MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

SCHOOL BROADCASTING DIVISION

"THE GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT"

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SIGNATURE TUNE

ANNOUNCER:

This is the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of education School Broadcasting Service bringing you a lesson for SENIORS on The Girl Guide Movement.

This script is prepared by Mrs. Ronald Bynoe, Island Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago who plays a very active part in the Girl Guide Movement.

Mrs Bynoe has been a Brownie and 1st Class Guide in 2nd Port of Spain Pack & Company: A Guide Captain, Brown Owl, District and Division Commissioner and is now the Island Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago.

Here is Mrs Ronald Bynoe who has also been

Awarded the Oak Leaf Award for very meritorious service in this Movement.

Here is Mrs Ronald Bynoe.
GOOD MORNING. I am going to tell you about the Guide Branch of the Girl Guides Association — the girls in the bright blue uniforms, happy smiling faces, marching smartly on parade.

It all started in 1909 at the First Boy Scout Rally held at the Crystal Palace in London. The scouts marched past the shouting base and the Chief Scout, Lord Baden Powell, looking down on the eager, young faces felt pleased and proud that so many had answered his call to meet him in London, his pleasure however, soon turned to astonishment, for right at the end of the march past came a little party of girls. Only their long serge skirts distinguished them from the boys. What was he to do for after he had talked to them he realized that nothing would discourage them and he knew that it is no good standing out against women, even very young ones, when they have once set their hearts on anything. Something would have to be done to direct this torrent of enthusiasm into an acceptable channel and B.P. acted with speed — the Girl Guides Association came into being.
From the very beginning B.P. realized that to allow the girls to take
the name of Scouts would not only prejudice older people against their
activities, but would also antagonize the Boy Scouts, who would resent their
name being copied, so after some consideration he decided on the name
Girl Guides, taking as an example the famous corps of Guides in India, who are
"Distinguished for their general handiness and resourcefulness under difficulties
and their keenness and courage - they are a force trained to take up any duties
required of them, and to turn their hand to anything; they are the handy men
of India. The word Guide has come to mean one who embodies all these
desirable qualities including industry, practical common sense and self-
reliance, and he asked his older sister Miss Agnes Baden-Powell to take
charge of this new movement.

It was not long after this before scattered groups of Guides and Girl Scouts began to make their appearance in countries as far apart as
Canada and Denmark, South Africa, Australia and Finland. They worked in
isolation using Scouting for Boys as their handbook.

Enlisting a number of friends who had connections with various countries
Lady Baden-Powell (Lord Baden-Powell had married Miss Olave Soames in 1912)
formed the International Council which met for the first time in 1919, and from
this has grown the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. There
are 44 member countries and there is a World Conference every three years,
the next one being in 1963, when it is hoped that the application of Trinidad
& Tobago to be a member of the World Association will be accepted.

At present we are represented through Great Britain, but now that we
have gained our independence we can apply for direct membership.

There are over 5 million girls throughout the world who are members of
this movement and whether they are known as Guides in Trinidad, Rondocolas
in Brazil, Eclaireuse in France, or Girl Scouts in the U.S.A., they all take
the same promise. The main purpose of our Movement is to produce good citizens, to learn to live in harmony with others in our community, and through our International Movement with the peoples of the World.

Lady Baden Powell, wife of the Founder, is the Chief Guide of the World.

And what besides turning out on parade do the Guides do?

We will follow the steps to be taken by a girl from the time she joins the Movement.

She joins a Company which consists of three or four Patrols, and in each Patrol there are not more than eight girls. The leader - Guider in Charge - is known as Captain and her Assistant as Lieutenant, each Patrol has a Patrol Leader who is elected by the Company, and she chooses a second. The recruit will be a member of either the Keskiidae, Kunnig Bird, Bougainvillea Hibiscus, or some other local flower or bird Patrol.

Before enrollment there are tests to be passed - amongst them you will have to know the Union Jack and our National Flag and the right way to fly them, how to tie certain knots and to make a bed. These will be taught to you by your Patrol Leader.

