

The Girls' Brigade



**Information for
Prospective Companies**



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10 STEPS TO OPENING A GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY

Each company is attached to a church. The minimum requirement for a Company to be affiliated is 10 girls, a Leader in Charge and a Chaplain. **However a Company can begin with just a few girls and a Leader in Charge.**

1. **Your Church** will hold a meeting of church leaders, interested prospective Girls' Brigade Leaders and interested parents at which Brigade staff and representatives will explain the activities of Girls' Brigade.
2. **The Prospective Leaders**, who are appointed by the Church, obtain information from Girls' Brigade State Office to make their application to commence Leader Training. Girls' Brigade representatives may be able to train Leaders at your location.
3. **The Prospective Leaders** meet, together with the Chaplain and a Brigade representative, to discuss and decide the time, length and place of weekly meetings, finance, insurance and development plans. A decision on which uniform is most suitable for the company needs to be made also - casual, semi-formal or formal.
4. **Leader Resources** are obtained. Girls' Brigade provides a full set of handbooks and manuals free of charge.
5. **Announce** the date and time of the first Company meeting.
6. **Publicise** at your church, Sunday School, local library, schools, local newspapers etc.
7. **The Company meets for six weeks**
8. **A Regional Brigade Representative** will visit the Company sometime after the sixth week to encourage and talk to the girls, Leaders and helpers. The Chaplain should also be present.
9. **The Affiliation Form** is then completed and Leaders and girls begin to wear the uniform. Uniforms are organised prior to the Affiliation Service.
10. **The Affiliation Service at your church.** A Girls' Brigade representative will enrol both the Company and the girls, and commission the Leaders at this service.

"GB has taught me a lot about being a Leader; to be patient, to always have a back-up plan. There's always more to learn, we are all imperfect, but God is continually moulding and shaping us for His purposes."

**Rose - Queen's
Award recipient**

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A TYPICAL EVENING AT GIRLS' BRIGADE

Girls' Brigade meets weekly during school terms for 1 ½ to 2 hours each week. There will also be activities at other times such as camps, state events, church parades and community service activities.

At the beginning of a meeting, the girls "fall in", which is where they gather together as a Company, the evening is opened in prayer, and information and instructions are passed on. The girls then divide into their units:

- ✓ Cadets – Kindergarten, Years 1, and 2
- ✓ Juniors – Years 3, 4 and 5
- ✓ Seniors – Years 6, 7 and 8
- ✓ Pioneers – Years 9 and over



The girls participate in the activity organised for their units which might involve learning about something new, doing craft, playing games, interacting with a guest speaker, talking with their friends and the Leaders, and having fun. Towards the end of the meeting, the girls come together again before being dismissed.

Most importantly, the girls will participate in a devotional and/or worship and praise activity during the evening. This might be at the beginning or end of the evening, or while the girls are in their units. This might be facilitated by the Chaplain, or any one of the Leaders.

PROGRAM

The Girls' Brigade has developed a comprehensive age appropriate program for use on Company meeting nights. At each stage, award systems are clearly explained, and there are many ideas for activities, games and devotions for each topic.

Leaders are free to exercise discretion when organising their program each term. The most important focus is to meet the needs of the girls in the Company, build relationships and provide opportunities for God's love to be role modelled and discussed.

COST

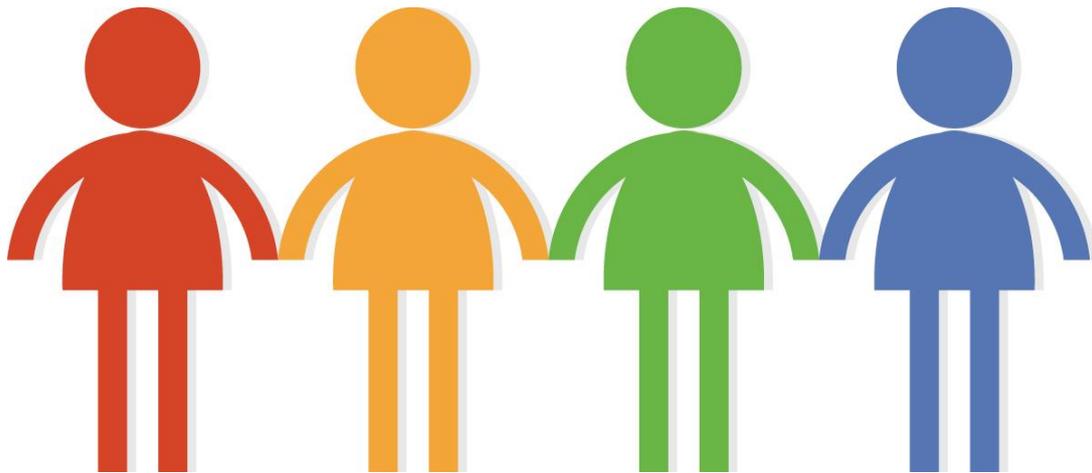
The current annual fee for Girls' Brigade members is set in November each year. This fee includes international and national fees, public liability insurance, and a state fee which goes towards the running costs of Brigade in NSW. It is paid by the girls and trained Leaders. Non-trained helpers are required to pay a small fee to cover International and National fees, public liability insurance. These fees are paid to the State Office each term. New Companies are excluded from paying fees for their first year.

