

2021 New Year Planning Edition

Welcome to 2021 everybody! Unfortunately, this new year brings with it a lot of the same challenges which faced us in 2020. While we are sure distanced guiding isn't everybody's cup of tea, we thought we would make the most of it with some activity suggestions that leverage the remote / distanced nature of meetings these days! See the content below and throughout the issue for some stellar ideas to keep girls engaged and make meeting planning a breeze.

BINGO

Want something to encourage your girls to try something new, get outside, or help someone in their house?

Make up a bingo sheet for them to fill out! Encourage the girls to try and fill in all the blank spaces. Be sure to change up the activities on the card depending on the level of guiding.

If you would like, when they finish they can mail it to you and you can mail back a congratulation card or a small prize! There is also opportunity to have the girls discuss what they did to complete the activities on their cards at your next meeting. Who doesn't want to see a photo of a cool blanket fort?

As always, tailor the activities to the needs of the girls in your unit. Make sure every girl feels like they are able to complete all the activities on the card.

Guiding Adventures			
make a blanket fort	sing a girl guide song	make a hat craft	help make something in the kitchen
find a pinecone	draw a trefoil	do a kind task	Go for a walk
clean something without being asked	pick up a piece of garbage	Be a Good Friend Free Space	try and tie 3 knots
Draw a picture of you in your uniform	write a kind note to someone	read a book	practice your promise and law

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Communication at a Distance

Fancy Flags

This method of communication used to be taught to Brownies, and was at one time a core of the Guiding program. Do you know what it was?

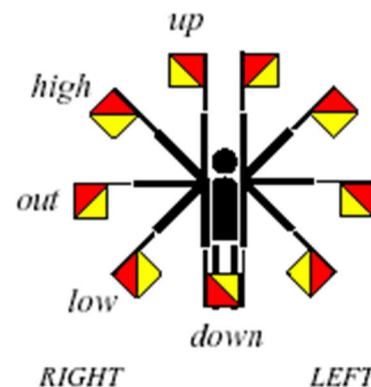
Hint: It uses flags to spell words!

The **semaphore flag signalling system** was developed for sailors to communicate between ships and to people on the shore, before the time of radios and text messages. The Canadian War Museum has a great tutorial on this, [linked here](#).

Craft: Make 2 flags. Use your imagination; flags must hang vertically off a pole / stick and should be bright enough to be seen, but otherwise what they look like is up to you!

Challenge:

1. **Learn to spell your own name using your arms instead of flags**
2. **Send a message using this method**
3. **Using your arms and then home-made flags; how far away can you communicate a message?**



From: <http://www.cimt.org.uk/>

Alpha Bravo Charlie

This method of communications is used by a variety of occupations. It clarifies the exact spelling of the word. It's the NATO Phonetic Alphabet! Also sometimes referred to as "Alpha Bravo Charlie", it's official name is the **International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet**.

Challenge: Learn the Alphabet using these words

Learn: Have the girls spell their name or say a sentence using only this alphabet.

Games: Have the girls make up their own game using this alphabet. Adjust current games using the alphabet names ie. 4 corners, compass games, tag, what time is it Mr. Wolf etc.

Activity: Have the girls research different professions which still use this method of communication.



From: hk.asiatatler.com



Distanced Guiding Ideas

While we are sure this is nobody's ideal situation, it seems like distanced Guiding is here to stay for at least a little while longer. This new meeting format provides opportunities for a number of different kinds of activities! Try some of these out if you're needing a bit of inspiration.

Activities for All Ages

Trefoil Community Hunt

Many of our girls live in the same community areas. Send each girl a challenge to colour and put up a trefoil in a window that others could see when walking by. Once all the girls have put them up, encourage others to go on a "trefoil hunt" to see how many they can find around their community

Everyone's an Author

Girls are really missing their connections with their guiding friends, and no one is better at sharing stories than our girls are!

Encourage each girl to make a story to share with their other unit members. This could be a hand written story, a typed story or a comic strip! If you want, share a topic for the girls to use. Topics like "the craziest day I've ever had" or "If I were an Owl" can spark some great imagination for someone who might have a hard time sharing their stories.

When everyone is done their stories, collect them (either via mail, delivery or email) and collate them into a little book and send them back! This can be done simply by photocopying one copy of each story for each girl and stapling them together. Not only will the girls get to read their friend's stories, but they will feel like a real author!

Nature Sculptures

Challenge your girls to get outside and get hands-on with nature! They don't need a big forest to do this, any park or backyard where they may find leaves, sticks, snow or pinecones will do.

