

VANCOUVER AQUARIUM - GIRL GUIDE SLEEPOVERS - WINTER 2026
ADULT VOLUNTEER & UNIT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Contact Guiders: All Girl Guides of Canada events require participants to follow the Code of Conduct. Please speak with your youth and volunteers (including Unit Assistants) ahead of the event to discuss what appropriate and respectful behaviour looks like at a large group event, e.g. listening to instructions, respecting others, not causing intentional damage to property, disposing of our litter and tidying up any messes, etc.

Supervision: During the exhibit time, Guiders must supervise their youth, explore the same gallery/area as their unit at any given time, ensure their group members are following all GGC organizer or venue staff instructions, etc.

From lights out until the wakeup call, Guiders are responsible for ensuring their unit is behaving appropriately and respectfully (i.e. youth remaining silent and not disrupting others' sleep, adults refraining from loud discussions after youth go to bed, not playing with flashlights overnight, not having overnight games/silliness in the bathrooms, etc). If behavioural issues arise, Guiders will actively manage those, e.g. by separating youth who are still disruptive together after warnings or staying up to watch over them until they settle down. No music speakers or noise machines please.

Guiders should set up beds in the same general area as their unit - within earshot and eyesight - and point out to their unit at bedtime where to find them overnight if they need help. *"If you need anything, here's where to find Guider [Name] and [Name] - we're in front of this [display name]."* There will be many beds and many heads that look alike when adults are asleep, so find a landmark to give to them for easy navigation. Be mindful if you are bringing ear plugs / eye masks to wear, that you are still aware and alert to any needs that may arise around you if children require your help.

Reminder: Per Safe Guide, adults may not be 1:1 with a child other than their own and must avoid all situations where this could arise. E.g. if a child needs help overnight or experiences illness/upset/etc while others nearby are asleep, 2 adults should be involved in assisting them, even if that requires waking up another person to assist.

Parent/Caregiver Volunteers: If any volunteer has a child of their own at this event, they are here coinciding with them but not specifically to accompany them (e.g. not walking around hand-in-hand with their daughter all evening or helping only one child do an activity while others are unsupported), unless they are a registered Support Person for a child with special needs and therefore assisting with specific requirements (e.g. medication, eating, toileting, mobility, etc).

As recommended by GGC's child protection policies, adults should avoid physical affection with any child, beyond basic 'safe' interactions with a child's consent, such as high-fives, head pats, or brief hugs. Adults and youth need to be in their own individual beds overnight, even if they are related. We can't offer cuddles, back rubs, or bed sharing to all kids in an appropriate manner, so we won't offer it to some kids, as this is a well-known cause of 'contagious homesickness' and is not fair or comfortable for the majority of youth who won't have their caregivers in attendance.

Phones and Technology: This will be a 100% cellphone-free/networked-device-free event for youth and we are doing something exciting so let's save our adult phone time for when we get home, to lead by example. Adult phone use should be kept to a minimum, e.g. to take a few photos on a smartphone or call a parent who's late for pick-up, but refraining from extended texting/calling/scrolling/etc in the presence of youth. Guiders are expected to enforce a device-free policy for youth (regardless of age - from Spark through Ranger - no cell phones) and ensure they are not brought by their youth; this is a short activity and instant access to home communication / social media use / immediate posting of event photos by minors poses unique challenges in Girl Guides as demonstrated on many recent occasions during similar large events. Youth are welcome to bring a digital or disposable camera if their family desires. A non-wifi-enabled / non-phone music player (old iPod, walkman, other) may be brought if desired for bedtime music use.

Issues and Incidents: If you encounter any situations during the event or overnight, please locate the Responsible Guiders or speak with your nearest venue staff member or security guard about any building issues. GGC requires an incident report to be completed about any significant issues. The RG has incident reports and first aid treatment record forms. A first aider and first aid kit are available for illness or injury. You're encouraged to also bring your own first aid kit.

Homesickness or anxiety: If a child expresses concerns, please make best efforts to de-escalate and offer them reassurance. If you are unable to do so or would like some support from another adult with other skills in their Guider toolbox, please find the RG. At such a short event, our goal is to have zero late-night go-homes; these are challenging to manage logistically and with the building after-hours, many families are a significant distance away from the venue, and the morning comes very quickly. Please refrain from calling home to any caregivers without first speaking to the RG.