



# What's Happening

A Quarterly Newsletter From the World Foundation  
for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.

June 2025

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## An Update from the Board

Our World Foundation Board of Directors met February 28 - March 2. A Friday evening session enabled informal exploration of the GSUSA Global strategy and funding plan and the key partnership role of the World Foundation.

In the official meeting, we welcomed 2 new directors, Jennifer Allebach and Marnye Hall, and thanked Amanda Miscisin for her service. Fortunately, Amanda will continue on the Finance Committee.

As usual, we were updated by both WAGGGS and GSUSA regarding emerging strategies and priorities and implications for the World Foundation.

We reviewed and accepted financial reports and recommendations from the Finance Committee and heard reports from the Board Development Committee as well as our fund development and communications task groups.



Workshop discussions focused on next steps for the communications and fund development elements of our strategy—stay tuned.

The entire board joins me in THANKING YOU !!, our Friends and donors, for your ongoing support of the work of the World Foundation and making sure girls the world over truly have experiences that change their lives and our world.

-Linda Foreman, President



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## WAGGGS Giving Day 2025

We are excited to support WAGGGS Giving Day 2025, happening June 18 and 19! This year they have highlighted three key priority areas you can support, or you can designate your gift to where the need is greatest.

Here's the priorities for this Giving Day:

### Meaningful Youth Participation

*You can ensure young women have a real seat at the table.*

With your support, WAGGGS can embed young women into governance structures across WAGGGS, from local boards to global decision-making spaces like at Regional Conferences and the World

Conference. Beyond governance, your gift supports young women's leadership at every level. You are helping them become bold, inclusive leaders in their communities and the world. By investing in meaningful youth participation, you are investing in a more equitable, representative, and resilient future.

### The WAGGGS World Centres

*The World Centres offer experiences that shape perspectives and transform lives.*

Across five unique locations; Kusafiri in Ghana, Pax Lodge in the UK, Nuestra Cabaña in Mexico, Our Chalet in Switzerland, and Sangam in India, a variety of experiences await. The World Centres are symbols of international sisterhood and pillars of the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement. With your support, they can continue to thrive, offering life-changing opportunities to girls and young women around the world. By donating today, you help ensure that future generations have the chance to experience the magic of a World Centre.

### Empowering through Growing and Learning

*You believe in the limitless potential of young women.*

Every girl in the Movement is part of a Member Organisation that is essential for delivering these programmes. Your gift to this project supports girls by investing in their Member Organisation's capacity to grow, adapt, and meet their evolving needs. By supporting organisational strengthening and new work around diversity, equity and inclusion, WAGGGS is helping MOs to offer Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting

to more girls, and reach new communities with these life changing opportunities, building a stronger foundation for a more resilient and relevant Movement. This initiative brings together WAGGGS' work on inclusion, quality non-formal learning and leadership development and organisational strengthening in one powerful, unified approach. Your support will help shape a world where girls lead with confidence and organisations are equipped to support them.

### Where the Need is Greatest

*You believe in a world where every girl and young woman has equal access to life-changing opportunities and experiences.*

At WAGGGS, our mission is to make that vision a reality, ensuring all girls and young women, regardless of background or circumstance, can fully participate in what we offer. This means attending international trainings on critical issues like climate change and gender-based violence, and taking their place on global platforms to advocate for a just, equitable future. By choosing to give to where the need is greatest, you're not only supporting WAGGGS' mission, you are investing in the long-term strength and sustainability of our Movement.

**Thank you to all the amazing supporters of these great initiatives. We cannot wait to see the powerful impact that will come from Giving Day 2025!**



### **Friends of WAGGGS USA**

The **WAGGGS Capacity Assessment Tool (CAT)** is a strategic resource that helps Member Organisations (MOs) assess their strengths and areas for growth. Designed for both independent use and facilitated sessions, the CAT supports MOs in understanding

their current capacity, identifying priorities, and planning effectively for the future.