Tell the girls that they can use any materials that are found on the ground, that do not need to be pulled out. No breaking off branches or pulling out plants! Then, ask them to see if they can make those things into beautiful patterns, cool shapes, or sculptures. It is amazing what creative things they will come up with!

If you are looking for inspiration beforehand, look up the artist [Andy Goldsworthy](#) for some amazing ideas. This could be done all together at an outdoor meeting space, or individually and can share photos or stories of what they made when you meet again

Activities for Guides, Pathfinders & Rangers

Mystery Box

What is more fun than a mystery box?

For this activity, put together boxes or bags with miscellaneous building materials in it. Pom-poms, popsicle sticks, ribbon, cardboard tubes, fabric scraps, anything that you have stashed away in your guiding craft bins.

Either deliver or have each girl collect a bag from you with the challenge to create whatever they want from the materials inside the box, but they must use all of the pieces! They can use whatever they have at home to help them complete the challenge. The possibilities for creation are endless! Sculptures, camp gadgets, model cars, who knows what the girls will create!



Source: livingyourwildcreativity.com

Distanced Guiding Ideas (Cont.)

While we are sure this is nobody's ideal situation, it seems like distanced Guiding is here to stay for at least a little while longer. This new meeting format provides opportunities for a number of different kinds of activities! Try some of these out if you're needing a bit of inspiration.

Snow Art

Do you live in an area with a lot of white fluffy snow on the ground?

Get some spray bottles, fill them with cold water and add some food colouring, and then paint a picture in the snow. Try to writing a message to a friend or family member. Parents can upload pictures of their creations to share through email or facebook groups!

Northern Lights Activity

Submitted by Beverly M. Rodowski, adapted from Beaverblog.com

Materials

- ◆ Coloured tissue paper
- ◆ White glue
- ◆ A mason jar
- ◆ LED tealight
- ◆ Pipe cleaners

What to Do

- ◆ Tear tissue paper into small pieces
- ◆ Cover your mason jar in glue and stick the tissue paper pieces to the jar
- ◆ Cover all of the tissue paper with another coat of glue
- ◆ To make a handle, twist two pipecleaners together. Wrap a third pipecleaner around the neck of the jar and tie the two pipecleaners to the third one
- ◆ Place a light in the mason jar and watch your light glow!



Online Games Night

There are some great websites out there for playing board games with the girls! See the attached PDF for a bunch more ideas for online game sites.

- ◆ Drawphone Tanner Krewson (the game telephone with photos): <https://drawphone.tannerkrewson.com/>
- ◆ Online Codenames: <https://codenames.game/>
- ◆ Online Scategories: <https://scattergoriesonline.net/>

Unit Penpals

Receiving mail can be fun! Why don't you become pen pals with another member of your unit? Unit members can be matched up with another member. They can then write a letter, or even send them a small gift in the envelope (such as a button or photo). Girls can write about why they like having their pen pal in their unit, what they have been up to, or anything else they want to write.

A variation on this is to find another unit somewhere else in your province, or even somewhere else in Canada! Units can write letters to each other letting them know what they do in Girl Guides, and even include a special crest or trader.

Distanced Campfires

While we are sure this is nobody's ideal situation, it seems like distanced Guiding is here to stay for at least a little while longer. This new meeting format provides opportunities for a number of different kinds of activities! Try some of these out if you're needing a bit of inspiration.

Let's Sing! On Zoom

Would you like to sing with your girls despite the COVID restrictions? Would you like your girls to learn some new songs?

Here's What to Do:

- ◆ Send an email (Let's Sing BC @gmail.com) to request a Zoom session. Provide 2 choices of dates.
- ◆ Tell us the start time – plan on about 45 minutes for Sparks and Brownies and about 1 hour for Guides and older.
- ◆ State your branch (if multi-branches indicate approx numbers at each level), community and Area.
- ◆ Provide a contact name and phone number.
- ◆ If possible, list about 10 to 15 songs that interest you. Prioritized them in case we spend more time on some songs and don't have time for the last few.
- ◆ Identify which songs your girls/leaders want to lead (one person or device at a time), and which songs you would like to learn from the Singing Guider. She can also suggest songs if you need help.
- ◆ One of the Singing Guiders – see the list below - will confirm the date and discuss your selection of songs.
- ◆ Send us an invitation to your virtual meeting the week before.
- ◆ These Music Resources can be found online: PDF of sheet music, MP3 of audio files, Word doc of lyrics, videos of action songs (tab is under the photo). www.girlguides.ca/web/BC > What Girls Do > BC Program > Program Resources > Let's Sing!

