



Action for Change Member FAQs

What is Action for Change?

Action for Change is an exciting new opportunity for you to get the skills and know-how and be inspired to make change in your own unique way on the things you really care about. Join Action for Change and be part of something amazing.

Whether it's organising a community event or action, starting a petition to your Head Teacher to make a change at school, tackling bullying or discrimination you see around you, doing a big fundraiser for a good cause, or something completely different, Action for Change will help you to take the next step and make it happen.

Who can apply to be an Action for Change Member?

Any member of Girlguiding aged between 14 and 25 can apply to be part of Action for Change. You don't have to be a part of a Senior Section unit to apply, you can be a Young Leader, a Unit Helper, a Peer Educator etc. As long as you are within that age range, a Girlguiding member within the relevant Region and have an idea that might make things better then we want to hear from you!

How much time will I need to commit to my project across the year?

Each Action for Change Member will work towards leading or taking part in your own unique social action project during the year. You'll be supported by your Network Coordinator and you might want to work on this on your own or with your group and the network. You'll also commit to giving your views from time to time to inform Girlguiding's national work.

You might need to dedicate a few hours each week to your project. You may need to dedicate entire days or weekends throughout the year, especially if part of your project includes hosting events. Ideally you should be able to commit for one year. This includes attending the opening inspiration weekend, catching up with your Network Coordinator on the phone and via social media, getting advice and updating them, planning and creating your social action project or campaign, taking part in online training or webinars and giving feedback on Girlguiding's national work.

Your time will be spent doing a range of different things but you'll be the boss of what you do over the year and when you need to have time out to focus on exams or go on holiday for example!

We'd like you to be an active member in getting girls' voices heard throughout Girlguiding and across your Country and Region so we'll also be in touch about other opportunities to do this.



What will the year be like?

Your year in Action for Change will start with a fun residential weekend with up to 50 other young members from your area where you'll be talking ideas and inspiration and get help to start planning the difference you can make.

You'll then be part of an active network in your area so you can stay in touch with the friends you make and carry on sharing ideas and working on projects and actions together. You'll get individual support from a skilled Network Coordinator who will help you to develop your plan, problem solve and find ways to make your things happen.

Girlguiding will send you loads of regular exciting news and actions and you'll play a key role in shaping our national advocacy to make girls' lives better. And you'll get help to package it all up to look fantastic on your CV, and get a badge at the end, of course!

What will I get out of being involved with Action for Change?

- **Learn new skills** - you'll leave the weekend with loads of new skills that will not only help you to plan and make change happen, but will also be really useful in other areas of your life too. You'll learn skills such as how to communicate with different people and persuade people about your ideas, how to use digital tools to help you make change effectively and how to turn an idea into an action plan.
- **Meet new people** - During the inspiration weekend you'll meet and spend time with other young members from across your Region. Through the network you'll have the opportunity to stay in touch and work with other girls and young women that are passionate about the same things as you, so you can work together to make positive change.
- **Make a difference** - We know girls and young women can be a really powerful force for good in their communities and society. We hope that by giving you training and support you'll be able to get stuck in and make positive change that will have a real impact on people's lives.
- **Get coaching**- You'll get coaching and guidance from your Network Coordinator throughout the year. They'll help you put the skills you've gained at the inspiration weekend into action, overcome challenges and use their experience and skills to guide you. As a member of the network you'll also get access to online training so you can continue to develop skills and ideas.
- **Influence Girlguiding's direction** - You'll play an important role in championing girls' voices for your Region and directly influence Girlguiding's national advocacy work too. Across the year we'll offer lots of opportunities to make your voice heard on what you think we should be doing as a national charity.

What happens at the inspiration weekend?

The Inspiration weekend is a two day residential event where you'll come together with 40-50 other young members from your Region and take part in

fun, hands-on workshops, talks and discussion. We want to make sure you leave with the skills and confidence you need to take an idea and turn it into action to make positive change.

You'll meet lots of other young members from your Region and you'll get your very own Action for Change toolkit to use when you leave the weekend. As well as this, you'll meet and get to know your Network Coordinator who will support you for the next year.

I don't like public speaking, will there be something for me?

We understand that everyone has different interests, talents and fears! And that's ok! In fact, it's great, because that's what makes you unique and why it's so effective when different people all work together bringing different approaches to getting things done. We've planned a jam packed weekend of different sessions and activities as well as some fun stuff, to cover a range of interests, and we hope that there's something on the menu for you. We hope you'll come with an open mind and enthusiasm to try something new, and leave having developed some existing skills as well as learning some new ones.

I'm worried about attending the weekend on my own

You'll attend the weekend with 40-50 other girls and young women from your Region so we hope that there is lots of opportunity for you to meet and make friends with other young members. There will also be other volunteers there helping to run the weekend. If you're concerned about attending the weekend on your own, have any additional needs or would like to talk to someone about this, please get in touch by emailing northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk

Can I bring along a friend or sign up with other members from my unit?

