

Alberta Diversity Challenge
A Challenge – To Celebrate our Diversity
2006 - 2007



This fall we are rolling out a special challenge for each branch of Guiding. This challenge will help members learn more about themselves as well as others in their units, community, province and people from around the world. It gives Guiders and girls the opportunity to embrace what makes each of us unique as well as to develop an understanding of ethnicity, race, socio-economics and other qualities or characteristics that make us each an individual.

The Diversity Challenge has been developed in three sections with the first section included in the Challenge Booklets for 2006. Each part of the Challenge can be completed independent of the others. Part Two of the Challenge will be available in the fall 2007 and Part Three in the fall of 2008. A special crest has been designed for each part of the Challenge. This crest can be ordered from the Alberta Guide Shop once you have completed the Challenge. Upon completion of all three parts of the Challenge, the three crests join together to make one large extraordinary crest. The crest can be displayed on members' camp blankets or hats.

Celebrating our diversity is exciting and allows us to learn more about our own background and that of others in our communities. We hope that you will encourage unit Guiders to do Part One of the Challenge this year with their Units, working it into their current Guide program. The Challenge has been laid out so it is easy to follow and includes a number of suggested activities – why not plan a Diversity Night! Why not introduce this Challenge at your next Area meeting and incorporate some of the Challenge activities into your meeting. The Challenge is about teaching Diversity not only to our youth members but also to our adult ones. It is a chance for us all to learn and grow together.

A “bonus” diversity activity is provided below to get you going on the Challenge. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at:

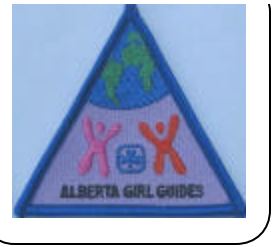
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By embracing our uniqueness – we can grow Guiding together!

Diversity Jellybeans

Hand out a hand full of jellybeans to each girl. Discuss the colours of the jellybeans and what flavour the girls think each colour might be. Make a list of the different colours and guesses of flavours. Eat the jellybeans to see if the girls were able to match up colours and flavours. Are there colours that have a very distinct flavour? Are there colours where it is difficult to tell what the flavour might be or agree on a single flavour? Do you like all the flavours? Just some? Do you have favorites? The jellybeans are like our communities and the world. You are not always able to determine what the flavour is inside the jellybean by just looking at the outside. Each jellybean is unique. During the jellybean exercise, we don't expect to all like the same colours/flavours - it is these differences that make life interesting and exciting!

ALBERTA DIVERSITY CHALLENGE – Part 1 GUIDES



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

Everyone is different. While we all come from a family, a community or country, there are still things about us that make us different from those around us. Each one of us is special and unique. This three-year challenge allows us to discover the diversity within our families, the Guiding unit, community, our world and ourselves. Complete just one year of the challenge or all three parts (Part 2 available 2007, Part 3 available 2008) to discover the diversity that makes us unique.

PART A (do all three)

1. Write a poem starting with “Where I’m from”. Use descriptive words to describe the sights, sounds, and smells.
2. What food, language or culture has been passed down through your family? What holidays do you celebrate and what might this celebration include? You might be surprised how the same holiday is celebrated differently depending on the family.
3. Create a cultural autobiography of your family using a method of your choice. Has the way your family is living today changed over the generations?

PART B - Do any five of the following activities with the Unit

Discrimination

What is discrimination? When might it happen? Why might it happen? As a unit or in small groups plan and perform a skit showing an act of discrimination that you have either witnessed or experienced. Discuss. Perform the skit again but this time show a positive response or outcome.

Guest Speaker

Have a guest visit your unit and share their experience with either traveling to another country or moving to Canada. Were there any misunderstandings due to cultural differences? Were the preconceived ideas of the country true?

Time to Eat

Plan a meal for your family on a \$5.00 budget. This meal must be nutritionally balanced. What did this meal include? Was this difficult? Would you be able to do this daily? Discuss the challenges some families face and what might be available in your community to assist them.

Diversity Bingo

Play a game of diversity bingo (see attached). Within your unit or multi-branch meeting, get the initial or name from someone who has the experience that the bingo square states. If possible, try to find a different person for each square. Where you able to complete all the squares?

What is My Identity?

What is your personal identity? Your identity can be made up of a number of different things. It could be related to where you live, what you enjoy doing, where your family came from, who your friends are, where you have lived in the past, what your hobbies are. Think about what makes you who you are.

Using old magazines, make a collage poster showing who you are. After finishing your posters, you might like to share why you chose the pictures you did to demonstrate you. Did you find this activity hard? Fun?

My Name

Many of our names come from different origins. If access to a computer lab is available, have the Guides research where their name came from and what it means (i.e. Samantha – origin, Aramaic – meaning, listens well). Now using construction paper and art supplies – cut out a shape symbolizing your name and include your name, origin and meaning. Hang these around your meeting space for those in your unit to read and share.

I am Special....

Each of us has special talents and/or traits that make us special. Other people will recognize some of your special talents or traits. Give each girl a piece of paper. At the top of the paper the Guide writes her name and then the statement “I am Special”. This piece of paper is then stuck on her back. Guides then walk around the room and write statements on the paper on each girl’s back, completing the statement. Each girl should add a positive statement on each participant’s paper. At the end of the activity, ask for volunteers to read aloud what others had written on their paper. How did this exercise make you feel? Were you surprised by some of the comments others included on your paper?

Mapping Me! (from Inclusive Activities – BC Association for Community Living)

Using a large sheet of paper (flipchart size), have each Guide do a self-portrait or a simple stick figure.

- Ask everyone to write what she is good at near that part of the body that is used for the activity (i.e. by the mouth you could write “I am in choir, I love music). Have the girls really think about their different talents and abilities. They can have more than one activity related to the same body part.
- After everyone is finished their maps, join back at a large group and share their individual pictures and talents. Discuss how while in many ways we are the same, we all have different talents and abilities.

Exploring Culture in Your Community

Each community we live in is diverse no matter how large or small the community. Even if the members of that community look similar, they come from different backgrounds. Look at the culture within your community. Are there many ethnic groups represented? What cultural organizations does your community have available? How can you learn more about these?