

# FunFinder

May 2019



## Celebrating Your “Inner Spark”

Sparks are the youngest branch of Girl Guides of Canada and offer a great introduction to the fun and friendship to be found in Guiding. According to the [History of Guiding](#), these five and six year olds were given their own branch in 1988, but didn't officially get their name “Sparks” until 1989.

In commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our most energetic and enthusiastic members, this edition of FunFinder is featuring games, crafts, activities and lessons from the Sparks program, encouraging you to take some time to celebrate your “Inner Spark.”



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## Spotlight on Rainbow Revelry



Have you explored the [Rainbow Revelry Event Challenge](#) yet? First published by the BC Program Committee in 2014, this toolkit is designed to provide you with a starting point and, from there, the possibilities are endless. Check out the activities, crafts, games, songs, food and more to plan the kind of fun that Sparks and Brownies love to have! This event can be a party or taken outdoors. The girls will enjoy either venue and you can make the event meet your needs.

This event offers an opportunity for girls to bridge, to have fun, to do program in a fun way, to create great memories and to experience an assortment of games, crafts, activities and ideas.

The Rainbow Revelry can be held at any time of the year, any day of the week and any time during the day or evening. Time can range from a couple of hours to a full day, dependent upon how many activities the girls wish to incorporate and what they want to make of the event. This toolkit was designed to be used with Spark and Brownie groups – but that doesn't mean the themes can't be carried over to other branches! Engage in a girl-driven approach, and ask them what they would like to do!

If you're looking for magic, look no further than the end of a rainbow! Remember, once you complete a series of activities from the Challenge, you can order these special Rainbow Revelry crests for your unit!

# Tried-and-True Arts & Crafts

## Materials:

- ♦ Kitchen Sponge
- ♦ Paint Brush
- ♦ Poker Chip
- ♦ Brown Paint
- ♦ Tiny Beads
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Hot Glue Gun/  
Glue Stick
- ♦ Birthday Candle
- ♦ Pin Fastener

## Sparks 30th Birthday Cake



## Instructions:

1. Cut two pieces of sponge into a triangular shape.
2. Paint the top and sides of the sponge with brown paint.
3. Glue the two triangular sponge pieces together.
4. Add a dab of glue on top of the birthday cake.
5. Sprinkle some tiny beads on top of the piece of cake.
6. Stick a candle through the piece of cake.
7. Glue the bottom of the cake to a poker chip.
8. Glue a pin fastener to the underside of the poker chip.

## Rainbow Clouds

### Materials:

- ♦ Construction Paper (colours of the rainbow)
- ♦ Cardstock
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Glue Stick
- ♦ Felt Pen

### Instructions:

1. Cut out a cloud with white cardstock.
2. Cut rectangular strips of paper out of construction paper. Have a piece of paper for all the colours of the rainbow.
3. Glue the rainbow-colour strips to the cloud.
4. Get each girl to write down why she is special by using complimentary adjectives.



## Spark Promise Bookmark



### Materials:

- ♦ Pink Cardstock
- ♦ Hole Punch
- ♦ Promise Printout
- ♦ Pink Ribbon

### Instructions:

1. Print out the Sparks Promise, using text and clipart, onto a strip of paper.
2. Cut and paste onto pink cardstock.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the bookmark.
4. Add a pink ribbon to the top of the bookmark.

Photo credits and special thanks to **Van Chau, BC Program Committee** for contributing the following crafts.

# Games and Activities

## Glitter and Bling *By "Squirrel" Holly Arnold*

What can be more Spark-like than glitter or bling! No matter what you do with Sparks if it involves sparkle it's a winner:

- ♦ Fairy dust sprinkled on their head (eyes closed), swish the magic wand and "poof" they are Sparks!
- ♦ How about wooden name tags with pink glitter paint, bling. Name tags can be useful for more than just names, they can also help identify your girls when there seems to be hundreds running around!
- ♦ Keep your eyes on those thick piles of glitter covered glue lumps, we all know they won't dry before someone squishes them and they get all over. Hint: squeeze out glue into a small container or cupcake liner and use Q tips to spread glue.
- ♦ How about decorating a cupcake with edible glitter, that would be a great surprise at a sleepover or camp!
- ♦ DID you know that you don't have to be a Spark to love glitter, set out craft supplies and see what wonders Pathfinders and Rangers can do with glitter and bling! Don't forget that program work around bling is doable with a little imagination.
- ♦ Oh and don't forget your sticky lint roller to pick up the leftover glitter!

