl Guide camp. 16 adults learned knots and Maori sticks and completed the Sisterhood Challenge. One of the sisterhood groups even won a grand prize. We also had a Free Swap (mostly clothes), which was well-received and continues to grow each year.

We honoured 4 Pathfinders for completing their Canada Cord, and provided event assistance to enable 4 youth to attend Alberta Girls Parliament. Members within Cypress Hills participated in a Yellow Fish Road event, Great Shoreline Clean up, bridging camp, trainings, GrassRoots Huddle and travel. We opened a new Trefoil Guild, the Adventure Owls, to organize outdoor adventures for adults.

Edmonton Area - Edmonton Area had an extremely busy year! The highlight was the 'In our Backyard' Rally held at Borden Park. We welcomed over 900 members including a bus load of our friends from Northern Lights District. Girls participated in several activities including a service project making conversation mats for The Bissell Centre. The Rally concluded with the biggest campfire most of us had ever been part of!

Again, this year, we offered our members access to special sporting events. Over 650 girls and their families welcomed the New Year at the Oil Kings Game. Edmonton Area members sported their new jerseys and were shown on the jumbotron as we proudly sang O Canada. In early September, we partnered with the Edmonton Eskimos football team

and had 400 girls and their families attend the Labour Day re-match game. Two hundred girls and Guiders spent the night camped out on the sidelines of Commonwealth stadium and were treated to a delicious pancake breakfast the next morning.

Thanks to our incredibly dedicated Guiders, our Friendship camps were all filled to capacity. Over 200 girls from Sparks to Rangers were able to experience camp with new friends, unique activities and fantastic food. The themes were unique this year and included Emoji, Harry Potter and zombie apocalypse. Lifelong memories were made by all those participating.

Light the Bridge, our spectacular Thinking Day celebration, attracted over 1100 members as we paraded from Remax Field across the new Walterdale Bridge to Kinsman Park. The High Level Bridge shone brightly in Guiding blue, with the dance party and fireworks shocking and amazing our girls.

The Girls Awards ceremony was held at the Royal Alberta Museum. We had over 150 Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers recognized for their amazing achievements. The girls who delivered speeches were confident, well-spoken and inspiring. Our community has a bright future with these young women leading the way!

The giving spirit of Edmonton Area was seen often this year and the two highlights were a successful Hike for Plenty and Holiday Commissioner's Challenge. Our members supported local food banks during our Hike for Plenty campaign collecting over 8300 kg of food in Beaumont, Leduc, Fort Saskatchewan, Fort McMurray, Sherwood Park and Edmonton. The holiday season, saw our members embrace our "Show them we care, donate underwear" drive collecting 4133 pairs of underwear for The Mustard Seed. Our hearts burst with pride when we dropped off the donation. We continue to be in awe of the commitment and enthusiasm of our Guiders to ensure that Edmonton Area girls can be everything she wants to be.

Michener Area – Alberta Council made the difficult decision to close Michener Area on June 30, 2019. The districts from Michener Area are now being supported by Peace River and Tamarac Areas.



Parkland Area - 2019 has been a fantastic year of change for Parkland Area! We saw a bunch of new faces join Parkland Area Council, bringing fresh new ideas and innovation to our meetings. Parkland Area held many events during 2019. Here is a sample of some of the wonderful things that went on:

◇ ANY Council Rally Day had an astounding 875 girls register! It was a beautiful sunny day, and most of the stations were outside. We completed service projects, did seed planning, played outdoor games, and played musical instruments. Everyone had a wonderful time, and the girls all made new friends.

◇ Guide Camp in June saw 8 units bridging at Camp Sherbino for a weekend of fun. Girls and Guiders slept in tents, learned fire making skills, practiced wilderness shelter building, and completed a wood working project. This weekend event was held in conjunction with the Alberta Council OAL training, giving all Guiders a chance to meet new Members, and reconnect.

◇ Backpack camp in October had an astounding 80 Pathfinders and Rangers register – triple what was expected! It was encouraging to see so many youth interested in back-country camping and backpacking. Although it was a frosty weekend, all members stayed in tents, and learned about wilderness survival, dehydrated foods, packing, bear safety, and survival kits.

