



Sunship Earth 2023

Our place in space

A State Camp for Guides in Grades 5 & 6

Join us at our beautiful Britannia Park!



The Basics

What?

Sunship Earth is a five-night indoor camp exclusively for Guides in Grades 5 and 6. Guides will spend their time at camp outdoors exploring the wonders of the natural world. Guides who attended Sunship Earth in 2022 are not eligible as the program is designed as a one-time experience.

When?

4.00 pm Sunday 17th September to 3.00 pm Friday 22nd September 2023

** Please note, the dates for Sunship Earth 2023 and Snoozefest 2023 overlap, with Sunship Earth commencing the date that Snoozefest concludes. We are aware this may affect a small number of Guides who wish to attend both events.

Guides wishing to attend both events should contact the Sunship Earth [Leader in Charge](#) before completing their registration for Sunship Earth to make special arrival arrangements.

For any queries relating to the State Event calendar, please contact the Guiding Management Team via support@guidesvic.org.au

Where?

Britannia Park, 210 Britannia Creek Road, Wesburn

Directions to get to the campsite are available online here:

<https://bit.ly/2wkHfOY>

Cost?

\$450 (covers all accommodation, food, camp activities)

(A 50% deposit & balance option is available upon registration. Full payment will be required 2 weeks prior to the event, Friday September 1).

All Guide camps are staffed by experienced and trained volunteer Guide Leaders who donate their time at no cost.

Arrival

Arrival at Sunship Earth is between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm on Sunday 17th September. We ask all parents to be off site by 5.15 pm.

On arrival, Guides will be directed to the sign-in area with all their gear.

Accompanying adults will need to sign the Guides in and hand in Health Forms, medications, and health management plans.

Departure

Sunship Earth finishes at 3.00 pm on Friday 22nd September. Guides should be picked up between 3.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

Adults MUST sign out any Guides they are picking up.

How to Register

Registrations are strictly online.

Visit <https://www.guidesvic.org.au/category/events/current-victorian-events/>

Please have your Guide's login details, dietary requirements, and any information on special needs your Guide may have at hand.

If you do not receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application, please contact support@guidesvic.org.au or call (03) 8606 3500 as soon as possible.

Registrations have been extended to WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23

As volunteers assess each registration to plan for the camp, late registrations cannot be accepted.

Program

We are all travelling at an incredible speed around the sun on a ship we call Earth. Our mission is to understand and appreciate our planet to become engaged and confident crew members. Come aboard!

Sunship Earth is a world-class program which Girl Guides Victoria runs under copyright from The Institute for Earth Education.

Whilst at camp, Girl Guides become 'Sunship Passengers' as they journey into the natural world to learn how they are a part of the Earth's systems. Guides will work in small groups called 'crews' (like Patrols).

The Sunship Earth program evolves over five days, full of surprises at every turn. The Guide that parents/guardians pick up at the end of camp will be different to the one they dropped off. Guides will develop a new vocabulary and daily habits that will surprise those who know them.

Conditions of Attendance

All participants must be current members of Girl Guides Victoria.

Sunship Earth is designed for Guides to attend the entire camp. While exceptional circumstances may be considered, late arrival or early departure is not generally possible.

To run a safe and fun camp, and accommodate as many special needs as possible, our staffing ratios are planned out in advance. Events are designed and run by trained volunteers who often need time off work to support the event; we generally cannot add staff at the last minute. In this light, it is a condition of attendance that any medical needs or special support needs be made clear to us on registration. If your Guide arrives at the event with a special need that was not disclosed and planned for in advance, or would change our support ratios or training requirements, your Guide may not be able to stay at camp and may be sent home with you. To avoid any disappointment at the last minute, please ensure that we know everything we need to know about your Guide on application.

Camp Leaders will contact parents/guardians to follow up with identified special needs, allergy management, and general health plans noted on application to ensure all girls have the best possible camp experience.

At Camp

Food

Guides are not permitted to bring any food to camp. There will be Guides attending with allergies, and we would hate for their enjoyment to be unintentionally impacted by someone else's 'treat.' We will provide plenty of great food at camp for everyone. The food at Sunship Earth is a mix of meat and plant-based proteins, and is a nut free event.

