

## My Guiding Journey so Far

Hi! My name is Abigail and I joined Girlguiding in August 2022. I have complex health problems that limit my day to day life. This, and being autistic, meant that I was incredibly lonely.

Having been a Brownie and a Guide in my youth, I was keen to get involved again with the organisation. So, in July 2022, I sent in an enquiry and was quickly met by a lovely member of our local team and joined the local Brownie unit as a leader in training! I made my first two guiding **friends**.

During August, I had the opportunity to meet the leadership team at the term planning meeting and felt ready to start. I was also paired with my Queen's Guide Award mentor and made a plan!

Roll on September, and it was time for my first session with the girls. Although it was rather daunting, the team was very reassuring and supportive. I settled into the group and started to watch the girls learn and grow.

During September, I also had the opportunity to attend Try, Inspire, Qualify to meet other leaders at Foxlease, receive my First Response training, and try out some amazing **adventurous** activities. I met my county Inspire group, started my Leadership qualification, and also attended a heritage day at ICANDO for my Commonwealth Award.

In October, I started my **Community** Action project, exploring the work of assistance dogs. I also finished my first blog post for The Guiding Vibe to help give girls a **voice**.

I continued working with the Brownies, attending training sessions for my Leadership Qualification, and actioning my Queen's Guide plan. In November, I attended my first Remembrance Day parade as a leader and became a Peer Educator.

December meant the end of my first term as a leader and an amazing trip out to see Matilda at the Odeon.

In February, I attended Foxlease again, this time volunteering at their Space Camp. I also celebrated World Thinking Day with my Inspire group through **fun**, games, and reflection.

With Inspire, I then had the opportunity to visit Pax Lodge in March. An amazing opportunity to meet other Inspire members from across the South West.

April brought the St George's day parade, another amazing event with our Brownies. It also brought planning! For my Queen's Guide, I organised and ran an event for 50 members in my division to celebrate the coronation in May.

As summer continued to arrive, we went back to the Odeon to watch The Little Mermaid and I met up with my county archivist to explore the local archives. At the end of June, I finished the Leader Development Program! Que the party.

Moving into July, the Brownie year ends with a party, but guiding doesn't stop! I'm going to be running my first Inspire event, and I'm leading my first 18-30 residential for my Queen's Guide at Glenbrook, real **challenge**.

Coming up in August, I have more exciting adventures to go on, including my Queen's Guide Exploration in London, visiting SWE Region Headquarters with my fellow Brownie leaders, and attending Wellies and Wristbands with the local Guides.

This year has been such a whirlwind. **I've grown and developed** in more ways than I could have dreamed, and I am so excited to see what the future of Girlguiding will bring!