## Patrols Emblems for Sparks

### Materials:

Gem Crests from [E-Patches and Crests Website](#)

### Instructions:

1. Divide Sparks into patrols based on different gems (eg., Ruby Patrol, Sapphire Patrol, Emerald Patrol, Amethyst Patrol, etc.).
2. Purchase the patches/crests from the online company E-patches and Crests.
3. Hand out the crests to the Sparks and have them sew the crest on their badge sash:



*Special thanks to Van Chau, BC Program Committee for contributing the following games.*

## Qualities of a Good Friend Game

### Instructions:

1. Girls sit in a friendship circle.
2. Each girl will say a quality/characteristic (eg., is kind, shares her toys, is helpful, listens, etc.) that she thinks make a good friend. Go around the circle until every girl has contributed a quality/characteristic.
3. The leader writes the quality down on chart paper for everyone to see.
4. Once everyone has contributed, discuss why these qualities make a good friend.

## Same as Me Game

### Instructions:

1. Girls sit in a friendship circle.
2. One girl stands up in front of everyone and says one thing about herself (eg., favourite food, favourite activity, etc.).
3. If any of the other girls in the friendship circle shares that same thing, they will stand up and yell "Same as me!"

## Rainbow Game

### Materials:

Chair for Each Girl

### Instructions:

1. Girls sit in a chair in a friendship circle.
2. Each girl is given a colour (eg., red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) on the rainbow.
3. The leader takes away one chair and one girl stands in the centre of the circle as the Caller.
4. The Caller calls a colour in the rainbow. Everyone in the circle with that colour must swap places and find another empty chair to sit on.
5. At the same time the Caller must try to find a chair.
6. The girl left without a chair will be the new Caller.
7. When "colours of the rainbow" is called out, every girl must change places.



# I Promise to Share and Be a Friend...



"What's a Spark?" asked Crystal.

"Sparks are girls who have fun together and learn new things. We even say a promise to share and be a friend," said Molly, smiling. "Maybe you could join Sparks. My grandma is taking me to our meeting tonight and you could come with us."

Image and Text From [Crystal's New Friend](#)

## 15 Bring-a-Friend Ideas

Here are some ideas that your unit can use for the girls to invite their friends to come and see all the fun activities they do in Guiding:

1. Halloween Party
2. Bowling Night
3. Sleepover
4. Movie Night
5. Christmas Party
6. Unit Hike
7. Baking Night
8. Drama Night
9. Carnival Night
10. Snowshoeing
11. Camp Skills Night
12. September Start-Up
13. Fire Hall Visit
14. Community Event
15. Enrollment Night

Bring a Friend applies to all Guiding Branches. Your unit can host a *Bring a Friend Night* any time of the year, and don't forget - girls can join anytime!

Explore some of the [Bring a Friend Instant Meetings](#) on BC GG Website.

## Guides - Prior to "Bring a Friend" Night:

- Have the girls create invitations to give to their friends.
- Discuss the plans for the evening and have the girls select a theme.
- Ask the girls how they would like to decorate the meeting space for the evening to match the theme.
- Have the girls create a list of activities and games they would like to play.
- Ask the girls what they would like to bring in for refreshments.

Explore [Guides Bring a Friend Night Instant Meeting](#)

## Pathfinders - Remember Me Game:

1. Ask everyone to find a partner and ask them three questions, such as name, school and a favourite activity.
2. Guider will ask one person to tell them three facts about their partner.
3. Ask everyone to find another partner and ask that partner the same three questions. Then ask somebody to remember all the facts about both of the partners they have had so far.
4. Ask everyone to find another partner, and ask that partner the same three questions.
5. At the end ask the girls to remember all nine facts about their three partners.

