

January 10

## Harvest Trail and Maplewood

**Q:** I was wondering when we will be able to order challenge badges? I sent an email offering to take over the role if we were understaffed at the main office but did not get a reply. Given that many of us have done several since September it would be nice to be able to give them out?

**A:** *It is in the works and will be on track to come shortly (within the next couple of months) and will cover all provinces. The payments will be done via Unified Banking.*

**Q:** Also, can the town hall meeting be recorded and posted for Guiders unavailable at this time?

**A:** *We can record it but anyone wanting to watch/listen can request the link and it will be sent to them.*

**Q:** If the Nova Scotia Provincial Government did not include all of Hants County in the area with greater restrictions for the protection of public health, why did you? They are the lead for public health in the province. If your reasoning is travel, they would have taken that into consideration and there are other areas that also have this travel into the city.

**A:** *National is taking the lead on the meeting restrictions in consultation with us. It is much easier to include all of one county instead of causing confusion for Guiders and parents. We are trying to follow the GGC and Provincial guidelines to keep our members safe which is the most important aspect of it.*

**Q:** Why did it take 2 months for cookies to arrive?

**A:** *According to information we received from the National office this was due to the shipping company.*

January 17

## Harbourside and Dartmouth Shore

**Q:** Do you think Province will allow us to return to in-person guiding soon? Has there been any discussion?

**A:** *National is taking the lead on the meeting restrictions in consultation with us. It is much easier to include all of one county instead of causing confusion for Guiders and parents. We are trying to follow the GGC and Provincial guidelines to keep our members safe which is the most important aspect of it.*

**Q:** Some parents have asked for refunds if we cannot return to in-person guiding, how should we address this?

**A:** *Parents can email [info@girlguides.ca](mailto:info@girlguides.ca) to inquire if they are eligible to receive a refund.*

<https://www.girlguides.ca/web/OnlineReg/OnlineReg/Help.aspx>

**Q:** Given that we aren't meeting in person, can we accept cookie money as E-transfer from parents (Looking for solutions) 😊

**A:** *It can be sent to the unit if they are set up as a bill payment. You can talk to the Area Treasurer for the details. The process is described in recent GuidePost. I have the process and if you send me an email, I will send you the information.*

**Q:** Do we know when we will be able to return to in-person guiding?

**A:** *Answered previously. Email was sent this week. We do indoor or outdoor meetings, 10 people max.*

**Q:** Is there any word on if overnight camping (both under and over 72hrs) will be permitted in 2021, and if so will GGC properties be open?

**A:** *We are waiting for the protocols from National and expect to have them by the end of the month. Once we have that info a decision will be made on the opening of camps. We expect they should be open for day events hopefully by the spring and more information will follow.*

**Q:** When is fall cookie money due?

**A:** *The campaign closes the end of February so it will be around then. UPDATE – money will be taken from units in April.*

**Q:** Will the deadline for girls who are completing awards be extended like it was in 2020?

**A:** *What level do you mean Guides, Pathfinders, or Rangers? We don't expect they will be extended. We are working with the Provincial Youth Forum to come up with a plan for Youth Awards from 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Guiding years.*

**Q:** What was the rationale behind moving to Indoor 1 with a 10-person gathering limit? Having Guiders host multiple meetings still means they have potential exposure to more than 10 and doubles or triples their time commitment.

**A:** *This rationale is based on the fact that the National office conversed with our Provincial Government and that we fall in the category of being able to meet face to face with maximum 10 people. This does not mean that units have to meet this way. You can go virtual or perhaps alternating weeks or whatever solution works for you until the restrictions change in NS.*

**Q:** In December there was a lot of discussion in informal groups like the Guiders Unofficial Facebook Page about Guiding being secular and staying away from Christmas themed meetings and activities. While I think all would agree that overtly religious activities have no place in guiding, where do we draw the line? Can you do a science experiment with a candy cane? Can you assist another Community organization with their Christmas toy and food drive as service work? What about helping your community by handing out programs at a community tree lighting? What about making a Guiding themed ornament to put on your tree or hang in your window? I know some of my examples weren't relevant for 2020 but would be in a "normal" year and we need more direction on what is acceptable. Easter will come soon enough. Can we do a bunny or egg themed craft?

