



Outdoor Activity Leadership Program Overview

Getting outside, enjoying nature, and challenging ourselves are some of the best parts of the Guiding experience and are a central part of the Girl Guide philosophy and program. The Outdoor Activity Leadership program is designed to empower Guiders to undertake meaningful outdoor activities with girls in a variety of settings.

The OAL program begins with training Guiders in how to plan outings such as walks to the park with Sparks, extends through residential and tent camping with Brownies and Guides and on to the development and execution of Pathfinder, Ranger or Trex adventurous camps such as tripping expeditions or winter camping.

The OAL Program trainings are divided into two streams:

Foundation stream

- Getting Outside
- Residential Camping

Enrichment stream

- Tent Camping
- Adventure Camping

Below is information on the structure of the program including the target audience, program purpose and pre-requisites, training modules, completion criteria, resources, and recognition. There is also information on equivalency and frequently asked questions (FAQ).



Overview of OAL Program Foundation Streams

OAL Foundation Stream	Getting Outside	Residential Camping
Audience and Purpose	<p>For Spark and Brownie Guiders to plan outdoor games, nature walks or activities for a Unit meeting, an afternoon outing at a nature reserve, or for a day camp, etc.</p> <p>For Guide and Pathfinder Guiders to plan longer day events, hikes with cooking, experiential learning games, camp skills days, etc.</p> <p>This module covers clothing, equipment and food as well as activities.</p>	<p>For new leaders or inexperienced campers (usually Spark or Brownie Guiders) to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to take girls on a one or two night residential camping experience, and to ensure that they have the skills and confidence to deliver a fun, safe, age appropriate camp.</p> <p>Ideally, this stream will be delivered together with the enrichment Tent Camping training.</p>
Modules and Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Getting Outside <p>Approx. 2 to 2.5 hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leading ▪ Planning ▪ Food and Nutrition ▪ Camp Life <p>Approx. 8 hrs.</p>
Resources	<p>Girl program books and Guider manuals</p> <p>Online activities in the Camping and Outdoors section of Member Zone</p> <p>Safe Guide Activity Guide: Activities in the Outdoors</p>	<p><i>OAL Guide to Camping</i></p> <p>Online activities in the Camping and Outdoors section in Member Zone</p> <p>Safe Guide Activity Guide: Camping Residential</p>
Recognition – Green Pin	<p>Earned by completing four modules in the OAL Foundation streams, two of which must be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential Camping - Planning ▪ Residential Camping - Food and Nutrition 	



Overview of OAL Program Enrichment Streams

OAL Enrichment Stream	Tent Camping	Adventure Camping
Audience and Purpose	<p>For Guiders who have completed residential camping training or have the skills and knowledge needed to take girls on a two night camp experience, and would like to expand their skills to a tent setting at an established site that has amenities such as toilets, running water and possibly cooking shelters.</p> <p>Ideally, this enrichment stream will be delivered together with Residential Camping training.</p>	<p>Typically for Pathfinder, Ranger and Trex Guiders with prior tent camping experience wishing to develop skills, knowledge and capacity in adventure camping (backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, horse packing, winter camping, etc.).</p> <p>Ideally, this enrichment stream will be delivered over three days of a longer weekend.</p>
Modules and Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning and Packing ▪ Tents and Tarps ▪ Kitchens and Cooking ▪ Activities and Program ▪ Overnight in a tent <p>This training is approx. 11-15 hrs. and must be delivered in an overnight tenting setting.</p>	<p>Pre-requisite: Completed OAL Tent camping training or have equivalent experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trip Design and Structure ▪ Risk Assessment and Management ▪ Leadership Styles and Group Dynamics ▪ Navigation ▪ Adventure Camping Gear ▪ Adventure Camping Food ▪ Campsite Management ▪ Expeditions <p>This training includes 21 hours of modular knowledge sessions and at least 5 nights of expedition tripping.</p>
Resources	<p><i>OAL Guide to Camping – Let’s Go Tenting</i> section</p> <p>Online activities in the Camping and Outdoors section of Member Zone</p> <p>Safe Guide Activity Guide: Tent Camping in an Established Campsite</p>	<p><i>OAL Guide to Adventure Camping</i></p> <p>Online activities in the Camping and Outdoors section of Member Zone</p>
Recognition	<p>Earned by completing all modules in this stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yellow Pin 	<p>Earned by completing all modules in this stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark green pin



OAL Go camping pin – recognition for camping with girls

Pre-requisite: Completion of or equivalency in OAL residential, tent or adventure camping modules.