Thanks to funding from the **World Foundation (Friends of WAGGGS USA)**, WAGGGS has been able to offer **in-person CAT sessions**—a powerful opportunity for guided reflection and strategic development. These workshops create space for meaningful conversations about an MO's context, achievements, and aspirations, helping them better serve their members and expand their impact.

## Real Impact Across Regions

WAGGGS has delivered **12 in-person CAT sessions** between 2024 and mid-2025. Each session is tailored, with WAGGGS teams carefully selected based on language and cultural context to ensure relevance and build strong, trusting relationships.

- **Western Hemisphere Region:**

The **Asociación Guías Scouts del Paraguay** hosted a session near Asunción, facilitated by Emilia Cadario (Vice-Chair, Regional Committee) and CAT Consultant Belén Castro. The workshop provided valuable insights and a clearer roadmap for future development.



- **Arab Region:**

In **Zallaq, Bahrain**, the **Girl Guides Association of Bahrain** welcomed a session delivered by Dr Amal Al Maslamani (Vice-Chair, Regional Committee), Mona Amin (Regional Committee Member), and CAT



Consultant Sabine Oussi. The session fostered open dialogue and strong engagement.

- **Europe Region:**

WAGGGS is working with potential new members, including two Scout groups in **Varna and Shumen, Bulgaria**. Consultants Petra Stipanič Frlan and Gitta Van Goethem led the visit. The CAT tool—aligned with WAGGGS membership criteria—helps these groups identify key areas to strengthen in preparation for full membership.



These in-person sessions enable deeper conversations around sensitive or complex organisational issues, offering customised guidance and

clearer next steps. The result is not just stronger individual MOs—but a more connected and resilient global movement.

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FoWAGGGS USA also provided grant funding to Kusafiri for the U2SDG (United for Sustainable Development Goals) training and events.

Cassandra, a Girl Guide from Canada reported about the U2SDGs Climax Event. This opportunity marked the end of a purpose-driven journey for 34 U4SDGs Ambassadors, who have been working in their local communities to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The 34 Ambassador participants met at Kusafiri for six days of reflection, celebration, and community engagement.



Kusafiri currently has a wide variety of events open for bookings throughout the rest of 2025 and 2026 that include exploring a variety of natural parks and reserves in Ghana, Kusafiri's permanent site. Other events Occurring throughout the next year and a half include a World Thinking Day celebration, which acts

as an opportunity to reflect, and Kusafiri's 15th Birthday.

While Kusafiri offers a wide range of in-person events, there are many virtual activities available for members from around the world. Upcoming virtual events include Kusafiri's 14th birthday celebration, where participants can expect to connect with Kusafiri's global community, reflect on the achievements throughout the past year and more!

Friends of WAGGGS USA is currently experiencing a membership bloom with five new members approved and more on the way!



### Friends of Sangam

**Namaste!!!! -----**

**Sangam 2025- 2026 season is underway.**



Visiting Sangam is more than just crossing off another World Centre from your list. It's a time to broaden your horizon with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world, celebrate the country's culture, learn

from its beautiful traditions and enjoy its incredible food. You can replenish your mind, body and soul, or take part in local initiatives to strengthen the leader in you. Become a part of a lifelong community, and participate in programs developed by WAGGGS dealing with world issues. Sangam even offers a Sangam Challenge which gives participants the opportunity to find out more about this amazing World Centre and all it has to offer. A unique badge is given to those who complete its requirements.

What better way to fulfill your dreams of participating in the activities offered by Sangam than to consider one or more of the upcoming events either as a virtual

participant or as a traveler to the great city of Pune, India, the home of Sangam World Center!

Each program at Sangam has a particular focus: Celebration, Leadership, Culture, Wellness, or Leadership with a Community Program, as well as a Magic Masala event. Sangam has also developed virtual programs.

