

# THE GUIDING LIGHT FUND

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*The goal of the Guiding Light Fund is to provide opportunities for girls to develop and extend themselves in the area of service - an important element of Guiding.*

## **About The Guiding Light Fund**

The Fund was founded by Wendy Lewis, the CEO of Girl Guides Victoria from 2004 - 2015, to enable girls who are involved in Guiding to develop and implement sustainable projects that benefit their communities.

Funds are available to girls under 18 years of age to encourage them and their ideas. A key objective of the fund is to support innovative, passionate young women in their efforts to undertake important community work and achieve their greatest potential. The initiative also contains a strong accountability element to help girls develop self-responsibility.

## **History of the Guiding Light Fund**

The idea for the Guiding Light Fund began in 2011 at the 53rd Girl Scout Convention in Houston, Texas. During the Convention, ten young women received the National Young Women of Distinction Award which is the highest award in Girl Scouting and honours leadership in the Girl Scout tradition.

The awards were presented for projects that the girls had undertaken to benefit their local communities. In each case, the recipients developed the projects themselves and secured independent financial support. The projects ranged from raising teen awareness of Alzheimer's and an after school teenage refugee program to a Holocaust documentary and a stethoscope sanitizer.

This impressive display of initiative and community service inspired Wendy Lewis to establish the Guiding Light Fund.



## **Applying for Funding**

Each project will be considered on its merits. The maximum amount available for any project is \$1,000.

All applications must fit the criteria set out on the application form which is available from the Girl Guides Victoria website under the Guiding Community tab.

As the funding available is capped it may not be possible to support all applications received. This in no way diminishes the value of the project, rather it just means that the funding available has been allocated.

The closing date for applications is 30 September each year.

## **How to support the Fund**

Donations to the Guiding Light Fund are welcome and can be made through Girl Guides Victoria or direct to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation / Guiding Light Fund.

## **Recipients of Funding**

All recipients will be required to document the development of their project. This can be done through either a written report or a ten minute video outlining the project and its outcomes.

A statement with documentary evidence showing how the funds were spent will also be required. If there are any funds unspent at the conclusion of the project, the Fund will determine whether the remaining funds should be returned to the Guiding Light Fund or if they can be used to continue to support the project.

In addition it is expected that funding recipients will be prepared to speak publicly about their projects and encourage other girls to get involved in their communities.

## **Get involved**

GGV and the Guiding Light Fund would like to see Guides in Victoria 'rise to the challenge' and show how girls are able to make a lasting difference in their own communities.

If you're a Guide in Victoria and have an idea for a project that could make a difference, visit the GGV website for more information and the application form, or email the Fund at [services@guidesvic.org.au](mailto:services@guidesvic.org.au).



The Guiding Light Fund account is a sub-fund of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

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