Purpose: To recognize Guiders for giving girls the experience of an overnight residential, tenting or adventure camping experience

Requirements: Residential, tent or adventure camping:

- Four nights as an adult supervisor at a girl residential, tent or adventure camp. These do not need to be consecutive.
- Two of the nights must be as the Responsible Guider who coordinates the leading, planning and execution of the camp, including Safe Guide procedures.

Frequently Asked Question – Go camping pin

1. How can I get equivalency for the OAL Go camping pin?

- A Guider cannot be granted equivalency for the OAL Go camping pin. In order to earn the OAL Go camping pin, a Guider must coordinate the leading, planning and execution of the camp, including Safe Guide procedures.

2. If, as a non-member I helped out at an overnight Girl Guide camp, does this count towards my OAL Go camping pin?

- Yes, up to two of the nights may count if your camp was in the last two years.

3. Can the nights that I spend at camp for my tenting or adventure training count towards one of the nights for my OAL Go camping pin?

- No. These trainings are adult-only training sessions. The OAL Go camping pin is given to Guiders who plan and take girls to camp.

4. Can the OAL Go camping pin only be earned by planning an overnight tent camp?

- No. Guiders who fulfill the requirements and take Girls camping in a residential, tent or adventure camping setting may earn the OAL Go camping pin.

5. Can I earn two OAL Go camping pins – one for taking the girls to a residential camp, one for taking girls to a tenting or adventure camp?

- No. Guiders can only earn one OAL Go camping pin for either a residential, tenting or adventure camp.

Equivalency for Residential or Tent Camping Training Modules

Equivalency is determined in a conversation between the Guider and a camping adviser or trainer with a camping background, in which they review the learning objectives of the modules to determine how previous experience will be credited towards the OAL modules.

- A reference should be provided to confirm experience and skills.



Equivalency for Adventure Camping Training

As those who complete this training are eligible to act as a Trip Assist on a Safe Guide Red level trip, they must demonstrate their skills, knowledge and competencies.

Equivalency for Knowledge Sessions (Modules 1-7)

Equivalency for the knowledge modules is determined in a conversation between the Guider and an Expedition Leader or an Adventure Facilitator. Together they review the learning objectives of the modules to determine how previous experience will be credited towards the OAL adventure modules. A reference should be provided to confirm knowledge, skills and experience.

Equivalency for Expeditions (Module 8)

Equivalency can be granted for a maximum of three of the five expedition nights and is assessed by an Expedition Leader. To gain equivalency and complete the program participants must:

- Complete at least one two-night moving trip with an OAL Expedition Leader who works with them to demonstrate and complete all aspects of their Participant Skills Checklist.
- Provide a trip history log (OAL Adventure Camping Trip Experience Log or similar) prior to the expedition and review it with the Expedition Leader.
- Provide a reference that can confirm their knowledge, skills and experience.

At the end of the expedition, the Expedition Leader will determine whether further experience is necessary to complete the adventure training program.

Frequently Asked Questions – Adventure Camping Training

1. If I start the knowledge session modules and then I go on an expedition before I complete the series, does that trip count towards Module 8?

- Yes. However, you must ensure that you demonstrate the skills on the Participant Skills Checklist by the end of all of your expedition trips. During your expeditions you will need to put the training you have received into practice.

2. Can I count different types of trips towards my expedition nights or do I have to do all five nights of one type of camping?

- Yes. Though you must do a minimum of two different adventure camping trips to complete your expedition nights, they can be different activities. For example you could do two nights of canoe tripping, two nights of backpacking and one night of overnight cycle touring.

3. What qualifications do Guiders need to be an Adventure Facilitator or Expedition Leader?

- Members who take on the roles of Adventure Facilitator or Expedition Leader must meet the following criteria:

Adventure facilitators – Safe Guide Red level Trip Assists with recent relevant experience

Expedition leaders – Safe Guide Red level Trip Leads

- They must also:
 - Complete the OAL Adventure Participant Skills Checklist and OAL Adventure Camping Trip Experience Log (or similar)
 - Provide adventure camping references
 - Participate in an orientation to the OAL Adventure Training program
 - Be listed in iMIS as an Adventure Facilitator or Expedition Leader.

If you have any questions, about the OAL Program, please send them to training@girlguides.ca. The FAQ will be updated periodically. Please check back to the Camping and Outdoor section of Member Zone for updates.