

# OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

A newsletter for the Girl Guides Association of Namibia



## Welcome to our 4th Issue

By the Chief Commissioner



Dear Girl Guides, Leaders, and Friends of Guiding,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the February/March edition of the Outlook Newsletter. As we begin another exciting year of guiding activities, we do so during a truly historic moment for our global movement. This year marks 100 years of World Thinking Day, a milestone that reminds us of the enduring power of friendship, unity, and shared purpose among girls and young women around the world. The theme “Our Friendship” is especially meaningful. For a century, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across continents have been connected through a common promise to support one another, to grow as leaders, and to contribute to building a better and more peaceful world. Here in Namibia, that spirit of friendship continues to thrive in every unit, pack, and patrol.

I am encouraged by the energy and commitment shown by our members across the country. From the successful Central Region workshop held at the National Headquarters, to the vibrant celebrations and activities in the Northern Region, it is clear that guiding in Namibia continues to grow stronger. The increasing membership numbers in our packs are a testament to the dedication of our leaders and the enthusiasm of our girls. As we look ahead, we are excited about the upcoming National World Thinking Day Celebrations in Oranjemund, which will bring together guides from across the country to celebrate this centennial moment. Events such as the Know Your Outdoors workshop in the Central Region and leadership trainings in the North further demonstrate our commitment to equipping our girls with confidence, skills, and a love for the outdoors. To every Girl Guide, leader, volunteer, and supporter: thank you for the role you play in strengthening our movement. The friendships you build, the values you uphold, and the leadership you demonstrate continue to shape the future of our association and the communities we serve. Let us continue to grow, learn, and support one another as we celebrate this remarkable centenary year together.

Yours in Guiding,

*Gretta Gaspar*

# WORLD THINKING DAY

## CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Every year on 22 February, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world come together to celebrate World Thinking Day, a special occasion that highlights the unity, friendship, and shared values of the global guiding movement. On this day, millions of girls and young women reflect on what it means to be part of a worldwide sisterhood and how they can contribute to creating a better future for their communities and the world.

World Thinking Day is celebrated by members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), a global movement that brings together more than 10 million girls and young women in over 150 countries. The day was first established in 1926 during the 4th Girl Guide International Conference. Delegates decided that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts should dedicate one day each year to thinking about one another and expressing gratitude for the international friendships that connect them.

The date, 22 February, was chosen because it is the birthday of two important figures in the history of guiding: Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement, and Olave Baden-Powell, who served as the World Chief Guide and played a key role in growing the Girl Guide and Girl Scout movement internationally.



### A Historic Milestone

The guiding movement is currently preparing for two historic milestones. 2026 will mark 100 years of World Thinking Day, while 2028 will celebrate 100 years of WAGGGS. In recognition of these important anniversaries, World Thinking Day celebrations from 2025 to 2028 are taking a new direction. Each year will explore broad themes that reflect on the history, symbolism, people, and future of the guiding movement.

These themes were developed through consultations with WAGGGS staff, global volunteers, and local leaders who participated in World Thinking Day celebrations around the world in 2024. The aim is to ensure that the activities and messages of the day reflect the voices and experiences of girls and volunteers across the movement.

