

Welcoming

Student Volunteers

Give a warm welcome

Starting university can be daunting, and many students may have recently moved away from home for the first time, so a warm welcome can make a real difference. Remember that you're talking to a person, not just a prospective volunteer, so take the time to get to know them and what their interests are. Perhaps you could arrange a time to meet over a coffee, to discuss what roles and opportunities may be suitable for them.

Showcase a range of opportunities

Some students may want to volunteer on a weekly basis in a unit role, but others may not feel able to give that level of commitment. Give the option of flexible and occasional volunteering, and let them know about their university's SSAGO, so they can consider how they may be able to fit Guiding around their university commitments.

What's in it for them?

Volunteering with Girlguiding is a great way to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and give back to the local community, all things which look great on a CV! Girlguiding can also be a great way to meet new people, and through Girlguiding young people can get involved with opportunities such as Queens Guide, Peer Education and Duke of Edinburgh. Let students know all the ways guiding can benefit them.

Explain the process

For students who are new to guiding or returning after a break, explain how to register on the Girlguiding website, and let them know that they will require references, a DBS check and to complete Safer Guiding. For existing volunteers support them with making a new enquiry on GO, or create a new role for them directly with their membership number



Be flexible

Students have a wide range of commitments, and sometimes they may need to take a step back from Girlguiding as university pressures increase. If they need to take a break from guiding due to exams, or are not available outside of their university term times, be supportive of this.

Stay in touch

Make sure to check in with student volunteers throughout their time in Girlguiding, to ensure everything is still working well for them. If they attend local or county Girlguiding events, introduce them to other volunteers so they feel included.

Saying goodbye

If you've got a volunteer moving away for university, or moving on from university to their next phase of life, remember to say thank you! Let them know how they can stay involved with Girlguiding and support them with linking up with volunteers in their new location or using GO to make a new enquiry. Keep in touch, and welcome them back during the holidays, or for special events.

Top tips for freshers fairs

- If you can, enlist the help of current student volunteers in your area to help promote to their fellow students.
- Be ready with a 30-second pitch: what Girlguiding is, what opportunities there are, and what's in it for them.
- Make joining quick and easy. You could make a QR code leading to the Girlguiding register to volunteer page or your own sign up form.
- Not all students will want to chat, some may just want to look or take a leaflet. Have resources on hand and keep it pressure free.
- Use up to date language: leader not guider, LDP not warrant, Subscriptions not Census etc.
- Not everyone will be interested and that's ok! Some may get in touch later when they have a better idea of their other commitments.

