



Girlguiding South West England

My Next Step

Here are some ideas, hints & tips on how to go about organising your own 'My Next Step' event to help encourage girls to transition between sections.

Preparation

- Decide whether the event is for one section or for all sections.
- Are you joining with other local units or working as a District or Division?
- How long do you want the event to last - morning/afternoon/all day? All day gives you the opportunity for the girls to try more activities, share lunch and maybe manage some outside and inside activities.
- Find a venue which allows you to offer inside and outside activities.
- How will you fund the event? Ideally the host section or District/Division will do this but if not, you may have to make a small charge, bear this in mind when planning activities. Why not apply for a grant? [Click here](#) to go to the Region website where you will find lots of information on grants and fundraising.

Invitations

- Send out invitations to all who are in their last year in that section, i.e. 6 year old Rainbows, 9 year Brownies, 13 year old Guides.
- If you hold an event annually all girls will get a chance to attend.
- Remember each girl will require an Information and Consent for Event/Activity form that can be downloaded from the Girlguiding website.

Running the event

- Incorporate the footsteps into your plan - ask the girls to draw round their own feet and write their memories/highlights of their current section and at the end of the event write down what they hope to do in the next section.
- Use Leaders from the section the girls are moving too, if it is a District or Division event make sure you have Leaders from all of the units.
- Have girls from the new section there to act as Sixers and Patrol Leaders - make sure you select those who will be good leaders/role models.
- Put the girls into Sixes/Patrols/groups, try to pair up girls from their current unit but make sure each Six/Patrol has girls from more than one unit in it.
- Remember to have regular refreshment breaks and check with the Sixer/PL that all is ok.



- If you are having a lunch break, ask the Leaders to sit with the girls so they can chat about what they have done so far and answer any questions they may have.
- Have copies of the section badge books available for the girls to look at.
- The girls might like to try the uniform on too.
- Order the free badges from region to hand out at the end of the event

Programme for the day

- Involve the Sixers and Patrol Leaders in your setting up.
- When the girls arrive make sure they sign in and welcome them before giving them a safety talk and ensuring they know their way around the venue.
- Get into Sixes/Patrols and name badges
- Play a game
- Start activities
- At the end of the day have flyers with information about the units in the area and explain how they join the waiting list. There are free postcards available from the [Region shop](#) to help with letting girls know about the units available to them.

Activity planning

- Choose activities that are fun and challenging - play to the strength of your Leaders.
- Activities don't have to be programme based - the girls should understand the concept of UMA's, and Skill Builders already so use your imagination.
- Make sure there is a variety of activities on offer so that there is something for everyone, will they do all the activities, or can they choose?

Activity suggestions

All sections

- Cooking - indoor/ outside - gas stoves/campfires - smores/dampers.
- Decorate gingerbread men with the next section uniform.
- Treasure hunt - find pictures of interest badges or anything to do with the new section.
- Badge book quiz - set questions for the Sixes/Patrols to find the answers.

Rangers

- Face painting and flower headbands (festival goer badge).
- Create your own animated character and brief (animation badge).

Guides

- Make a simple camp gadget.
- Put up a tent.
- Whittling (whittling badge).
- Geocaching (geocaching badge).

Brownies

- Make rockets (aviation badge).
- Make edible campfires.
- Make a monster out of recycling.



My Next Step Order Form

Please use this form to order your My Next Step badges. The badges are free of charge, you only need to pay for the postage. Only order the exact number you require for your event.

Name of Unit/District/Division	
Name and address of Leader	
Date of My Next Step event	
Number of Brownies expected to attend	
Number of Guides expected to attend	
Number of Brownies/Guides/Rangers/Leader helpers expected to attend	
Total Number of badges required	

Once completed please return the form to join-us@ggswe.org.uk

If any badges are unused after the event, we would be grateful if these are returned to the Region Office so that they can be passed on to other groups.

Once you have held your event, please use this link to give us feedback about your My Next Step event: <https://bit.ly/3p4cHfi>