*This is a great way to learn about new girls visiting the unit!*

## Are you the missing piece? The BC Program Committee is looking for new members!



We are building a network of Guiders to help support inclusivity in our programming. If you have background or experience in gender issues, women's studies, multiculturalism, adapting program for specialized needs or mental health support, we would love to have you join us and share your special talents with Guiders around BC!

Email us at [program@bc-girlguides.org](mailto:program@bc-girlguides.org) for more information.

# Reflections & Memorable Activities

We asked the BC Youth Forum for memories of their earlier years in Guiding and some of the fun activities that truly stood out. We also asked for activities that they loved as a Spark or Brownie that they still love to do as a Ranger. Here is what they said...

LAUGHTER  
HAPPY  
FUN  
FOREVER TOGETHER  
SISTERHOOD  
EVERLASTING  
RANGERS SPARKS  
MAGIC PROMISE  
PATHFINDERS GUIDES TRUST  
FRIENDS  
FRIENDSHIP

- ♦ Enjoyed big GGC events such as Memories & More
- ♦ Making Beeswax Candles
- ♦ Princess Camp
- ♦ Making S'mores
- ♦ Campfires
- ♦ Backyard Sleepovers
- ♦ Hat Crafts
- ♦ Learning to Tie Knots
- ♦ Learning to Light Matches
- ♦ Getting the Opportunity to Take Home Crystal (Doll)
- ♦ Making my First Sit-Up



What activities do you cherish from your earlier years of Guiding? Send us an email at [FunFinder@bc-girlguides.org](mailto:FunFinder@bc-girlguides.org) and we will include your memories in the next issue!

## Make a Fairy Garden

### Instructions:

1. Take a plastic saucer and fill with soil.
2. Use stones or glittery gems to make path ways, small low growing plants and let your girl's imaginations run wild.
3. Tiny foil trays from jam tarts make great ponds, and tiny bird boxes can be decorated as fairy houses.
4. Wooden knobs can be painted as toadstools.
5. Ask at your local garden centre they may even run a session for you.

## Help the Bees

### Activity Ideas:

- ♦ Plant seeds in a pot to take home or in community area that are beneficial to bees.
- ♦ Find out more about what you can do to help bees and why it's so important to encourage bees to visit your garden.
- ♦ Make a [Bee Hotel](#) or insect home for your backyard.
- ♦ Invite a local beekeeper to visit your unit.
- ♦ Try different honeys to see how they taste, and learn why they may taste unique.



## Crafting Your First Sit Upon

### Materials:

- ♦ Vinyl Tote Bag
- ♦ Washi Tape
- ♦ Coloured Duct Tape
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Masking Tape
- ♦ Stickers
- ♦ Newspapers
- ♦ Name Tags

### Instructions:

1. Bundle newspaper and bind into shape with masking tape.
2. Slide newspaper into vinyl tote bag (keeping the bag folded closed as much as you can).
3. Use coloured duct tape to seal all four sides of the vinyl tote bag. Tip: Place half of duct tape on one side, and flip bag to fold the other half of the tape down.
4. Once sit upon has been sealed, the decorating can begin! Have nametags, strong-adhesive stickers, washi tape for them to get creative.

**Note:** Filling your sit upon with newspaper is only one option. Over the years, others have used quilt batting, carpet padding, felt, egg crate foam etc. Get creative and have fun!



# 30 YEARS OF SPARKS



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Sparks, the youngest branch of Girl Guides of Canada, the Girl Guide Store is featuring [Spark-themed products](#) for all to enjoy!

Whether you were a Spark, a Spark Guider, you want to celebrate your *inner Spark*, or just love the colour pink - check out the fun pins, crests, t-shirts and totes available for a limited time on the Girl Guide Store.

