

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 PATHFINDERS / SENIOR BRANCHES



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 – Do any two of the following activities

1. Organize or take part in a food drive for your community.
2. Visit or volunteer at the local shelter or food bank.
3. Find out about organizations in your community that help people. What do they do? Visit them or have a member of that organization visit your unit.
4. Volunteer for a community-based organization - what role does this organization play in your community? What service does it provide? How does it provide this service?

Part B – Do any 4 of the following 7 activities

Hungry?

How many meals or snacks do you eat in one day? For a day, record everything you eat? Add up the estimated cost of that food? Did you eat more than you needed? Less? Many people within our community do not have enough food to allow them to succeed. Discuss some of the causes of hunger.

Poverty

What is poverty? People live in poverty all around the world however living in poverty in Canada is very different than being poor in Africa. Research how poverty is different in different regions. What can affect poverty? (i.e. access to education, birth rates, location, access to health care, shelter, clothing etc).

How We Share Meals

We all eat but sometimes depending on our culture or background, the way we share a meal can be different. Who cooks the meals at your house? What role does everyone play around meal times? Does each family member have a set role or can it change? What behaviours or expectations are there around meal times? Are there things that are not done during meal times? Look at three different cultures (other than your own) and research how they share the responsibilities of preparing and eating a meal.

Pen Pals

Set up a Pen Pal with another Guide group around the world or with individuals. Share the letters you exchange and the things you learn about each other. How are you different? How are the things you do the same? Check out other Girl Guide/Girl Scout web sites to locate a unit to correspond with. <http://www.asaprental.com/penpals/>

My Group (worksheet attached)

Even in our own communities, we tend to feel more comfortable as part of a particular group. This group of people might be the same age as us, might have similar beliefs, might practice the same religion or like to do similar things. Now is your opportunity to design your own “group”. Giving each Pathfinder/Senior Branch member the worksheet attached, have them rank the things that are important in their group. Have each girl share her culture. Are any exactly the same? Were there things that were similar? Could this group change as you grow older? What else could cause changes in your group?

Labels

This is a group exercise in which the group is going to perform a simple task. This task however is made more difficult since each member of the group is wearing a “label”. The wearer of the label (stuck on their forehead) does not know what their label is. During the task, treat the wearing of the label according to what the label states. Examples of labels you might include are: smart, a jokester, stupid, slow, has nothing of value to say, just ignore, popular, tell to shut up, has no value within the group etc. The tasks you assign the group should be simple such as setting up a series of table and chairs. Stop the task once you feel the group has had an opportunity to experience what their “label” states. Discuss – what did they think their label said? How did it make them feel? Did it impact their role in the group? Did the other member’s labels have an impact on you? Was it easier or difficult to do this simple task? How can the way we treat/react to people impact that person? Positive? Negative?

Comfort Zone

Many times in life, we stay within our own comfort zone. This could be our family, friends, community, where we shop, where we walk and hang-out, the language we speak and where we worship. We feel safe in our comfort zone because of the familiarity that surrounds us. For this exercise, explore an area (only as long as it is safe to do so) that is outside of your comfort zone. This could be visiting a different place of worship, stopping in at a senior’s center, going into a store or restaurant where your language is not spoken or the food you normally eat is not served. Explore this new zone and record how you felt. This could be done through a diary, photograph diary, poem, drama, story etc. Bring your efforts back to the unit and share your experience. Was it challenging? Did you feel safe? Comfortable? Welcomed?

Diversity Challenge – Part 2
Pathfinders/Senior Branches

My Group

Write one sentence or phrase about each topic listed below. Then rate each item from 1-10 (1 is most important, 10 the least Important) according to what value this topic has in your culture. Is there something missing off this list? Add it and rank it along with the other items

_____ The language you speak

_____ The value of youth and the elderly

_____ The type of religion you practice or don't

_____ The value of friendship and family

_____ The type of music you listen to

_____ The foods that you eat at home and at special events/ceremonies

_____ What do you wear on special occasions?

_____ The value of money

_____ Are special occasions and ceremonies recognized?

_____ What is important in the culture?

_____ What is the value of education?

_____ How are rights and wrongs handled?

_____ Does family play a role?

_____ The value of women within the group

The name of my culture is _____.