



About this document

This document is provided as a supplementary document to the Girl Guides Australia (GGA) Child Safe Child Friendly (CSCF) Policy. In particular, it supports the Procedures for Element 10 – Girl Guiding in Practise: Clause 18: Duty of Care and Supervision.

Girl Guiding in Australia (GGiA) has always been committed to providing a safe space for girls.

GGiA demonstrates this commitment to providing a Child Safe Child Friendly Community for all Youth Members by having in place the GGA Child Safe Child Friendly Framework.

GGiA can only provide a Child Safe Child Friendly Community when there is an Adult Member of Girl Guiding in Australia providing supervision. Youth Members remain in the care and custody of their parent/guardian at all other times.

When does my care and custody of Youth Members start and end?

An Adult Member's responsibility starts when a Youth Member is delivered by their parent/guardian into your care. Parents/guardians must ensure there is an Adult Member of Girl Guides onsite and that their daughter is 'checked in' with you or another Adult Member before leaving their daughter at any Girl Guide activity. Parents/guardians are also responsible for 'checking-out' their daughter with you or an Adult Member and picking up promptly at the end of any Girl Guide activity.

If a Youth Member is not picked up promptly at the end of any Girl Guide activity, it is the responsibility of all Adult Members present to make proper arrangements for that Youth Member. Proper arrangements will include contacting the parent/guardian of the Youth Member and determining the best option. The options will include:

- Waiting for a delayed parent/guardian
- With the permission of the parent/guardian allowing the Youth Member to leave the Girl Guide activity with another adult (e.g., another relative, a carer or another parent as agreed by the parent/guardian)
- In extreme circumstances, where contact cannot be made with the Youth Member's parent/guardian and any emergency contact people after repeated attempts, the Youth Member can be left in the care of police and/or relevant child protection agency.

What is a Girl Guide activity?

A Girl Guide activity is a scheduled Unit meeting, a camp or other activity organised by Girl Guides at which an Adult Member is present.

Activities outside of Girl Guide activities

From time to time, Youth Members may choose to undertake activities outside of Girl Guide activities for the purpose of completing a component of a badge/achievement award offered by Girl Guides or to provide service (which may or may not be a component of a badge/achievement award).

When a Youth Member engages with or undertakes any activity with a third party for such purposes and is not supervised by an Adult Member of GGIA, these activities must only be completed with the permission of the parent/guardian of the Youth Member. In these circumstances the Youth Member remains in the care and custody of their parent/guardian. When the parent/guardian of a Youth Member discusses activities outside of Girl Guide activities with Leaders, the Leader should remind parents that there will not be any supervision by an Adult in Guiding and that the Youth Member will remain under the care and control of their parent/guardian.

Examples of when a Youth Member must have permission from their parent/guardian and will remain under their care and custody include:

- when a Youth Member is undertaking music lessons for the purpose of completing an achievement badge or award,
- when a Youth Member is being assessed by a person who is not an Adult in Guiding for her Duke of Edinburgh Award,
- when a Youth Member is providing service outside of an event supervised by an Adult Member.

At all times a Youth Member is engaging with or undertaking activities with a third-party which are not supervised by an Adult Member of GGIA, the Youth Member remains in the care, custody, and supervision of her parent/guardian.

Where can a parent/guardian get help on what is a child safe environment for their daughter?

Parents/guardians are encouraged to undertake their own enquiries regarding appropriate child safety checks. The website of the relevant state or territory Children's Commissioner provides guidance to parent/guardians on child safe checking.