

Go Out and Play!

How visible is Guiding in your community? How long would it take before someone new to town would see or hear something to let them know Guiding was there? For many people who are not currently members of Guiding, the only time they see or hear of us is during cookie selling. How many potential members are we missing because of this?

Guiding is a dynamic, fun, and exciting organization to belong to! The easiest way to communicate this message is to let people see us in action. In addition to being great P.R., these suggestions will also help make your Program planning simpler and a lot more fun!

1. **Go on field trips.** Even the smallest community has lots of interesting places to visit – you just have to find out where they are. The “Out and About” article on page ??? has some suggestions to get you started.
2. **Change your meeting location.** Hold an entire meeting outdoors (weather permitting); go swimming or skating; or do a service project in a public place (such as collecting food bank donations at the grocery store).
3. **Invite people to join your meetings.** Have “bring a friend” meetings; invite guests to present information or just lend an extra hand with a complicated craft or activity; host a special event such as a community supper or children’s carnival and invite the whole community to join you.
4. **Participate in community events.** Ask the girls to volunteer whenever possible. Even Sparks and Brownies can help with running coat checks, clearing tables, laying wreaths at Remembrance Day, and many other tasks. Make sure Guiding is represented in parades and other celebrations too.

When planning any activities for your girls, be sure to follow the guidelines in the Safe Guide, communicate your plans to everyone – girls, Guiders, and parents, and be sure to have fun! The smiling faces and excited voices of girls having a great time will let everyone know that Guiding is alive and well in your community.