There will be other expenses involved for such items as equipment and craft items. Fundraising may help meet these costs. The NSW Company Liaison Worker will be pleased to suggest strategies. Your congregation may also financially support the company on a regular or occasional basis, or individual members of your congregation may "sponsor" a girl.

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THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Within each Group there will be a number of Leaders with differing responsibilities. The most effective Companies approach leadership as a team, allocating areas of responsibility according to the gifts and talents of the Leaders.

Leader-in-charge

The Leader in charge of the Group has responsibility to the Church, fellow Leaders, girls and their families and the organisation.

Her responsibility to the Church includes:

- ✓ Maintaining the standard of behaviour and witness that is expected by the Church
- ✓ Making adequate reports on the Group to the appropriate Church committee
- ✓ Bringing any Group problems or difficulties to the Chaplain or appropriate committee

Her responsibility to the Group includes:

- ✓ Organising the Leadership Team and ensuring the activities offered are challenging, and encouraging growth and development in the girls
- ✓ Ensuring that all appropriate records are kept correctly and efficiently
- ✓ Encouraging prospective Leaders to undergo training and ensuring that all Leaders continue to participate in In-Service training regularly
- ✓ Distributing information from the Church or from Girls' Brigade

Her responsibility to Girls' Brigade NSW includes:

- ✓ Ensuring that the Girls' Brigade Aim and Principles are upheld in the Group
- ✓ Maintaining close contact with the organisation by attending appropriate Regional and State meetings/activities/training and encouraging her Group to take part in other Girls' Brigade activities e.g. State Camps/events
- ✓ Promoting Girls' Brigade to the members of the Church and the local community
- ✓ Providing information required from the State Office such as Annual Returns and quarterly statistics

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Chaplain

At least one Chaplain is recommended. This appointment is usually determined jointly by Church officials and Group Leaders. Chaplains are an important part of the Group and may perform the following duties:

- ✓ Advise and counsel Leaders and girls in all spiritual matters
- ✓ Devise and oversee the 'Encounters with God' sessions of all or part of the Group
- ✓ Assist with visiting families of Brigaders
- ✓ Act as Liaison between the Group and Church council/board
- ✓ Organise Prayer Partners within the Group or between Group and Church members

Leaders

Leaders are women who have undergone training and been commissioned as Leaders within Girls' Brigade. Leaders are responsible for the running of the Units.

The Leaders need to work together, planning and programming for the Group. These women need also to be able to share their difficulties and prayer needs in confidence with each other and should meet regularly to pray together.

Young Leaders

Pioneers, who are girls in Year 11 and above, who have met the necessary requirements:

- ✓ Earned their Pioneer Pin
- ✓ Completed at least two Advanced Leadership Courses, of which one must be Girls' Brigade Leadership
- ✓ Is working in a leadership capacity in the Group on a regular weekly basis

These girls wear a 'Young Leader' badge and a braid or lanyard.

Further Pioneer Leadership Training and relevant Leader Development Courses are available to them.



Helpers

These are women and men who assist the Group for specific activities. All are to have training in Risk Management and Duty of Care. Some may help on a part time basis as pianists, craft helpers, specialist skills e.g. for specific achievements. Some may help behind the scenes as treasurers, prayer partners, etc.

All Leaders, Chaplains, Young Leaders over the age of 18, and helpers need to fulfil legislative requirements in regard to Working with Children.

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PROCEDURE FOR TRAINING LEADERS

Girls' Brigade is a rewarding, vibrant ministry for Christian women, which offers opportunities for witness, outreach and service.

The selection and appointment of Leaders is the responsibility of the local Church. Some Churches may allow ladies in membership of other Churches to become Leaders in their Company. As Girls' Brigade is an interdenominational organisation this does not cause any difficulties and often widens the interest and support of Brigade in the local community.



- ✓ The Brigade supplies new Companies with a Program Folder, Leader Handbook and other relevant resources on receipt of the Application Form to Start a New Company
- ✓ Training is an ongoing process and you benefit from and enjoy learning new skills, attending Regions and State events and forming relationships with other Leaders
- ✓ The State publication "Talkabout" and the National publication "GB E-News" provide information and ideas
- ✓ State staff are always willing to provide guidance and support

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OTHER MINISTRY/GROUP RELATIONSHIPS

There are many ways your Girls' Brigade can complement other groups in your Church for the benefit of your community.

