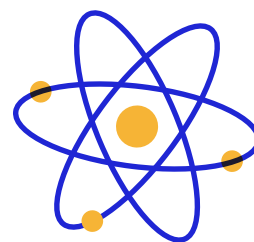


PROGRAM IDEAS



END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The end of the Guiding year is a time to reflect, celebrate achievements, giving thanks, and looking to the future.

It is a busy time of year, so here are some ways to help your Unit see the year out with fun and positivity, as well as some strategies to start planning for the year ahead.

- **Photo Slideshow** – showcase highlights from the year for families or just the unit. Ask the girls to contribute photos they have taken.
- **Memory Circle** – girls share one word to describe their year, one challenge, and one highlight.
- **Thank-You Ceremony** – girls create and present small thank-you gifts or cards to leaders.
- Set a challenge for over the holidays where they can earn a badge or activity to share on their return for the new year.
- **Badge & Awards Celebration** – present badges, patrol awards, or certificates of achievement (these could include awards for personal achievements such as courage, leadership, mentoring, etc).
- **Outdoor Campfire Night** (could include Christmas Songs) – s'mores, and reflections on the year (invite the families to come along).
- **Guides' Choice Night** – girls vote on their favourite activities to repeat for one final meeting.
- **Themed Party Night** – Christmas Around the World, Pyjama Party, Movie Night, Indoor Rock Climbing or Disco Night.
- **A water night** is always fun in the hot weather. This could be either the end of term or early next year.
- **Annual Ten-Pin Bowling Tournament** – our patrols compete in a friendly end-of-year bowling challenge, and the winning patrol's name is engraved on our Perpetual Bowling Trophy! It's a fun mix of teamwork, celebration, and friendly competition that everyone looks forward to.
- **Camping or Adventure Day** – finish with an outdoor challenge, water activities or a mini hike.
- Kmart shop where the girls pick out gifts for "Make a wish" recipients or Operation Christmas Child (if we can get in early enough) or SG could pack Teen bags for Share the Dignity Drive.
- **Make Greeting Cards and/or decorations** and deliver these to a local aged care facility.
- **Make a collection of non-perishable foods** to donate to a local charity
- **Find out about the traditions of Christmas** eg the Christmas Tree, lights, tinsel, crackers, cards, etc.
- **Research how Christmas or similar holiday is celebrated around the world** – share or do some of these activities in your unit or patrol.

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- **Find 20 ways to say “Merry Christmas” in another language**
- **Enjoy fish ‘n’ chips at the beach** or in a park, play some cricket, enjoy the sunset.
- **BBQ and round robin event at a Region campsite or local reserve** – include the parents, they love to see what their girls have been doing through the year.
- Older girls might like to **prepare a festive dinner**.



STARTING THE NEW YEAR



A new Guiding year is all about welcoming and planning – welcome back our existing Members as well as any new girls who may be joining for the first time.

The Program should reflect what the girls want to do, with a chance for everyone to contribute their own ideas. There should be lots of opportunities for girls to plan and run activities themselves.

Here’s a few ideas to kick off the new year:

- **Welcome Back BBQ or Picnic** – include games and badge sign-ups.
- **“Get to Know You” Scavenger Hunt** – mix old and new Guides into teams.
- **Patrol Re-Shuffle Challenge** – do fun challenges to form new patrols if needed.
- **Vision Board Craft** – create boards showing their goals for the new Guiding year.
- **Brainstorm Wall** – girls add post-it notes with ideas for camps, service projects, and themes.
- **Promise and Law Refresh Ceremony** – use creative activities (like making Promise stones or candles).
- **Mini Badge Taster Night** – set up small stations showing skills or activities linked to badges.
- **Unit Calendar Planning Game** – use “idea cards” for camps, service, adventure,

or creativity, then build the term plan together.

- **Welcome Bags for New Members** – small gift bags with a badge, note, or photo from the unit.
- **Letter to Future Self** – girls write a letter to open at the end of the year reflecting on what they hope to achieve.

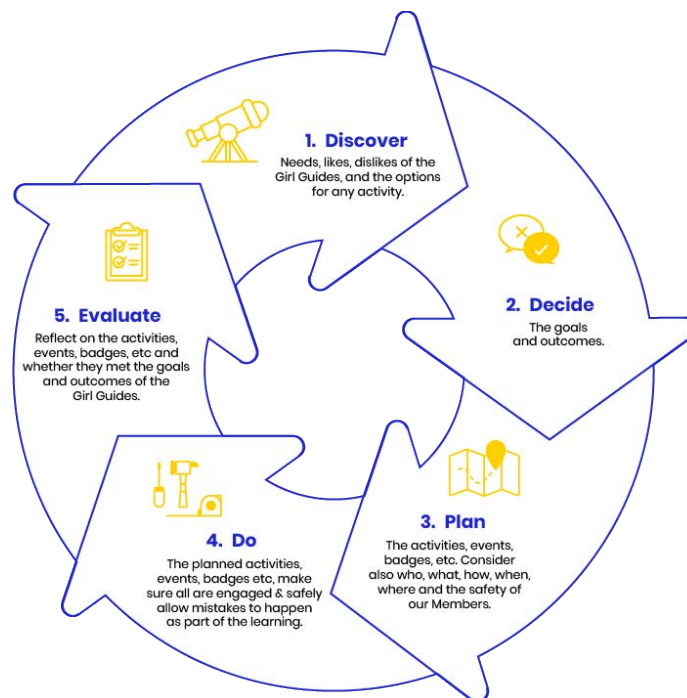
And some Programming tips to get your Unit Started:

- **Brainstorming**– to get a wide variety of ideas, make sure everyone has chance to contribute
- **Build on the ideas of others** – never tear them down.
- **Plan for some long term projects and some short term ones**
- **Goals** – set some goals for the year ahead – camps, outings, state events to enthuse girls to continue in the unit.
- **Check for significant dates** – ANZAC Day, World Thinking Day, Clean up Australia

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Day, etc make some plans and activities around these. Let the girls pick which ones are important to them.

- Check the State Guide Calendar for events to take part in
- Take time to review what worked in the previous year
- Consider which girls are working on awards or have put forth the desire to start a badge or award.
- Be flexible, open minded, positive and enthusiastic
- Consider
 - Can it involve the whole group?
 - Will you need additional people to assist? (for both ratios and skills)
 - Does it have a purpose? What will each member get out of it?
 - How much will it cost?
 - How can the girls be involved in planning and running these activities?



**HAVE LOTS
OF FUN!**

**PROGRAM
IDEAS**

