

Challenge - To Celebrate Our Diversity

Part 2 - 2007—2008



Challenges

Spark
Diversity
Challenge
Part 2

Brownie
Diversity
Challenge
Part 2

Guide
Diversity
Challenge
Part 2

Pathfinder/
Senior
Branches
Diversity
Challenge
Part 2

In the fall of 2006, the Alberta Membership Committee rolled out a special Challenge for each branch of Guiding. This year, we are introducing the second part of this Challenge. The Membership Diversity Challenge is intended to help members learn more about themselves as well as others in their units, community, province and around the world. The Challenge is branch specific with different activities for each group. This Challenge will give Guiders and girls the opportunity to embrace what makes each of us unique as well as develop an understanding of ethnicity, race, socio-economics and other qualities or characteristics that make us each an individual.

The Diversity Challenge is in three sections or parts. Parts A and B can be found in the Challenge Booklets and on the Alberta Girl Guide web site. (<http://www.albertagirlguides.ca/challenges.html>). Each part of the Challenge can be completed independent of the others. The Challenges focus on exploring and accepting our differences and those around us such as sex and age as well as the invisible differences like religion, sexual orientation, education and personal values.

A special crest has been designed for each year or 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. Members can display the crest on their camp blankets or hats.

Celebrating our diversity is exciting as it allows us to learn more about our own background as well as that of others in our communities. We hope that Guiders will embrace this Challenge and use it at workshops and training, filtering down to the unit Guiders. All the parts of the Challenge can be easily worked into the current Guide branch programs. The Challenge has been laid out so that it is easy to follow and includes a number of suggested activities. Why not plan a Diversity Night!

The Alberta Membership Committee hopes that you will introduce this Challenge at your next Provincial, Area or District meeting and incorporate some of the Challenge activities into your adult-focused as well as youth-focused events. 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.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at:

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**By embracing our uniqueness – we
can grow Guiding together!**



ALBERTA DIVERSITY CHALLENGE – Part 2 GUIDES



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Everyone is different. While we all come from a family, a community or country, there are still things that make us different from those around us. We are each special and unique. The three-year Diversity Challenge allows us to discover the diversity within our families, Guiding units, community, our world and ourselves. Complete just one year of the challenge or all three parts to discover the diversity that makes us unique. Part 1 is already available on the Albert Girl Guides website and Part 3 will be available in the fall of 2008. (<http://www.albertagirlguides.ca/challenges.html>)

Part A - Service Project

Discuss and decide on a service project to do as a Unit. This could be a project for the community, the school or neighbourhood. Did this project make a difference? How? What would you have changed? Was this a one time or continuing project? How did it help those that you did the service project for?

Part B – Do any 4 of the following 7 activities

Can You Be Friends With?

We all have friends but what is it that makes us chose one person over another to be our friend? Discuss as a group what makes a friend? What characteristics do you look for? What makes you a good friend? Next, have the Guides stand as a group in the middle of the room and read out a number of open ended questions based on friendship. If their answer is “yes” they move to one side of the room, if they answer is “no” move to a different side of the room and if they are unsure, they can remain in the middle. Examples of questions may included: Could you be friends with.....someone who lies, someone who has no siblings, someone who is younger, someone who is shorter than you, someone who is blind, someone who is in jail, someone who looks different than you, someone who lives on the same street etc. After the exercise discuss if some of the questions were easier to answer than others – why?

In My Garden

Explain to the unit that they are to create a garden (flower/vegetable etc) out of the paper provided, gluing the garden onto the poster board or paper. Divide the unit into two groups and if possible, place the groups in such a way they are not able to see each other. Each group is given scissors, a piece of poster board, glue and construction paper. One group should be given a rainbow selection of construction paper while the other group is given paper of just one colour. Give them time to cut, glue and create their garden. Once the gardens are completed, bring the two groups back and encourage them to tell about their garden. Which garden looks more interesting? Why? What about around you, does everyone look the same? Would it be more interesting to live in a community were everyone is the same or different? Why?

Our Holiday

Holidays and celebrations can tell us a lot about a country or culture. This is an opportunity to create and celebrate a holiday that the unit develops. As a group, brainstorm the criteria of this holiday. What is this new holiday? Why was it created? What do you do during this holiday? Are there special foods you eat? Songs you sing? What events do you do? When is this holiday celebrated? Is there a founder of this holiday? Is there a special symbol, image or colour that represents this holiday? After the creation of this holiday, if possible – as a unit plan and host this created holiday event within the unit.

First Thoughts

Many times we stereotype people before we even meet or know them. This exercise will allow the Guides to think about how stereotypes can lead to prejudice. Hand out a piece of paper to each Guide. Tell them you are going to say a word and they are to write down the first thing they think about. Words could include: cheerleader, librarian, gang member, teacher, waitress, construction worker, rock star, dancer, honour roll student etc. Talk about each descriptive word that was read out and what the Guides wrote down. Are these characteristics assumptions? Are these assumptions true? How do you know? Can assumptions lead to stereotypes? Is this helpful or harmful?

It's Your Time

Each day we are all given the same amount of time but choose to use it in different ways. Discuss as a unit some of the different things we do throughout the day. Ask the Guides to track their time in a typical day and the things they did with their time (for example – work/school, play, time with friends, time with family, sleeping, studying, helping others, sports). Have each Guide create a pie chart showing the use of their time and bring back to the Unit the following week. What makes a well-balanced life? Does the country or culture we are from influence the way we choose to spend time? What can be learned about people in other cultures and how they spend time?

Welcome to Our Community

Is there a new member of your community who has moved from another community or country? Invite them to visit your Unit. Have the Guides create a folder for them telling them about the community and surrounding area. This could include services, highlights or events, information on favourite places to eat and things to do. Have the invited guests to also share information on the country or community they came from. Ask why they decided to move? Is this community different from the previous one? Why? Was moving to a new community difficult? Why?

Culture – Within our Community/Province

Explore the different cultural groups you have within your community/province. Most cultures have their own culinary traditions. Have each Guide make a recipe from another culture and bring it to the Guide meeting to share. How are the culinary traditions similar and/or different from your own?