◇ Canada Cord Ceremony in May celebrated 75 fabulous young women receiving their Canada Cord or Trailblazer Leadership award, at a formal event in Red Deer. We are very proud of the Young women in our Area and look forward to seeing them excel in all areas of life.

◇ Our annual awards banquet celebrating youth and adult members, was very well attended, with over 200 enjoying a dinner in Sylvan Lake. Many awards were presented providing a great opportunity to recognize all of the accomplishments of Parkland Area Members.

Peace River Area - Peace River Area had an eventful 2019. The year started off very cold but once everything warmed up, camps and other activities started. February saw Thinking Day activities taking place in many different communities. Wapiti Meadows District teamed up with the local Boy Scouts to have an afternoon event. Units in Pewapun enjoyed working on the Thinking Day Challenge. It was great to see advocacy in action with many members sporting "I Promise to Share and Be a Friend" shirt for Anti-Bullying Day.

March brought even warmer weather and the Annual Peace River Area Arts Camp. This year's theme was 'Back to Basics'. We had about 120 Girls and many Guiders/Parent Volunteers. The girls had fun doing different activities that had never done before.

May brought new campers out to Camp Kupasiwin. The Units in Falher had a weekend camp where they had so much fun, they could not wait to go out again. May also brought 260 members together for the ANY Council Rally Day, where the weather was nice, and everyone had fun.

June brought year end camps and trips. A couple of units went to Edmonton and Jasper for weekends of fun. There was different year end camps all over the Area. Some units finished the year off with community cleanup activities. After a short summer break, we were all brought together again in September for our Annual Area Training. We had 29 Guiders at the training. Once it was over, some of the Guiders stayed one more night for a Trefoil Guild evening. The Guild had a great night learning to make different types of food, making a Zen garden and visiting.

October was busy. All the Units in Peace River Area started their meetings with some girls seeing old friends, and some making new friends. Falher Units braved the cold and did another weekend camp at Camp Kupasiwin. Many Units in November participated in Remembrance Day celebration in their respective communities. November also brought many Enrollment Ceremonies and a few Guiders participated in the Sisterhood Challenge.



Prairie Rose Area - We are so happy to be sharing our guiding light in Prairie Rose Area. As a medium sized Area, geographically and in number of girls and Guiders, we are doing our very best to grow stronger and stronger. We grew in Guiders, girls and units in 2019. Guiding continued to serve our local and greater communities with good deeds and service projects. Our girls wrote to Veterans for Valentine's Day, sang with Seniors, served food banks, stood tall at Remembrance Day services and wore uniforms proudly for Thinking Day, Advancements and Enrollment ceremonies. We had several young women achieve their Gold Chief Commissioner's award with distinction. Sparks shone saying their promise for the very first time and made it through sleepovers. Guides planned evaluation camps, Brownies realized the Brownie law really is true and Pathfinders found ways to safely continue exploring who they are in a safe and inclusive space.



As an Area we celebrated together 'In Our Backyard' ANY Council Rally Day in Drumheller where more than half of our girls and Guiders came to be together to make new friends, have fun and experience different things. We painted many picnic tables as our service project, and they were a work of art. Even our Provincial Commissioner, Kathy Batty, left a bright painted handprint or two as part of her legacy!

Our annual Area Spark rally saw pink from end to end and the Pathfinders and Rangers had a weekend of their own as Girls in the City. This year saw the return of our Guide Camp and it was a wonderful success.

Guiders rallied together to help one another from meeting to meeting, in support of our girls and in each other. The spring had a wonderful Guider day in Okotoks and in the fall our annual Area Training day in Strathmore – reminding us that "We're all in this Together". We are all in this together. Together we live our promise, hold close our code of conduct and have the courage and freedom to be everything she wants to be.

Tamarac Area - Tamarac Area has had a very busy and productive year. We were very pleased to welcome two new Districts as part of the closure of Michener Area. With the addition of Twin Rivers and Prairie Winds, Tamarac Area now has a total of 12 Districts.