### Upcoming Events — being held at Sangam

#### **Celebrate India: Ganesh Festival 2025 –**

August 28 – September 3, 2025

*This is a Cultural Event*



The event coincides with Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the biggest festivals in the State of Maharashtra. Ganesh is the elephant head God and the remover of obstacles. Participants will get to experience the festival in person visiting the sites of Pune where people have erected Ganesh mandalas, visiting homes of members of the Sangam family to experience the festival firsthand, and maybe even finding the power the Elephant has to impact a person's life.

The event will allow participants to explore India through its colorful customs and traditions, the sights, sounds and smells of the fragrant spices market shopping, sari tying, and enjoying the tasting of delicious foods in a way regular tourists would not experience.



#### **Arts 4 Healing 2025 –**

September 19 – 25, 2025

*This is a Leadership Event*

Come to Sangam to learn about the WAGGGS Leadership Model and how to grow your own Leadership today.

Tap into your creative side and immerse yourself in various forms of art to lower stress levels and boost your overall well-being. Expand your understanding of

others, enhance your capacity for self-reflection and revolutionize your thought process. Prepare to dive into diverse activities and share your own experiences as the group explores how artistic expression plays a crucial role in the healing journey.

**Diamond Countdown One! ---**

October 12- 18, 2025  
*This is a Celebration event*

Join Sangam and celebrate its 59th Birthday!



Sangam opened its doors on October 16, 1966 and soon will be crossing the threshold to its 60th birthday. We want you to help us get there.

You will have the opportunity to explore and learn more about Sangam and Indian culture as you take part in a range of fun and exciting activities throughout the event, including a special themed birthday party.

Discover Indian culture and birthday traditions as you enjoy a traditional celebration meal, learn Bollywood dances and make new friends as you explore Sangam and the city of Pune.

**Connect, Camp & Celebrate 2025 --**



December 29, 2025 – January 2, 2026

*This is a Wellness and Adventure event*

This event gives participants the opportunity to recharge and reconnect with themselves through classic Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting experiences in the Indian and Sangam traditions, as well as exploring different initiatives and activities that promote physical and mental well-being.

This special program will give participants a great mix of adventure and well-being that will allow them to get out

of their comfort zone and find themselves. They will also experience the Indian culture, make new friends, camp in Sangam, and embrace different perspectives to broaden their horizons.



Perhaps you would like to visit Sangam at a time where there is not a scheduled program. That is not a problem as there is another option available ---**Magic Marsala.**

Masala' is a blend of spices used to create your favorite meals. The key to a successful dish is creating the perfect blend of spices to create Magic Masala!

Magic Masala events allow you to blend together various Sangam sessions to create your perfect Magic Masala program that meets the needs of your Indian experience!

Contact the Guest Services Team to get your Magic Masala brochure, and start planning your very own Magic Masala event today!

Email: [guestservices@sangam.waggs.org](mailto:guestservices@sangam.waggs.org)

Website: [www.sangamworldcentre.org](http://www.sangamworldcentre.org)

**Community Program – 6 weeks -- January 20 --**

February 28, 2026

*This is a Leadership program event*



The Sangam Community Program offers participants a unique, high quality volunteer experience. A participant is called a "Tare." Tare means "star" in Hindi. As part of the community

program the participant becomes a “Star” of the Sangam family

The Tare program is open to all. However, one must be 18 or older and have basic conversational English.

Other requirements include the ability to demonstrate maturity, reliability, independence, self-motivation, adaptability, commitment to service, desire to learn new things, and an openness to other cultures.

There is an application process where references are needed. Applications are accepted all year with specific program start dates. Check the website for more details: [www.sangamworldcentre.org](http://www.sangamworldcentre.org)



### Friends of Pax Lodge

\* *Lisa Ferriera's Murder Mystery has been rescheduled for this Fall!*

**Recruiting of new members** – one new Honorary member will be presented to the WF Board in October.

**Events at Pax** – past and present : Q2

We celebrated *World Thinking Day* with over 300 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides Maldives Girl Guide Association, Girl Guides of Canada, YWCA-YMCA Guides and Scouts of Norway, Irish Girl Guides, Nigerian Girl Guides and Slovenia. Activities were taken from the WAGGGS World Thinking Day pack and everyone enjoyed looking back on our Story and thinking about their future in the World and as a Guide. We also buried a time capsule in the back garden, to be opened in 99 years.