Bedrooms & Beds

Prior to the start of camp, all girls will be assigned a bedroom and a specific bed. We will endeavour to place each Guide in a bedroom with at least one other member of her Guide Unit if others from her Unit are attending. Please note it may not be possible for us to place all Guides from the same Unit into the same bedroom. Remember: camp is also about making new friends!

At Girl Guides, our Child Protection Policy requires that Leaders have designated sleeping areas separate to the Guides. For this camp, Leaders will be in the same 'house' but in separate rooms.

Supervision

Supervision will follow Girl Guides Victoria's standard staffing ratios for overnight and adventurous activities.

Behaviour Support and Management

As a Girl-Led organisation, we believe that jointly developing an understanding of what the camp rules are is important. At the beginning of the camp, the Guides and Leaders will work collaboratively to establish agreed behaviour guidelines. An inclusive and positive participant interaction will be encouraged and fostered amongst all attendees. Trained staff will be available at all times to work through and reflect on any issues that may arise. Whilst we will endeavour to avoid the situation, if a Guide cannot abide by the agreed group guidelines and this is having a significant impact on the camp experience for her and others, she may be asked to return home at parent's expense.

Parent Contact

Post-registration, you will be provided with a contact mobile number. The Leader-in-Charge will have a designated mobile phone for the duration of Sunship Earth. This

mobile phone will be with the Leader-in-Charge 24 hours a day.

Mobile Phones, Technology, and Valuables

Sunship Earth is designed as an opportunity to get to know others, enjoy fun activities, and experience the outdoors. Therefore, there is no need for electronic devices to be brought to camp. We ask that mobile phones, electronic games, and other such devices stay at home.

Cameras are not permitted in bedrooms/sleeping areas or during Sunship Earth program activities. They are held at the Guide's own risk. Girl Guides Victoria cannot monitor or take responsibility for photos that participants may take and publish themselves.

Pocket Money

There is no need for pocket money at Sunship Earth, and we ask that it be left at home.

Health & Wellbeing

First Aid

The staff at Sunship Earth includes a trained, designated First Aider and an assistant, to attend to basic first aid needs and minor mishaps. If, in her opinion, your Guide becomes too ill to remain at camp, you will be contacted on the emergency number you provided to arrange for a pick up.

Medication & Management Plans

All personal medication must be handed in on arrival at Sunship Earth with the First Aider. Medication should be in its original packaging, in a snap-lock bag, and labelled with the Guide's name and dosage instructions. For her protection, no medication, including analgesics, will be given unless it is registered in this way. All medication must be itemised on the 'Health Form' (to be emailed out prior to camp) then handed in on arrival. You must also bring a current management plan for any medical, mental health, or wellbeing concerns listed on the Health Form (e.g. asthma, anaphylaxis, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Asperger's, anxiety, etc.).

Medications can be collected at the end of Sunship Earth from the First Aider.

Allergy & Dietary Management

Please provide detailed information on any allergies or dietary requirements your Guide has on the Health Form, and review these at registration with the First Aider. Please be specific about food or allergies that cause anaphylaxis, distinct from food intolerances and preferences. Leaders manage numerous allergies or food intolerances at each camp and it is critical we have the right information about the severity and treatment for any allergy.

Camp Courtesy

We would highly appreciate you taking the time to discuss the camp expectations with your Guide prior to her attending Sunship Earth. This will support her and the Leaders in a shared understanding of expectations at camp. You may also wish to discuss the event with your Guide's local Unit Leader to understand how best to prepare her. Often local Unit Leaders have been to Britannia Park or have taken girls this age on camp before.

If this is the first time your Guide has been to a camp of this length, please be positive about the activities she will enjoy and the friends she will make. Home sickness is not uncommon but our leaders are experienced in dealing with this in the first 24 hours or so and, once routines are established and friends are made, we have happy campers.

