

Why should you write for The Guiding Vibe?

The Guiding Vibe is Girlguiding North West England's very own blog page! It features guiding members of the region aged 14-30 sharing their experiences in their own words. I have been one of these writers since November 2022.

Why do I write for The Guiding Vibe?

I chose to take part in this opportunity as part of my Queen's Guide Award. It ticked off *Project 3: Volunteer* for my *Guiding Challenge*. For this, I wrote 8 blogs over 12 months about plenty of different topics. Some topics I have written about relate to my own Girlguiding experiences with my Ranger unit, such as our Isle of Man trip in 2022 and our time at Forest Fest UK in 2023. Others have featured different Girlguiding opportunities I have received, like attending the Matilda movie screening, representing our region at Manchester Pride in 2023, and my entire blog about 'Opportunities Guiding Has Given Me'.

Some other blogs I have had published by region featured current events (Earth Day, Eurovision) or encouraged others to take the opportunities they receive as well. All these topics have either been offered to me by region or I've enquired writing about them myself!

After finishing writing for my Queen's Guide, I have chosen to continue writing these blogs. I genuinely enjoy sharing my experiences and using my writing skills to encourage others. As somebody who is extremely passionate about Girlguiding, I enjoy contributing to the region and becoming a recognisable face. There are still loads of events I'd like to write about, like my upcoming international adventure on the WAGGGS/Europe 2024 trip and my experiences as a Rainbow leader. And, of course, the most important reason to continue writing... I've still got badges left to collect!

So, why should you write for The Guiding Vibe?

Firstly, it's a good challenge for those completing their Queen's Guide Award. It counts for the volunteer category and requires writing 8 blogs over 12 months about different topics (as I mentioned before). Usually, 3 of these blogs are topics you have selected and the others are suggested by region, but they are

fully open to great ideas! You have to be involved with researching topics you have received/suggested and if (for any reason) your blog does not get published, then it still counts towards the award.

Secondly, it's a great way for all members 14-30 to become involved with region and support others. You could be a leader sharing how you handled attending large-scale events, or a Ranger sharing their recent adventures. You could even be an inspiration for other leaders with ways to celebrate certain events or explain residential/camps to attend with their units!

Thirdly, it's an extremely flexible opportunity. There isn't a set deadline for writing the blogs, you just email them over when you are ready to submit. Region may choose to add some pictures and check grammar, but otherwise, everything stays the way you submitted it! You can also send some pictures yourself to include, just ensure you've got photo permission for everybody featured. You can also write as much or as little as you want! There is a recommendation of between 300-800 words, but region are happy to be flexible with this limit.

Finally, as I mentioned being the most important part beforehand... Badges! For your first blog, you'll receive the first badge for free. When you finish your third, fifth, tenth, and fifteenth blog you'll be able to purchase the next badges. Once you have collected all the badges, you'll be able to position them to form a circle. If you choose to write more than fifteen, you'll receive a special badge to go in the centre of this circle!

So, why not give blogging a go? Everybody has something interesting to share, no matter who you are!