**A:** *We will start by saying that the Unofficial FB page is a great source of ideas and awesome spot to connect with other Guiders across the country there is information on there that is not official. The best place to get official information is from the National and Provincial websites, your DCs and ACs. While we do not want anyone left out because of being secular we also have to know who is in our units and use your own judgement at times. For example, if you know that all the girls in your unit celebrate Christmas then there is no reason why you can't do experiments with candy canes or you can make themed ornaments, etc. You would not*

*ask outright but in your week-to-week dealings with them you would likely get to know these facts. You can certainly do a bunny craft as this is more to do with the commercial side of Easter but again know your girls first.*

**Q:** What is the story on cookie profits from mint cookies sold by retailers? Is any of that money going to make it to the units?

*A: If all the cookies that went to retailers get sold then units will get the GUS. If there are a number that are not sold, then the money will be used to cover the cost of these cookies. That is the expense will not be passed to the provinces.*

**Feb 7**

## **Trefoil Guild**

**Q:** Why is the registration fee so high? Where does the money go?

*A: The membership fee is set by the National office and that money goes to the general funds and is used for girl programming, trainings, insurance just to name a few.*

*The breakdown of registration is:*

*Registration is \$85 - \$60 goes to National and \$25 stays here in NS*

**Q:** It seems that some TG members are unable to figure out how to do Back Check, do not have a friend who can help (or do not want to ask), or do not understand why it is necessary since they do not work with girls. If they have a permanent exemption does that mean they cannot attend any events where girls are present? I thought they could but would not ever be counted as ratio and could not be alone with the girls.

*A: A PRC exemption is a personal choice if you are not going to work with girls. You can still attend events and correct you cannot be counted as ratio or be alone with girls.*

**Q:** They are asking how awards/membership pins can be awarded since we have been unable to hold a Provincial F2F meeting (fingers crossed that we soon will be able). I would have thought they would do it at their own (restrictions considered) meeting but...they asked.

*A: You are correct pins can still be awarded but here is where creativity will come into play. While we can't meet as a whole group there is no reason why there can't be a small gathering*

*of 10 or less to “pin” members. There could be a small party where you have treats and dress up. Be sure to take pictures and when we can all gather again put together a slide show so everyone can see.*

**Q:** Although most guilds are rather informal and do not keep formal minutes, some (as you know) do. They are asking what to do with all their records (minutes, photos, etc.), does Archives want them? Also, there is the same question about old uniforms. I thought Archives has all they need but was not sure.

**A:** *At the present, the office is closed so there is no work going on in the Archives. If you want to save the minutes in a binder or file folder then please do so and then submit at a later date for storage. We do still take in some old uniforms and if they can't be used in the Archives then perhaps there is a Guider out there who would love to have it so we can put them in a bin to be loved in a new home. Also, at the last Conference we took many pieces of uniforms and Guiding gear to be auctioned and raised money for the CWFF.*

**Q:** Treasurer: What is the term for this position, have received conflicting info, so would like to have clarification?

**A:** *One year term with an extension possibility of up to 5 years.*

**Q:** New members: Following the guidelines we received in the fall, but have yet to see the new member on our roster. Her A7 and signed image release has been forwarded and her registration fee has been paid.

**A:** *Please send the name and info to Kathy at [ns-trefoil@girlguides.ca](mailto:ns-trefoil@girlguides.ca) so we can do some follow up.*

**Q:** When is the provincial fee due?

**A:** *Trefoil & Provincial Members are to submit payment typically by Nov 29th of the current year, but anyone who registers after that they are to pay ASAP.*

*We do have a 2nd close on Feb 1st, so anyone who joined from Dec 1 previous year to Feb 1 of current year will get swept up in that invoicing.*