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Thanks and recognition (including National Awards)

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This information supports Girlguiding UK's [Membership and Recruitment Policy](#). Please read it together with the Policy.

Girlguiding UK has a number of awards which may be presented to its members and recognised volunteers in recognition of any one of the following:

- gallantry
- meritorious conduct
- outstanding and excellent service
- long service.

Thanks badge

The Thanks badge (either a brooch or a lapel pin) is usually given to a person (female or male) who is not a member of Girlguiding UK as a sign of appreciation for their support, either over a number of years or during a special event or activity.



Any member of Girlguiding UK may present a Thanks badge after discussion with her Leader or Commissioner. A Thanks badge does not confer membership of the Association on the recipient.

In special circumstances a Thanks badge may be given to a member of the Association.

Good Service brooch

The Good Service brooch may be given to an adult up to their 65th birthday, who is a member of Girlguiding UK or a Branch Association, for excellent service to guiding, by:



- the Chief Guide, for service to Girlguiding UK or a Branch Association
- a Chief Commissioner or the Commissioner for BGIFC, for service in a Country, Region or BGIFC
- a County Commissioner, for service in the County
- the Commissioner for a Branch Association, for service in a Branch Association.

To be eligible for a Good Service brooch the nominee must either:

- hold a current member and recognised volunteer card

or

- have completed a role no more than six months before the application is made.

However, it is possible that in a very limited number of cases, it is service post age 65 that completes a pattern of contribution to guiding that would lead to consideration for an award.

The Good Service brooch is silver metal with blue and green enamel. It is accompanied by a certificate.

Long Service awards

Girlguiding UK wishes to recognise everyone's contribution to guiding and in particular those who carry out specific roles. Any member, irrespective of role, gender or age, is eligible for a Long Service Award. Service will be counted from the date the individual becomes a member and actively carries out a role for five, ten, 20, 30, 40 or 50 years (not necessarily consecutively).



The Long Service award brooches are all of similar design with different finishes and metals signifying the years. All the brooches are accompanied by a certificate. The five-year certificate is signed by the County Commissioner, the ten- and 20-year certificates are signed by the Country or Region Chief Commissioner and the 30-, 40- and 50-year certificates are signed by the Chief Guide.

The brooches may be worn on the badge tab or on non-guiding clothing.

It is the responsibility of the County Commissioner to establish when active Members in her County are due to receive their awards and to ensure that the awards are presented at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.

If there is any query about length of service, the decision of the County Commissioner is final.

Long service certificates for recognised volunteers

Long service certificates are available for guiding supporters who are not necessarily members - Unit Helpers, Secretaries, Treasurers, Advisers and so on. There are certificates for five, ten, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of service. They are signed and awarded by the Unit Leader or a Commissioner.

Discretionary awards

Nominations for the following awards must be made without the knowledge of the nominee or her relatives and on the appropriate form (available from the Country or Region Office), for the agreement of the Country or Region Awards Committee. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to the relevant Country or Region Office, the Commissioner for British Guides in Foreign Countries (BGIFC) or the Adviser for Branch Associations for endorsement prior to submission to the Association's Awards Committee.

The Association's Awards Committee gives careful consideration to all applications and submits those it recommends to the Executive Committee for approval.

Gallantry: The Silver Cross

This award may be given to any uniformed member of Girlguiding UK in recognition of acts such as heroism that may, but need not, have involved risk to life. The Silver Cross has a red ribbon.



A nomination for a gallantry award must be received at the Country or Region Office, or by the Commissioner for BGIFC or the Adviser for Branch Associations, within six months of the incident concerned having taken place.

Meritorious Conduct: The Star of Merit

This award may be given to any member of Girlguiding UK aged between her fifth and her 26th birthdays who has displayed great courage or fortitude. It may also be given to any member in the same age group who, without risk to her own life, has shown great initiative or responsibility at an incident. The Star of Merit is a gold-edged blue star medallion with a gold-edged navy-blue ribbon.



A nomination for a Star of Merit award for meritorious conduct at an incident must be received at the Country or Region Office, or by the Commissioner for BGIFC or the Adviser for Branch Associations, within six months of the incident concerned having taken place. There is no time limit in respect of a nomination for great courage or fortitude.

Outstanding service: The Laurel Award and the Silver Fish

The Laurel Award may be given to an adult up to their 65th birthday, who is a member of Girlguiding UK or one of the Branch Associations, in recognition of outstanding service to guiding.



However, it is possible that in a very limited number of cases, it is service post age 65 that completes a pattern of contribution to guiding that would lead to consideration for an award.

The Silver Fish is Girlguiding UK's highest award. It is awarded for outstanding service to Girlguiding UK, in more than one capacity, and a contribution to the international aspect of Guiding.



The Silver Fish may be awarded to an adult (up to their 65th birthday) who is a member of Girlguiding UK or one of the Branch Associations.

However, it is possible that in a very limited number of cases, it is service post age 65 that completes a pattern of contribution to guiding that would lead to consideration for an award.

A member nominated for the Laurel Award or Silver Fish award must:

- hold a member and recognised volunteer card

or

- have held one within six months of the nomination form being received at the Country and Region offices, or by the Commissioner for BGIFC or the Adviser for Branch Associations.

National Honours

All nominations for a National Honour (eg CBE, OBE or MBE) for or including services to guiding should be made through the relevant Chief Commissioner at her Country or Region Office. The Chief Commissioner should then forward the nomination to

the Chief Guide at CHQ.

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