# WORLD THINKING DAY

## CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

### A Girl-Centred and Volunteer-Led Approach

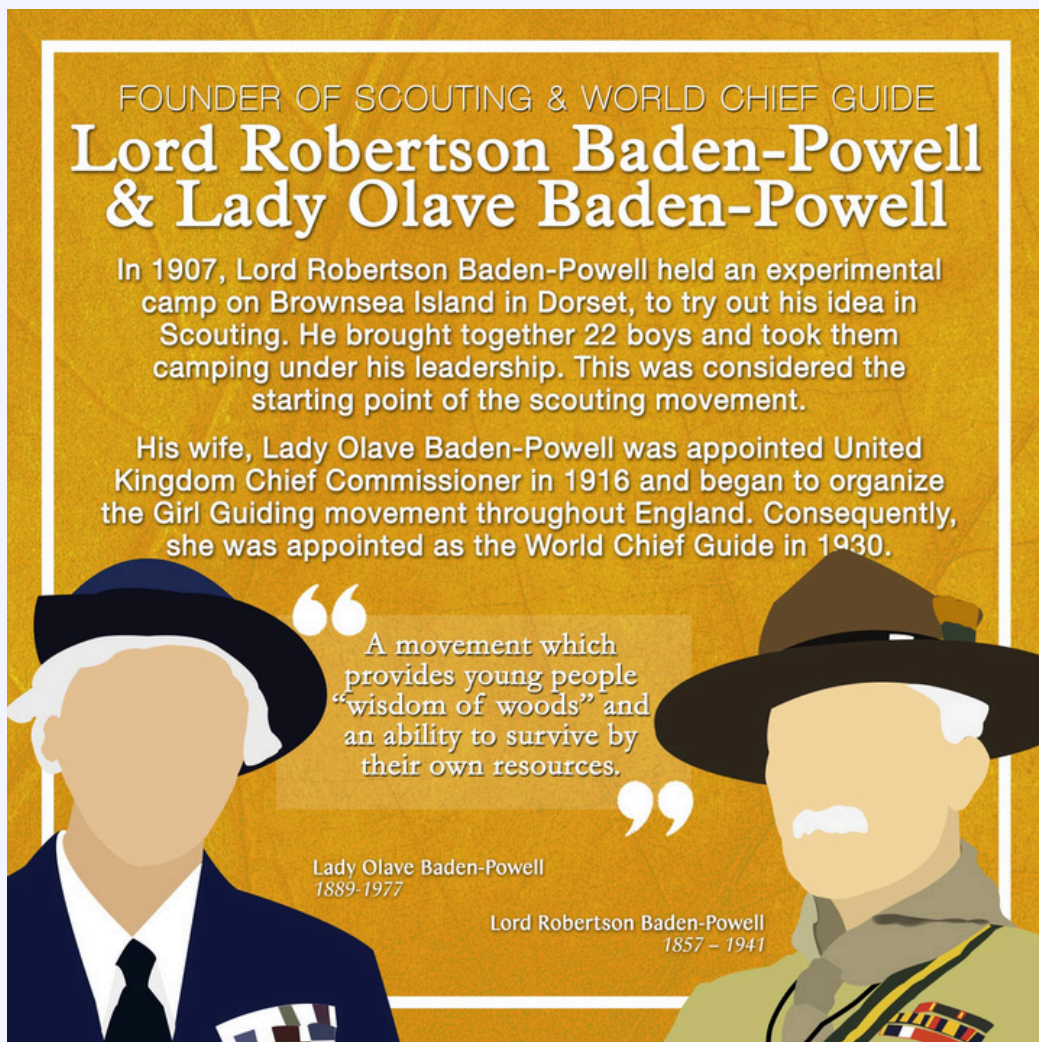
In keeping with the guiding methodology, the development of World Thinking Day activity packs is girl-centred and volunteer-led. Content is created by an international pool of volunteer writers who work together to produce engaging materials that help girls learn about global issues, leadership, friendship, and cultural understanding.

This collaborative approach not only strengthens the global movement but also provides volunteers and leaders with an opportunity to develop skills in content creation and international teamwork, while contributing to a celebration that reaches millions of members worldwide.

### Celebrating the Spirit of Guiding

For Girl Guides in Namibia and across the globe, World Thinking Day is more than just a celebration it is a reminder that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. Through guiding, girls build friendships across cultures, develop leadership skills, and learn to make a positive difference in their communities.

As we approach the centenary of World Thinking Day, Girl Guides everywhere are invited to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future of a movement that has empowered generations of girls and young women. Together, through friendship, service, and leadership, we continue to uphold the promise of guiding: to help build a better world.



# A Century of Global Friendship



## Happy World Thinking Day!

*This year we celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day. A century of friendship, unity and shared purpose. For 100 years, World Thinking Day has reminded us that while we may live in different countries, we are all connected by shared values and a shared promise to do our best to serve others and to help build a better world together.*

*The theme 'Our Friendship' is especially powerful today. Friendship is not just about who we know or who we do activities with, it is about how we choose to show up for one another, especially across differences. To all of you celebrating today, across the world, you are part of a strong global Movement that believes in your voice, your leadership and your ability to shape the future.*

*As we celebrate the past hundred years, let us also look forward with courage, curiosity and care for one another. May the friendships you have build through Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting give you strength, confidence and a lifelong love sense of belonging.*

*It is a privilege to be part of this historic centenary and we are so proud to have each one of you part of our global family.*

**Candela Gonzalez (World Board Chair) and Nadine El Achy (Chief Executive)**



# Save the Date: National Celebrations in Oranjemund!



SAVE  
*the*  
DATE

THINKING DAY  
CELEBRATIONS  
MAY | 22 | 2026

ORANJEMUND



## Get ready!

*The National World Thinking Day Celebrations will be held in early May 2026 in Oranjemund.*

*This will be a massive gathering featuring:*

- \* National Centennial Ceremonies*
- \* New Member Enrolments*
- \* Specialized Training Sessions*

*Be on the lookout for specific dates and travel details coming your way soon. Let's make our presence felt in the South!*

# Central Region: Know Your Outdoors!

One of the most exciting aspects of guiding is the opportunity to explore the outdoors while building practical life skills, teamwork, and confidence. As part of our ongoing training and development programme, the Central Region will be hosting an exciting outdoor-focused workshop aimed at strengthening the outdoor leadership skills of our guides and leaders.

The upcoming Workshop 2 – “Know Your Outdoors!” will provide participants with hands-on learning experiences designed to reconnect guides with nature while developing essential outdoor skills. Activities will focus on building confidence in outdoor environments, strengthening teamwork, and encouraging a spirit of adventure that lies at the heart of the guiding movement.

