

Holcombe Brownies and Guides

Membership

Currently, the brownie unit is full with 7 girls on the joining list and we have 8 Guides. We have had two young people join us over the past few months to complete their volunteering requirement of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Girlguiding Programme & Awards

This year we have worked on our "Be well" theme, with all the girls learning first aid. This was put to good use by one of our brownies in real life, as she was able to assist a woman who had collapsed, by putting her into the recovery position.

We have also explored the "Know Myself" theme, competing activities which aim to develop skills in areas such as teamwork, confidence, and self-analysis.

Guides are currently working on their "Skills for my Future" theme, they have explored finances, planned and cooked a nutritiously balanced meal as well as improving DIY skills by designing and creating 3D board games.

Brownies have been exploring local history. We had a visit from a local historian who told them the origins of a few nursery rhymes connected with the area, and we had a visit from Jean who started the Holcombe unit 46 years ago.

We have been able to award:

2 Guide bronze awards, 1 Guide Silver award, and 2 Guide Gold awards

9 Brownie bronze awards, 2 Brownie silver awards and 1 Brownie Gold awards

Rachel received her 15 year service award

Jenny received her 25 year service award and has been given the Somerset Courage award. This is given to members who show courage and fortitude, often under suffering.

Other Activities

Shooting Stars Circus Skills came to the hall to hold a workshop for the girls where they had a go at range of activities balancing peacock feathers on various parts of the body, tried plate spinning, juggling, diablo, stilt walking. One brownie even made her promise whilst zooming around the hall on a micro-bicycle!

Outings and Events

We visited Wells Fire Station to learn more about what firefighters do and how to keep ourselves and our homes safe. The highlight of the trip was definitely getting to use one of the hoses on the engine!

In July we went down to Sutton Bingham for a lovely morning learning to sail on Girlguiding Somerset's very own dinghy, Somerspirit. It was fantastic to see some of our girls going from very nervous to leaning out the dinghy backwards to get their hair wet!

At the end of the academic year, we finished with a wonderful social evening at the Joliffee Arms, where we had an enjoyable meal and a noisy game of skittles.

In September we joined other girls from across the county for an adventurous camp at Mendip Activity Centre. As well as learning how to put up tents and the obligatory campfire, the brownies tried climbing, caving and archery whilst the guides tackled skiing,

axe throwing and air rifle shooting. Again, we saw girls overcoming fears, increasing in confidence and going from "I can't" to "I can."

In October we joined other units from across our district for our annual challenge day. Girls were set various tasks around the theme of the Olympics and Para Olympics from making mascots and edible medals to completing obstacle courses and blindfolded football, the girls rose to the tasks brilliantly. This year the Janet Elliott cup was won by Shepton Mallet Rainbows and the badge design competition was won by one of our Guides.

We also joined girls from across the division for a Thinking Day event held at St. Paul's School in Shepton. The girls got to try out activities on the theme of "Look wider and then wider still" which included both local and international games, craft, food and other activities.

Future events

Brownies will be visiting a cafe in Street to make their own bubble teas and waffles.

Guides are going on a trip to Legoland.

There will be a pack holiday for both Brownies and Guides in May.

Brownies will be attending a sleepover at Wookey Hole in September

Guides will be attending a sleepover at Wells Cathedral in October.