Q1 also saw our *JamBrownee* event – a special event for 8 to 10 years with a focus on conservation and biodiversity. 18 UK Brownies with 4 Guide helpers and 5 adults were joined by 2 Brownies (plus mum) from

Kansas Girl Scouts, 2 Brownies (plus mum) originally from Texas but now with USAGSO in Germany, and 2 girls (with mums) from USAGSO Troop 22502 who are living in Kuwait. In addition to the activities and games through which the girls earned their YUNGA biodiversity challenge badge the participants also learned about the home countries of our volunteers, plus WAGGGS Programmes and the World Centres. They also enjoyed a session from The World's Largest Lesson – all about the Sustainable Development Goals and a talk from Sally Kettle (Deputy Chief Guide) who talked about her adventures rowing across the Atlantic – twice!

Q2: We're excited for all our *Summer Events* and EF Tours groups coming in the next quarter. With visits to the theatre, a trip on the London Eye and Challenges around London the Journey Through London groups are going to have great fun.

Groups of Girl Scouts travelling to the UK with EF Tours visit us for a 2-hour session, where we introduce them to Pax Lodge with a tour of the building and show them what a wonderful place they are visiting. And of course we give them time to visit the shop!

### Maintenance Update:

- Renovation completed for 2 shared showers and 3 en-suite room showers; an additional renovation is scheduled for August.
- Back garden deck and stairs have been fully replaced.
- Four Japanese medlar trees have been planted between Pax Lodge and the back building to enhance privacy, along with the installation of a bamboo fence.
- Five World Centres full-window stickers have been added to the office windows facing the front garden.

### Volunteers in 2025

- Thayde – Venezuela (October '24 to March '25)
- Abigail – Nigeria (October '24 to March '25)
- Tionge – Malawi (November '24 to January '25)
- Rebecca – UK (January to June 2025)
- Kylie – USA (January to June 2025)
- Ella – Ghana (January to June 2025)



continues with BIG plans for solar panels on the "warm red roof" of each dormitory.

The group has an ad hoc committee revising our Guidelines of Operation as well as a committee considering our annual quotas. The FNC have two new Friends. Amy Porteous of Whitehorse, Canada and Moira McKenna of Evanton, Scotland. We look forward to greeting new and old Friends at our next meeting at Nuestra Cabaña, February 5 - 8, 2026.

A special thank you to Dhamayanthi Pathmanathan for organizing and presenting a wonderful webinar focused on Nuestra Cabaña, WAGGGS and JLS. Special guests included Candela Gonzalez, Miki Ho, and Veronica Arjona, program manager at Nuestra Cabaña. The program was excellent. Thank you.



**USA OB-PS**

Dear Friends,

We have had a busy year, with a renewed focus on recognizing and connecting our members. We've divided the country into regions, and are beginning to establish "Affinity Groups," uniting members in the same geographical area for support and community. We hope to have a group in every region established by the end of the year.

We're also excited about our annual meeting in Cyprus. We will gather together on that beautiful island in October to renew lasting friendships, learn about WAGGGS work, and acquaint ourselves with the people and places in our host country. The focus for our fund-raising effort is the Young Women in Governance project for next year's World Conference in Cambodia.

***If any of you are interested in learning more about us, don't hesitate to reach out. Many of you are already eligible for membership based on your past donations to the World Foundation. Just complete the information/membership form using this link:***

<https://bit.ly/USAOBPSInterestForm>

It's important, because it enables Ellen or Valerie to send us your donation record. We will convert the dollars into pounds, and let you know where you stand.

*-Sue Goldsmith and Karen Saenz,  
USA National Co-Coordinator*



A Message from Executive Director, Kelly Bullard:

Hello USAGSO Supporters,

What an already big year it has been, filled with exciting milestones! From young entrepreneurs selling cookies to Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes exploring Jeju Island in Korea to celebrating USAGSO's 100th anniversary, we have so much to share.