Members of Tamarac Area have travelled far and wide in 2019. Seventy-Seven members of enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout Canada, locations like Revelstoke, Kananaskis Country, Nova Scotia, and Yukon. Some of our members also visited Europe, spending time in both London and Paris.

Our Lac La Biche Pathfinders were provided the opportunity to participate in the World Archery Tournament. They accompanied the international competitors into the event and assisted in presenting the event winners their medals. Such an exciting opportunity to showcase our members on an international stage.



Woodsmoke Area - Woodsmoke Area was very busy in 2019. Battle River, Lloydminster, Lakeland, Sak-A-Guna, and Veg-an-Million continue to be involved in activities within their districts and with local community events. I am amazed by our brilliant Guiders and how they deliver our program to our girls. It is not as easy as they make it seem to keep 432 girls entertained for a whole year. The younger girls enjoy badge work, crafts, arts, camping. Our older girls enjoy the outdoors by zip lining, wall climbing, geo caching, hiking and sleeping under the stars. Some of the more adventurous travelled to Our Chalet, Pax Lodge and various European countries. Thinking Day is always a big event in Woodsmoke Area. Many towns have joint events with local Scouting groups and do potluck suppers, church services, and other ceremonies. Some districts and our area supported CWFF.

Winter Camp was planned and held by Sak-A-Guna District, with fun had by all. A three-layer cake with a badge scarf complete with badges, on it was not only beautiful, but tasted amazing. The girls worked on badge work in a fun way, did crafts, ate, learned a little first aid, ate some more. Everyone totally enjoyed the weekend.

Our last AGM was held in Lakeland District. We had the pleasure of having the Provincial Commissioner join us for a small Awards Ceremony. After all the must do's got done, we had a night of games and friendship. The following day Woodsmoke Area hosted our Pathfinder / Ranger Awards Luncheon. In May we held our Annual Trefoil Luncheon to recognize our seasoned guiders. The ladies came to Lloydminster to enjoy a luncheon and message from their Area Commissioner.

Woodsmoke Area held our ANY Council Rally Day in Provost where we took part in a service project of fixing up the local Butterfly Garden. The garden was started a long time ago by a friend of guiding, who has passed away, so we decided to clean it up, build new homes for the butterflies, paint them and plant flowers. The weather was fabulous, and all enjoyed a day of fun after all the hard work was completed. Our Annual Revel/Cookoff was held in Lloydminster. This annual event consists games and crafts for the younger girls and the annual cookoff for the older girls. I have been a judge many years now and can say the girls out did themselves this year. It was hard to chose one winner from all the entries.

Area Training was held at Portage College in St. Paul. It was the largest turnout in quite a few years. It was so good to see so many Guiders out and enjoying themselves. We had three ANY Council Travel Trainers attend to help make our day a success. Woodsmoke Area lost three Guiders within 4 months. Trudy Hughland, Donna Smith, and Debbie Lovie gave their hearts freely to the girls and they will be missed by all.

To every **Adult** and **Ranger** member from **Team ANY**

Thank you for sharing your time, energy and commitment to Girl Guides of Canada, Alberta Council. You **ROCK!**





Gone Home

Camille Morris (Edmonton Area)	Marion Brostrom-Johnston (Tamarac Area)
Debbie Lovie (Woodsmoke Area)	Mary Gibney (Edmonton Area)
Dianne Neisz (Calgary Area)	Maureen Devich (Edmonton Area)
Donna Smith (Woodsmoke Area)	Nona McPherson-Edwards (Edmonton Area)
Fran Edwards (Parkland Area)	Olive Schurek (Edmonton Area)
Gale Richardson (Parkland Area)	Peg Humbert (Tamarac Area)
Lily Johansson (Edmonton Area)	Phyllis Voytechek (Parkland Area)
Lorna Stevens (Calgary Area)	Shirley Martin (Calgary Area)
Marg Sharp (Parkland Area)	Trudy Haughland (Woodsmoke Area)
Margaret Grove (Edmonton Area)	

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