## WORD SCRAMBLE

1. KRSPAS

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2. MEOSIPR

-----

3. NDSIPHRFEI

-----

4. SSGNO

-----

5. OOEKICS

-----

6. FTRCAS

-----

7. IBNROWAS

-----

8. HRANGIS

-----

9. RKSLEPA

-----

10. INPPHSSEA

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## FRIENDS

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          D I P
        G J S A P G W T J
      P L Y S K F J G E Y M H Q
    F U L D J B R A C E L E T E X G H
  Z P B H R R G I N C R E D I B L E R D
J D A E H F W K G N I R A H S K Z V Z T Z
R T S E B F C F U J J A X E Z P Q Q X T P
X U X V N B           W K Q Q E           C U E R E I
B N S O K H           P M L U E           F S O N N J
A A S Q V M E G R F K I V R G U Y Y H A J B X N K
P T R E H T E G O T G H U N T A Z E N W J S Y Q M
Y H N E R B X Q Y D F O T D O O H R E T S I S V Z
E P T R U S T F R I E N D S H I P F Q Z F J L H B T N
M S H S S R R E L Y A I M Y G F O C Z Q G T A A V N B
J I I K V J E C D Z N E V E R L A S T I N G U P N O P
R V M J   C I B E M T G H B U X G A W P   G P B E
J R J O   N P Q O O O J F E T X V L   H Y O Q
E T I O R   K I T V V R T M Q E P   S T S Y D
X P O Z P                               L D E S F
F Q V U B I                               J J N R Q C
Y L R E L I A B L E B X A P F Y J B E S N
U W D Z G X O M Y B W K N B Q Q V W I G N
B Z M R E V E R O F L O V R G L S R U
L H S Z S U Y P S G F U C I L I F
          Q V U S V S E C R E T S B
          O E E G B V H Y D
          R S N
  
```

## WORDSEARCH first shared in 2008 FunFinder

BEST	FUN	RELIABLE
BRACELET	HAPPY	SECRETS
EVERLASTING	INCREDIBLE	SHARING
FOREVER	LAUGHTER	SISTERHOOD
FRIENDSHIP	NICE	TOGETHER
FRIENDS	PROMISE	TRUST

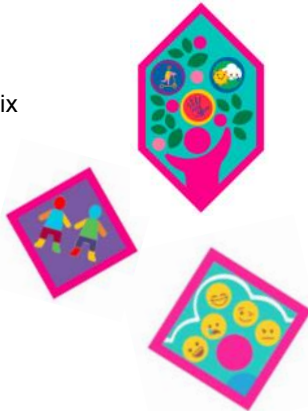


# Program Connections

There are many program connections throughout this issue, and even more fun activities available! Check out some of following activities on the Girls First Platform and have fun exploring new and old traditions.

## Sparks

- Sparks in History
- Friendship Snack Mix
- Host a Campfire
- What Good Friends Do
- I Like That Too!
- Sparks Openings and Closings
- Spark Celebration



## Brownies

- Friendship Ice Cream
- Friendship Challenge
- Friendship Chain
- A Friend Would...
- Friendship Circles
- Campfire Creations
- Guides' Own
- Brownie Openings and Closings



## Pathfinders

- Friendships Over Time
- Better Together
- Come Together at the Campfire
- Be You Pledge
- Guides' Own
- Guiding Promises Around the World



## Guides

- Wanted: Friends
- Friend!
- Friendship Signals
- Say It to My Face
- Guides' Own
- I'm Listening
- Guide Openings and Closings



## Rangers

- Come Together at the Campfire
- Promise and Low Evolution
- Living by the Code (of Conduct)



## Girl Guides BC Program Committee

BC Council

*Make new friends but keep the old;  
one is silver and the other gold.  
A circle's round, it has no end,  
that's how long I want to be your friend.*

With gratitude and thanks to our outgoing Program Advisers Colleen McKenna and Susan Stephen, and Environmental Specialist Van Chau.



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