That's right—USAGSO is celebrating its 100th birthday this year! Communities around the world joined us in celebration during the month of April- hosting camporees, gatherings and attended our first virtual Gala event. Reaching this milestone has been a joyous occasion and, during the Gala, we reflected on the incredible achievements of the last 100 years and looked ahead to all we hope to accomplish in the next century.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 100th anniversary by donating auction items, hosting viewing parties, attending our D.C. event or making a contribution to our Give 100 campaign. We couldn't have had such a successful milestone without you!

We've also just wrapped up the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Program. Despite some early challenges with cookie delivery, girls around the world learned valuable skills and sold thousands of boxes. We are immensely grateful to our OCMT and Cookie Manager volunteers for their ongoing support of a successful cookie season. And here's a little secret- get ready for the launch of a brand-new cookie during the 2026 cookie season. We can't wait to share more about it in the coming months!

As we prepare for an exciting summer camp season, we're thrilled to highlight a recent camp held in March on Jeju Island, Korea (see photos below). This camp truly embodied global sisterhood. With 12 attendees from eight countries, including Mongolia, Malawi and Cape Verde, and 11 languages spoken between everyone- some as unique as Chichewa and Creole- the girls experienced the true beauty of diverse cultures.

Looking ahead, our summer Camp USAGSO sessions will take place in Germany, Portugal, Taiwan, Slovenia, Mexico and Japan. Girls will embark on adventures such as surfing, whitewater rafting, canyoneering, STEMinist activities, hiking, archery and so much more. We can't wait to share these summer adventures with you!

We hope you enjoy reading through the updates and photos below. As always, your belief in our mission and the work we do every day means the world to us. Because of you, we can continue to empower girls around the globe. We are deeply grateful for your trust, partnership and unwavering commitment.

Thank you for your generous support.



**WAGGGS**

### **Partnerships**

1. The **Surf Smart partnership with Norton**, one of Gen's cyber security brands, continues to grow as we have agreed a next phase of delivery. Additional funding has been secured to strengthen our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, enhance advocacy efforts and continue rolling out the programme to Member Organisations. Norton is also supporting the development of a new section in the Surf Smart curriculum, focusing on the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence, which is an increasingly important topic for girls and young women around the world.

2. Following the successful launch of the **STEM Discovery Day programme at Sangam** (the WAGGGS World Centre in India), funded by the Johnson & Johnson Foundation, we are pleased to share that they have committed additional funding to continue this work. The programme brings together Girl Guides, Girl Scouts and local community partners to explore STEM through engaging, hands-on activities, as well as hear from STEM role models from Johnson & Johnson Foundation. We are pleased to be able to continue expanding this initiative's reach and impact.

### **Programmes**

#### **1. WAGGGS Champions Menstrual Health with Red Pride Week**

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day through its annual Red Pride Week, led by the YESS Girls' Movement in May 2025. This global campaign raised awareness about menstrual health and hygiene, period

stigma, and empowered girls to advocate for change. Activities included interactive educational sessions,



awareness through social media and in-person meets on menstruation, and creative tools like the “Red Pride Song” to promote period positivity. Girl Guides in Member Organisations participated in community outreach and highlighted WAGGGS’ commitment to ensuring menstruation is not a barrier to girls’ health, education, or participation. This year’s celebration was unique in featuring an activity called HeforShe, specifically designed to engage both men and women, acknowledging that collaborative efforts are crucial to overcoming conservative backlash.

## 2. WAGGGS and Siemens Energy Launched “Girls for Green Energy” Programme

To mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, WAGGGS partnered with Siemens Energy to



launch the Girls for Green Energy programme — an inspiring initiative designed to empower girls aged 8 to 14 to lead on climate action and the global energy transition. The programme will bring together the power of STEM

learning, sustainability, and community action. By combining Siemens Energy’s *Planet Rescuers*—a Minecraft Education game focused on clean energy and climate action—with WAGGGS’ signature reflective learning and *Take Action* projects, girls will gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become changemakers in their communities.

