

# Lones, who are they?

Girls who are unable to attend regular meetings because of health, work, studies, distance, or unit unavailability may become members of Lone Units. A girl should not register as a Lone if it is at all possible for her to attend at least 12 meetings a year with an active Unit.

Lone Units are for Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Sr.Branches, but in some cases arrangements can be made for a Lone Spark. Occasionally a girl whose parents have been transferred to another country where there are no opportunities to join Guiding locally, will retain her membership through Lones. In some instances, Unit meeting times may conflict with other commitments and the girls can continue her program through Lones rather than leaving Guiding.

Whenever possible, a Lone member should try and attend special events and occasional meetings of an active Unit. Sometimes there are special Lones camps, but more often Lones go camping with active Units. Lones are eligible for any of the events open to girls, such as International Camps. Local Guiders are asked to be aware of the Lones in their area and pass along information on local activities and camping opportunities.

The program for Lones is provided through the Provincial Adviser of Lone Guiding, Heather Gardiner. A Lone Guider has a Unit consisting of a small group of girls with whom she in touch with by, mail, email, and telephone. Some Lone Guiders use the internet to hold group meetings using websites and instant messaging. The Lone Guider gives the girls ideas for carrying on their program alone or with a friend. Challenge booklets are returned to Guider and she keeps track of the girl's progress on a regular basis. This information can then be passed on when, and if, the girl returns to an active Unit.

Registration forms are available from Area Program Advisers and the Lones Adviser. Information is then sent to the girl and her parents explaining the program and giving them information on how to contact the Lone Guider.

The purpose of Lone Guiding is to help Lones feel less alone. If you know of a girl who could benefit from the Lone program, please make them aware of its existence so that they can continue to carry out their Guiding program,

For further information and registration forms please contact:

Heather Gardiner, Alberta Lones Adviser  
60 Aspen Cres, St.Albert AB, T4C 1S7  
ablones\_heather@hotmail.com