THE CHURCH	MINISTRIES	GIRLS' BRIGADE
Church is kept informed of GB program and activities, includes GB in prayer, holds Special Services	Worship Service	Takes part in appropriate ways – door roster, flowers, cleaning, singing and music, encourages GB families to attend
Provides GB members with practical training and service opportunities	Crèche or Sunday School	Girls rostered for service - could clean, refurbish, provide toys
Supports GB with prayer, encourages members into GB Leadership as service, welcomes GB mothers as members	Women's Groups	Encourages mothers of girls to link with group, can work together for street stalls, stamp collecting, fund raising and other practical service
Encourages membership in GB, sees GB as outreach to non- Church families, welcome new members to Church	Sunday School/ Youth Group	Encourages attendance by members, works cooperatively to provide spiritual teaching and joint activities - camps, outings, family activities
Ensures that sufficient Leadership is available to GB Company, arranges visiting of GB families, attends GB functions as invited, assists with spiritual teaching of girls, includes GB in Church functions & planning	Parish Council Diaconate/Elders etc.	Provides regular reports, coordinates Calendar with Church Calendar, supports Church initiatives e.g. missions, fetes, activities
Provides practical help for Company - teaching achievements, assisting at camps, transport on Church buses etc, welcomes GB fathers as members	Men's Groups	Encourages fathers of girls to link with group, can work together to provide service to group eg waitressing at dinners, fund raising help
Joint activities in and beyond Group time, assists in outreach to other children in families, co-ordinate calendars, BB and GB Leaders support each other in prayer, provides opportunities for leader development	Boys' Brigade	Joint activities in and beyond Group time, outreach to other children in families, co-ordinate calendars, GB and BB Leaders support each other in prayer and opportunities for leader development

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PROMOTING YOUR GROUP

Girls Brigade can be promoted to girls and their parents in many ways:

- Church newsletters and business meetings by reporting
- In local newspaper
- In local school newsletters, or by speaking or representing Girls' Brigade at school events.
- In the local library
- On the community noticeboard in the shopping centre
- As a community service announcement on the local radio station – particularly a Christian radio station
- By conducting a letter box drop
- By involvement in the community
- The most effective means of promotion is favourable word of mouth from girls and their parents

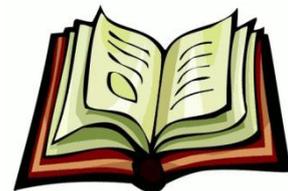
The State Company Liaison Worker is always willing to assist Companies with promotional ideas, and there are leaflets, flyers and other promotional material available at our State Headquarters, Brigade House, located at Toongabbie in Sydney.

EQUIPMENT

Each Company will need a selection of basic equipment to commence which can be built on and expanded as time progresses. Of course, every Company will have the resources of their church buildings.

Administrative

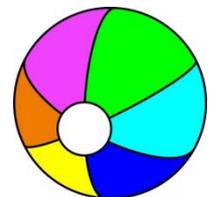
- Program books and Leader manuals
- Finance books: cheque book, receipt book, cash book
- Roll book
- Record form for each girl
- Folder to keep meeting minutes, notices, program ideas etc



Games

This will depend on the ages and numbers of girls in the Company. Second hand equipment can often be made available by church members and others who no longer have need for them.

- Balls in various types and sizes
- Bean bags
- Skipping ropes
- Bats or racquets
- Board games



Stationery and Craft

- Paper and cardboard
- Pencils, textas, crayons etc
- Rulers, erasers and pencil sharpeners
- Scissors, glue, sticky tape, string, staplers etc



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Girl's Brigade Shop

The shop is located at 3 Junia Ave, Toongabbie, as well as on the Girls' Brigade website at <http://www.gbnsw.org.au/products>, or on the phone on 02 9896 7255. The shop is able to supply program materials, uniforms, achievement awards, gifts, craft kits and promotional material.

UNIFORM

Leaders and girls both wear a uniform. There are formal or more casual options available so each Company may choose which is most appropriate for their circumstances. Uniforms are available to purchase through our Girls' Brigade shop, and there are also options for home sewing or second hand uniforms.



ONGOING SUPPORT

Girls' Brigade NSW provides ongoing support and advice to all Companies, girls and Leaders through our State Office and your Regional Commissioner. There is also a State publication "Talkabout", and a National publication "GB E-news", both of which feature ideas and information.

Please seek God's guidance as you consider an outreach to girls in your community with Girls' Brigade. We know that the Lord has richly blessed Brigade in Australia, and that if it is God's will for you to outreach with Girls' Brigade, He will use it to bless your Church.

Staff at Brigade House will be pleased to answer your questions. The NSW Girls' Brigade office is open 9am – 3pm Monday to Thursday.

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