The pilot phase was launched in Asia in collaboration with WAGGGS Member Organisations in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong, and is expected to engage around 420 participants, including girls, adult leaders, and peer leaders. By putting climate action into the hands of girls and young women, this partnership reflects a shared vision: to build a future where girls lead the way toward sustainability through STEM.

## 3. STEM Changemakers Training all set to kick off at Sangam

From 23–28 June 2025, WAGGGS will host the STEM Changemakers Master Trainers Training at Sangam, our World Centre in India. This dynamic, week-long event will bring together adult leaders and project teams from Member Organisations in Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore (supported by the KLA Foundation), and Sri Lanka and Nepal (supported by The Spectris Foundation). The training is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to roll out the STEM Changemakers activity pack across all four programme age levels. It will also deepen their understanding of quality learning and development through the Growing and Learning (GAL) framework, ensuring that all activities are inclusive, empowering, and impactful.

Participants will explore how to adapt and localise the programme for their national context, including practical planning, delivery, and facilitation techniques aligned with GAL. The training will also strengthen their capacity to monitor and evaluate implementation effectively — a key step towards ensuring long-term impact and sustainability. Carefully designed sessions throughout the six-day training will ensure all learning objectives are met, setting the stage for a powerful and inspiring next phase of STEM Changemakers.

#### 4. Our Global Advocacy Champions Led the Way at CSW 69!

In March, the WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champions (GACs) made a powerful impact at the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. Representing six countries—Malawi, Madagascar, the Philippines, Greece, Mexico, and the United Kingdom—our champions engaged with high-level policymakers, including the UK Minister for Equalities, Seema Malhotra. They took part in crucial discussions on gender equality, including a session highlighting the voices of young women of African descent hosted by the Nigerian government.



Our Advocacy Champions spoke at significant events like the Malala Fund Girls' Vision launch, contributed to WAGGGS-led sessions on intergenerational leadership and youth engagement, and delivered an oral statement at the UN General Assembly—an exceptional honour for civil society organisations. Julieta Ramirez from Mexico presented our statement.

[Watch it here at timestamp 02:21:40.](#)

### Conferences

#### 1. Regional Conferences 2025

Regional Conferences are a vibrant opportunity for learning, connection, and collective action. They bring together Member Organisations to celebrate achievements, exchange ideas, and shape the future of the Region.

At the 2025 Regional Conferences, Members will come together to share their Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting experiences, consider motions, and vote on the 2026–2028 Regional Triennial Action Plan. These important governance spaces also provide the opportunity to elect the new Regional Committee for the period 2025–2028 and to collaborate on exploring tools and resources that will help us achieve our strategic goals and move closer to our shared Global Vision for 2032.

Each Regional Conference is a unique opportunity to develop strategies that respond to the needs, interests, and priorities of our Member Organisations. Together, we will align our plans for delivering services, expand the reach of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, and strengthen our Movement. Throughout each Conference, participants will exchange best practices, learn from one another, and build lasting connections.

The theme for the 2025 Regional Conferences is 'Stronger Together'. As a united global movement, we strive to create a more equal world — one where every girl feels empowered to lead in her community and beyond.

### Upcoming Regional Conferences

#### Western Hemisphere Region

The 17th Regional Conference will be held virtually from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th July 2025. This format was chosen in response to feedback received from the Member Organisation survey conducted in August–September 2024.

#### Europe Region

The 18th European Guide and Scout Conference — a joint event with the 25th European Scout Conference — will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 20 to 23 July 2025. All governance sessions will be streamed online to support virtual participation. The theme, "Meeting in the Middle", reflects a spirit of dialogue, mutual understanding, and compromise — key elements that will help drive our Movement forward.

## Africa Region

Co-hosted by WAGGGS and the Fédération Ivoirienne du Scoutisme Féminin, the 14th Africa Regional Conference will take place virtually from 26th to 27th July 2025.