Please Note:

Song requests will be reviewed to comply with National's Inclusivity Guidelines.

Please ask all participants, including parents, NOT to take screen shots or make audio or video recordings during the zoom. This is to protect the members AND in case a song that is shared is copyright protected.

DIY Mini S'mores Campfire

Contributed by Beverly M. Rodowski

Create your own mini fire pit!

What you need:

- ◆ Terra cotta clay pot and saucer
- ◆ Tinfoil
- ◆ Charcoal briquettes
- ◆ Marshmallows
- ◆ Chocolate
- ◆ Graham crackers
- ◆ Roasting sticks

Put the pot on top of the saucer and place a large ball of foil at the bottom of the pot. Line the rest of the pot with 2 layers of foil all the way to the top edge.

Add 5 charcoal briquettes to the pot and use a lighter to carefully ignite the charcoal. If you are having trouble lighting the charcoal, you can add in a few small pieces of newspaper

There will be a flame at first, which is optimal for quick marshmallow roasting.

Roast your marshmallow and make your S'MORE!

***Remember that the pot will be VERY hot. Do not touch the bottom of the pot without the saucer on it**



Our Shared Planet—Instant Meeting

Looking for a quick meeting idea to keep girls engaged in the world around them? Want them to explore the world around them? Check out this great Instant meeting, shared by Darlene Clark of 2nd Monarch Girl Guides

Supplies:

- ◆ Compass.
- ◆ A journal or a few pieces of paper to journal on.
- ◆ A few pieces of paper to draw on.
- ◆ Pencil crayons, markers, or some other colouring tools.
- ◆ Ability to view Zoom as well as a website behind.

Introduce Jane Goodall and the Roots & Shoots Program (15 mins, [link](#)):

- ◆ Introductory Video.
- ◆ Look at vocabulary Terms. What does each mean?
- ◆ Journal some questions. Individually, as each question is asked, journal or jot down some thoughts.

Read My Community and Me Story ([link](#)):

Have a group discussion about the story.

Questions:

What places did Anya visit, pass or see in the story?

What things did Anya do in the story?

What animals did Anya see in the story?

Have you ever seen some of the same animals in your neighbourhood?

Which animals have you seen in our neighbourhood?

Homework (not required)

If you would like to work on the Animal Protector Discovery Badge, this is your opportunity.

This week, go for a few walks with your family.

Take your paper with you. Try walking North one day. South. West. East.

What streets can you add to your map? Infrastructure? Animals? What can you hear?

Bring your map with you to next week's meeting.

Map them on the larger map.

Write down these items in your journal.

Community Mapping Project (40 mins, [link](#)):

Take a piece of paper and start to map your community. Maps always have 3 things: A legend, a North arrow, and a scale.

We will start with the North Arrow.

First, draw a North Arrow in the bottom right corner of your map.

Now, take your compass and lay it flat on your map with the arrow facing north.

Turn your body until it faces the front door of your house.

Now draw your house. The house will not be straight up and down on the drawing because now you have it facing North.

Now turn the paper so your house is straight to you...and

start to draw the street out-front of your house. Draw the street until you reach your school.

Now draw a road to your nearest park.

What about a local community centre.

Perhaps you live near the Brock Shopping Centre.

Perhaps you live near the airport.

Do you live near the Rivers Trail and the River?

Open up Google Maps.

Have girls' addresses loaded on the maps.

Look at the various places around the community.

What are the natural spaces in the community?

What animals live in this natural spaces?

What animals live in the urban spaces?

As the girls discuss, plot locations of animals in the map

(Glider to plot).

How to Plot Animal Sightings in Google Earth Using PC

1. If you want to use a custom icon, you will want to find a fancy picture on Google, and save it to your computer.
2. Zoom into your neighbourhood or to a specific location in Google Earth. Click on the Pin Icon.
3. Type in the animal name in the Name Field. Type the animal name and the date sighted in the Description Box. Click Ok.
4. Click on the icon picture.
5. Click "Add custom Icon" in the bottom left.
6. Click "Browse"
7. Find a photo you have saved on your computer. Click Ok.
8. The "pin", or fancy icon, will be saved in your places list.

Activity—Junior Codebreakers

Have girls make their own secret codes, and then write some messages in them! As a take home activity, try and “break” someone else’s secret code.

Check out youtube.com or WikiHow ([linked here](#)) for some basic code-breaking tips!

Write Your Own Secret Code!

Create a symbol for each letter and number and write or draw them in the boxes below. When you are done write a message in your very own top secret code!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T

U	V	W	X	Y	Z	!	?		

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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