The workshop will take place on 18 April 2026 at the beautiful Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, offering the perfect setting for learning in nature. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the natural surroundings while engaging in practical activities that promote environmental awareness, outdoor safety, and leadership.

JOIN US

Girl Guides of Namibia

KNOW YOUR OUTDOORS!

Guiding is fun

Workshop 2

Register now before 10 March 2026!

+264 81 7756236 /  
namibiagirlguides@gmail.com

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve

## Event Details

Event: Workshop 2 – Know Your Outdoors!

Date: 18 April 2026

Location: Daan Viljoen Game Reserve

Registration Deadline: 10 March 2026

Contact to Register: +264 81 775 6236 / [namibiagirlguides@gmail.com](mailto:namibiagirlguides@gmail.com)

All guides and leaders in the Central Region are encouraged to take part in this exciting workshop. It promises to be a rewarding experience that will strengthen outdoor leadership, deepen our appreciation of nature, and reinforce the adventurous spirit of guiding. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn, explore, and grow in the outdoors! 🌿🏡

# Recap: Central Region Workshop

## 21 February 2026

The Central Region successfully launched its 2026 training season with an engaging leadership workshop held at the Girl Guides Association of Namibia National Headquarters in Klein Windhoek. The workshop formed part of the association's preparations for an important period in the global guiding movement, as members look ahead to the centenary celebrations of World Thinking Day and the continued growth of guiding worldwide.

The session brought together leaders and volunteers committed to strengthening the guiding programme and supporting the development of girls across the region. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in discussions and practical learning sessions designed to build leadership capacity and enhance programme delivery within local units.

Key areas covered during the workshop included an introduction to the governance and structures of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), helping leaders better understand the global movement and the role Namibia plays within it. Participants also explored the Patrol System, a fundamental guiding approach that encourages girl-led leadership, teamwork, and shared responsibility within units.



# Recap: Central Region Workshop 21 February 2026 continued

*In addition, the workshop provided guidance on effective programme planning and delivery, focusing on best practices for creating meaningful and engaging activities for both Brownies and Guides. Another important component of the training was safeguarding and policy awareness, reaffirming the association's commitment to ensuring a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for all girls participating in guiding.*

*The workshop marked a strong start to the year and demonstrated the dedication of leaders who continue to invest their time and energy in empowering young girls. As the movement grows, such training opportunities remain essential in strengthening leadership and ensuring that guiding in Namibia continues to thrive.*



## Membership Growth

*The 2026 membership census continues to reflect encouraging growth within our guiding movement, particularly across several active units in the northern regions. This steady increase in membership demonstrates the growing interest in guiding among young girls and highlights the dedication of our leaders and volunteers who continue to expand opportunities for girls to participate in the programme.*

*Several units have reported strong participation numbers this year. The unit in Ongwediva currently records 120 Guides and 80 Brownies, making it one of the largest and most vibrant units in the region. In Onaanda, the unit continues to grow with 45 Guides and 35 Brownies, while Okahao has reported 55 Guides and 48 Brownies actively participating in guiding activities.*

*These numbers reflect not only the expansion of the movement but also the increasing impact of guiding programmes in communities. Through guiding, girls are gaining valuable life skills, building confidence, and developing leadership abilities while forming lasting friendships. As the Girl Guides Association of Namibia continues to strengthen its presence across the country, membership growth remains a positive indicator of the relevance and importance of guiding in empowering the next generation of young women.*



# Northern Region Highlights & Key Dates

The Northern Region continues to demonstrate strong commitment and enthusiasm within the guiding movement. We extend our sincere appreciation to the units that successfully marked World Thinking Day on 22 February, celebrating the spirit of friendship, unity, and leadership that connects Girl Guides across the world.

We salute the following units for organizing local celebrations and activities in their communities: 1st Onguta, 1st Ongwediva, 1st Oshigambo (at school), 1st Otamanzi, Onangalo, Tsandi, Onheleiwa, Okahao, Onemanya, Etameko, as well as our newest and growing units, Oluteyi and Nakayale. Your dedication continues to strengthen the presence of guiding in the northern regions and inspire young girls to grow as leaders.

Looking ahead, the region has an exciting calendar of activities planned for the year. These events will provide valuable opportunities for training, leadership development, and adventure for both guides and leaders.

## Upcoming Northern Region Dates

- **6–8 March: Regional Training for Leaders | Ongwediva**
- **15–17 May: Patrol Leaders Training | Onaanda**
- **16–19 June: World Conference | Cambodia**
- **2–5 July: Swakopmund Educational Trip | Swakopmund**
- **5 September: Celebrating 60 Years of Guiding in the North | Oshatotwa**



# Northern Region Highlights & Key Dates continued

*These activities reflect the continued growth and vibrancy of guiding in the Northern Region. Through training programmes, leadership development, and shared experiences, guides are given the opportunity to learn new skills, strengthen friendships, and contribute positively to their communities. We look forward to another year of impactful guiding activities across the region.*