## Arab Region

The 24th Arab Regional Conference will be held in person in Algeria from 9th to 11th August 2025, hosted by Les Scouts Musulmans d'Algérie. Select governance sessions will also be made available online to ensure broader participation.

## Asia Pacific Region

Hosted in partnership with the Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG), the 15th Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Delhi, India from 19th to 23rd August 2025.

## **2. World Conference 2026**

The WAGGGS World Board and the Girl Guides Association of Cambodia (GGAC) are delighted to share with you the dates of World Conference 2026, that will take place in Cambodia next year:

- The Youth Pre-Event (13 - 15 June 2026)
- The Olave Baden-Powell Society Event (16 - 19 June 2026)
- The 39th WAGGGS World Conference (16 - 21 June 2026)



*Chom Reap Sour!*

Step into the heart of the Kingdom of Cambodia for World

Conference 2026,

where tradition meets the global movement!

The official invitation to register and Booking Pack will be shared on the 1 December 2025 and further updates will be shared in future circulars and the dedicated [Campfire page](#).

## **General**

### **1. Paxtu Recognised as a World Guiding and Scouting Heritage Site**

We are proud to share that Paxtu, the final home of Lord Baden-Powell in Nyeri, Kenya, has been officially designated as a World Guiding and Scouting Heritage Site. This historic moment marks a joint declaration by WAGGGS, World Scouting, and the Nyeri County Government to preserve and promote Paxtu and the gravesite of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell as a shared heritage for both Movements. The declaration also includes a commitment to maintain the Baden-Powell Scout and Guide Information Centre as an educational hub—offering exhibitions and programmes to honour the legacy of Guiding and Scouting's founders. [Read more here.](#)



### **2. WAGGGS' New Leadership Structure**

To better serve our global Movement and amplify our mission, WAGGGS is evolving how we work — strengthening leadership and aligning our teams for greater impact. We are proud to announce a refreshed leadership structure centred around three key pillars:

- **Core Services and Delivery**, led by Sally Elkes (Deputy Chief Executive), focusing on our membership and regional support, our programmes, our learning and leadership development, and our international operations.
- **Corporate Services**, led by Paul Bigmore (Chief Operations Officer), covering our finances, strategic partnerships, individual giving, HR, IT, and all the systems and infrastructure.
- **Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement**, led by Nadine El Achy (Chief Executive), focusing on our organisational strategy, partnerships, governance, and external engagement.

This new structure strengthens collaboration, clarity, and shared responsibility across our organisation—ensuring that every part of WAGGGS is working together to build a more agile, inclusive, and impactful Movement for girls and young women around the world.

### **World Centres Update – Mid-Year Highlights**

We've had a strong start to the year across all five WAGGGS World Centres, with visitor numbers and bednights tracking well and finances remaining stable. In July, Magdalene, the Head of International Operations and Jen Barron, the World Centre consultant responsible for Kusafiri, will visit Ghana. Their visit will support the preparation of a report on Kusafiri's future, to be submitted to the World Board by year-end.

All World Centres are currently updating their Capital Plans and Planned Preventive Maintenance strategies. These updates will feed into a multi-year World Centres Vision document, which is set to be reviewed by the World Board in December. The aim is to present a refined strategy for the World Centres to all Member Organisations at the 2026 World Conference in Cambodia.

Don't forget to check out the latest Annual Report and World Centre Review for more insights!

Looking ahead, the Centres are heading into their peak seasons and will be welcoming lots of volunteers and participants from all over the world.

We're also finalising a **World Centres Activity Pack series**, available in all four WAGGGS languages, for MOs and leaders to use with their groups and troops. We

hope you'll be able to share these far and wide once they're ready.

Finally, we've developed PDF versions of each World Centre calendar—and a combined global World Centres calendar—which are now available on Campfire for you to download and share.