Part of the preparation for camp is completing the Official Sunship Earth Passport Application form. This form will be posted to participants prior to camp and should be brought to camp filled in.

As with all Girl Guide events, we expect that all participants will live by the Guide Promise and Law throughout the camp. This includes working as a team member, helping out, and looking after one another.

Camp Courtesy (continued)

We expect that all participants will:

- Challenge themselves to try new things
- Take responsibility for themselves and their possessions
- Treat others, their possessions, and themselves with care and consideration
- Remain with the group and within the boundaries of each camp or activity site
- Respect each other and the environment

Bedtime

A key part of camp courtesy is bedtime, which enables all Guides to rest sufficiently, and provides a small window of time for volunteer Leaders to regroup and prepare for the next day. Bedtime routine will start at 8.15 pm, with final 'Lights Out' before 9.30 pm. All girls and staff will be encouraged to get a good night's sleep. If any Guide is tired, she will be encouraged to take time out during the day and have a rest, and will be offered the opportunity to go to bed earlier than the designated time.

Please engage your Guide in a conversation about how important it is to both get sleep herself, and respect the other girls' need for sleep and rest.

Kit List

Because many of the activities involve getting up close and personal with nature, Guides do not need to bring their Guide uniforms to Sunship Earth. Guides need to be dressed for the weather conditions and wear sturdy shoes. It is recommended that they wear 'animal clothes' – dark coloured clothing that can get dirty. Please remember to label all items, as this makes returning lost property so much easier!

In addition to the regular kit Guides bring to camp (see Kit List below), at Sunship Earth

Guides also need to create and bring a 'Treasure Box'. This is a box, such as a shoe box, which is decorated prior to camp with pictures of natural places and has the Guide's name on it. Throughout the journey, Guides will collect items to take home – the Treasure Box helps to keep these together. The Treasure Boxes will be kept in a central location called the 'Outlook Inn'. This is where Guides will gather at camp to spend time together when not outside or at meals.

The Kit List also includes a leg from an old pair of jeans. These will be collected and used for one of the program activities.

It is recommended that bags are packed with your Guide present, so that she knows where to find things in her bag. We suggest packing clothes in zip-lock bags labelled with each day of the week (e.g. Monday, Tuesday, etc.), and one labelled 'Spares'.

Kit List

In a small backpack Guides can carry by themselves...

Heath Form, medication, & management plan	To be handed in upon arrival at camp
Waterproof jacket	<i>Must</i> be waterproof with a hood, and is recommended to be long enough to sit on. We may be outdoors in rain.
Small torch and spare batteries	
Water bottle	At least 600ml, and pre-filled with water
Treasure Box	May have to be carried separately (depending on size)
Personal sunscreen & insect repellent	No sprays/aerosols
A 'sit-upon'	A square of thick plastic bag or tarpaulin, approximately 50cm x 50cm
A bucket hat OR soft hat with a brim	No baseball caps (not sun smart)
Sunship Earth Official Passport Application	Filled in

In a large bag Guides can carry or push by themselves...

Pillow	
Sleeping bag with optional inner sheet	A small doona in a bag is an alternative
Fitted sheet	Single bed sheet for use on bunk beds
Blanket	Preferably wool (for fire safety reasons)
Small soft toy or other bedtime companion	OPTIONAL
Leg from old pair of jeans	Will be collected to use in an activity
Towel	
Toothbrush and toothpaste	
Hairbrush and hair ties	As necessary. Hair at camp needs to be tied up.
Pyjamas	
Sanitary items	If required
Handkerchiefs (5)	
Shorts/skirts (1 pair)	Please note: no short shorts
Long pants, jeans, or track suit pants (3 pairs)	
T-shirts (5)	<i>Must</i> have sleeves, and collared is preferred
Warm jumper or polar fleece (2)	
Long-sleeved shirt/skivvy (2)	
Socks (6 pairs)	

Underpants (6 pairs)	
Beanie and/or scarf	For evening activities and cold weather
Gumboots/waterproof boots	We will get our feet wet on one day's activities.
Slippers	For indoor use only
Dressing gown	OPTIONAL