Yes! We'd love you to sign up to the project with a friend or group from your unit, as long as they are Girlguiding young members. They'll just need to fill in an application form too so we can find out a bit more about them.

Will unit leaders or volunteers be attending the inspiration weekend?

There will be several volunteers attending the weekend who will help to run the event and support everyone attending. If you are under 16 and worried about coming along on your own, please get in touch with us and we're happy to have a chat with you or your unit leader about this. We will provide the Leader of your unit with information about the project so that they can support you and get involved if you'd like them to across the year.

Do I need to arrange my own transport to the inspiration weekend?

Yes but we will refund you. Participants are expected to arrange their own travel to and from the event. We will send out exact details of the venue with your confirmation pack. We will also set up a closed Facebook group so that you can get in touch with other young members, see who is coming from your area and travel together if you wish. If you're worried about any aspect of this, or have questions please get in touch by emailing northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk.

What support will I get?

We understand that taking on a project like this is a big responsibility and you might be worried about not having enough time or experience. You don't need to worry though, there is plenty of support on offer for you. You will be given individual support from your Network Coordinator. Network Coordinators are Action for Change volunteers who will support several projects, offering expertise, advice and guidance wherever you need it.

You will also get support from the Action for Change Lead Volunteer, from your County Express Representative and, most importantly, from your peers. When you join Action for Change you will be invited to join a Facebook group with other members and Network Coordinators. In this group you can share ideas, discuss issues, get feedback on your project and much more! If you start your project and find areas you need extra support with, just ask. Your project is supposed to be challenging, but not stressful!

Tell me more about the network

As a member of the network you'll get access to an exciting programme of online training and activities where you'll continue to develop ideas to make change happen and learn new things as you go.

You'll be part of one of several small groups in the network and during the year you'll be able to work both on your own and/or with other young members to turn your ideas into action through the skills you've learnt at the inspiration weekend and afterwards. Your Network Coordinator will be there to answer questions and coach you through planning the action you want to do.

Talking about the project

We'll be sharing the fantastic action projects you get up to across the year on Girlguiding's channels to help inspire other girls and young women to make change happen in their areas and show them what's possible. We'll support you to get involved through blogging and social media if you'd like to.

Influencing Girlguiding's national direction

You will also have the opportunity to give your opinions, shape and even lead on Girlguiding's national advocacy work. You'll have the opportunity to help us come up with the topics and questions for our research into girls' views - the Girls' Attitudes Survey. By doing all this, you'll help ensure that we are speaking out about important issues affecting girls around the UK.

What do I need to be able to apply?

Enthusiasm, passion and an interest in making positive change in your local area. You don't need to have done this sort of thing before to get involved in Action for Change. We're looking for young people who are excited to make change happen in their communities and beyond and are prepared to commit to the project for a year.

Whether you want to make change locally on issues that Girlguiding researches as a charity (such as girls' wellbeing, sexism and inequality, careers advice, or body confidence), or tackle an everyday problem near you, like cleaning up your local park, we'll support you to have the opportunity to make change in your own unique way.

There are a few things you do need to be able to apply:

- 14-25 and a young member or Girlguiding volunteer
- Free to attend the inspiration weekend on Friday 8 - Sunday 10 September at Waddow Hall.
- Prepared and able to commit to being involved with Action for Change for a year.
- Passionate and inspired to make positive change to your area and beyond.
- Interested in developing skills to make change
- Interested in getting more girls' voices heard throughout Girlguiding

In order to ensure we have a diverse and inclusive group of participants we actively encourage applicants from minority groups and those with disabilities.

I want to be involved in the project but I don't have an idea for something I want to change - can I still apply?

Yes! It doesn't matter if you don't have a clear idea for something you want to change yet. The important thing is that you want to get stuck in and are motivated to work with other girls and young women and make a difference to your local area (or beyond!).

At the inspiration weekend we'll help you think about what you care about, what makes you angry or motivates you to want to change something, and how to turn this into an action plan to create change.

I need some extra support - who can I speak to about this?

We'll provide extra support to ensure you can attend the inspiration weekend and be a part of Action for Change. If you have specific requirements then please do get in touch by emailing northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk or call 01772 791 947.

How much will it cost?

The weekend event and year's involvement with the network is free. If you are attending the event you will be asked to pay a small deposit of £10 however this will be refunded afterwards if you attended. If this might be a problem please do let us know and we can see what other arrangements we can put in place to help you.

Still have questions?

For any queries or additional information please contact us at northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk or call 01772 791 947.

How do I apply?

To apply, you need to complete the following registration form - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AFCnwym> by 9am on Wednesday 5 July 2017.

For more information about Action for Change, and the roles within the project please check the Region website www.girlguidingnwe.org.uk. If you're interested in applying then please complete the application form on the Region website.

For any queries or additional information please contact us at northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk or call 01772 791 947.