[World Centre Evaluation Report - 2024](#)

[WC Events Calendar](#)

[World Centres Annual Report](#)

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### **Program Coordinator Open Calls**

After a bit of a hiatus, we are back with the next Program Coordinator Open Call! Valerie Pierpoint will host all who wish to join on July 11 at 3:00 pm Eastern. The call will be recorded and shared with those unable to attend.

The July call will include a tutorial for creating your own World Foundation business cards with customizable QR codes, address common questions regarding the 2025 Gathering following the second mailing (expected out soon), and welcome attendees to bring up other topics of interest as time allows.

You can join at this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8059450592?omn=81441755764>

We'll see you there!

## Impactful Stories: Once a Girl Scout, Always a Girl Scout

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*\* The following is an abridged version of the speech Ambassador Girl Scout Camdyn gave at her council's annual meeting shortly before making the great transition to Adult Member. \**



I have been a proud Girl Scout for the past thirteen years. I am currently a second year Ambassador, and I will be bridging to Adult this summer. It is my intention to stay involved in the movement for the years to follow and to eventually become a leader. After all, "Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout". I believe in this phrase with my entire being. Although I may be leaving Girl Scouts, or at least the youth programs, I wholeheartedly know that Girl Scouts will never leave me.

When you see a decorated Girl Scout, you assume that she can do anything and everything. I often like to say, the question is not, "What can we do?" it's, "What

can't we do?" Girl Scouts is focused around building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. That is the mission for you and for each girl. Next year, from a quick glance, nobody will know that I was a Girl Scout. These patches do not get to be carried on for years on end. However, people will notice the skills that I have learned from Girl Scouts. Some of the most crucial skills include leadership, public speaking, and overcoming challenges.

Because I am a Girl Scout, I have full confidence in myself in all that I do. I will carry my thirteen years of growing skills and learning lessons with me. Although you are often told to "wear your invisible crown", I implore each of you, as I will myself, to wear your invisible sash. What [Girl Scout Leaders] teach [you] will stick with you throughout life. Of course you might need some practice at the beginning, but soon such skills become second-nature. You will see that you do in fact have the courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place. As Juliette Gordon Low once said, "Believe in yourself, and the rest will fall into place."

[To my Girl Scout sisters,] never take this time for granted. These are the best years, and it goes by in the blink of an eye. Enjoy each moment with your sisters and leader. Yes, in many years, you will still be laughing about the joke or moment from Daisies. Also, take advantage of every opportunity that walks in front of you. Find your passion and soar with it. Listen and learn from each lesson. And just remember, you are never too cool to be a Girl Scout. I would like the words of our beloved Daisy to be my final words to my sisters, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach the stars to change the world."

Now for the leaders, thank you for all of the time you have invested into your troop and girls. Thank you for teaching us how to be kind people. Thank you for teaching us to believe in ourselves. Thank you for giving us the confidence to be everything we wanted to be and more. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for truly providing a family and place to call home.

As they say, "there is no place like home," so I know that there is no place like Girl Scouts. As I close, I ask that you believe in yourself and in the Girl Scouts for what it should be, and for all that it can be. By believing in Girl Scouts, you believe in the girls. Because of my Girl Scout sisters, I have the greatest blessing and privilege to have something that is so difficult to say goodbye to. **After all, it truly has been an honor.**

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Do you know someone with an Impactful Story to share, or do you have one of your own?

We are excited to highlight your stories and share them with our community. If you have been impacted by projects or programs through WAGGGS, GSUSA, or USAGSO, we want to hear them! Giving these experiences and opportunities to Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world is the joy of what we do. Let us celebrate with you!

If you'd like to submit a story for publication in a future What's Happening Newsletter, please send it and any photographs you'd like to include to [vpierpoint@girlscouts.org](mailto:vpierpoint@girlscouts.org) with the subject line "Impactful Stories." You are welcome to send your story at any time for consideration for future newsletters. Please encourage your friends to share their stories, too!

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The next issue of "What's Happening" will be published in September 2025. If you have any articles or information you would like included, please send to [vpierpoint@girlscouts.org](mailto:vpierpoint@girlscouts.org) by September 12th, 2025.

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