And then will come the great day of your enrollment. For the first time you will wear your uniform and standing before Captain with your Patrol Leader at your side, you will be asked "Do you know what your honour means?" You will reply "My honour means that I can be trusted to be truthful and honest."

Captain will then ask you "Can I trust you on your honour to do your best, to do your duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times and to obey the Guide Law?"

Making the Guide sign - the first three fingers of your right hand held upright to remind you of the threefold promise you will soon make, your thumb holding down your little finger, you will say:
I promise on my honour that I will do my best

- To do my duty to God and the Queen,
- To help other people at all times

And to obey the Guide Law.

Captain will then say "I trust you on your honour to keep that promise and to do at least one good turn every day". She will pin the Guide Brooch on to your tie, and shaking hands with the left hand, she will welcome you as a member of the world-wide sisterhood of Guides.

It is a wonderful day, I remember vividly the day I was enrolled as a Guide - it was an important occasion and I was made to feel that now I really belonged.

You will notice that each Guide promises to do her best - some of us are clever, some of us are good at games, others at sewing, others at handicraft - we are all different, but the important thing is that the Guide does her best at all times - that is what makes a good Guide.

And what was the Guide Law which you learnt. It says

A Guide's honour is to be trusted
A Guide is Loyal
A Guide's duty is to be useful and to help others
A Guide is a friend to all and a sister to every other Guide
A Guide is courteous
A Guide is a friend to animals
A Guide obeys orders
A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties
A Guide is thrifty
A Guide is pure in thought, word and deed.

Having passed your tenderfoot test and been enrolled you then go on to gain your Second Class Badge. Duty to God is emphasised in learning
to appreciate and recognize the wonders of nature, to discover through your
own observation something interesting about twelve trees, flowers, 
birds, insects, etc., stalk, i.e., follow unobserved a person or animal, 
light a fire, using not more than two matches, and cook on it. You will 
learn how to hoist colours, tie up a parcel, simple first aid, to deliver 
a message by public telephone, prove that you have tried to improve your 
standard of fitness.

Another proud day when you will be presented with your Second Class 
Badge — and then what:— The Proficiency Badges.

There are 51 Proficiency Badges from which to choose such as 
Artist, Athlete, Basket-maker, Camper, Carpenter, Commonwealth Knowledge, 
Cyclist, Dancer, Fire Brigade, Friend to the Deaf, Blind and to Animals, 
Hiker, Music Lover, Readers, Scribe, Sick Nurse, Singer, Skater, 
Swimmer, Toy Maker, Writer, or the six home-maker badges — Cooks, Needlewoman, 
Child Nurse — being able to look after small children, Homemakers which 
includes making preserves and jelly. Laundress and Hostess. When you have 
gained these six badges you will be awarded the Little House Emblem, a 
lovely large badge on which is a replica of the Little House presented to 
Her Majesty the Queen when she was a child by the people of Wales — for you 
know Her Majesty was a Guide, just as her daughter Princess Anne is a Guide.

So you see, whatever your hobbies or special interests are these are 
encouraged, or you can learn new things. Just a few months ago a young 
Guider left to further her studies in the United Kingdom to eventually qualify 
as a teacher for Deaf children — her interest in the deaf arose out of her 
taking her Friend to the Deaf Badge as a Guide.

Provided that you show that you are growing in understanding and practice of 
Promise and Law and you are a good influence in the Company, you can then try 
for the First Class Badge. Throughout this test your appearance, carriage
courtesy and common sense are taken into consideration.

Amongst the tests for this badge you must have done, given a talk or made a book showing the origin and history of the Guide Movement, including the international aspect, understand the meaning of thrift, passed the Cooks, Needleworkers and Child Nurse Badges, gone on a six mile hike, swum 50 yards, be able to throw a life line, know how to use a compass and find sixteen points by the sun and stars, read a map and do first aid and home nursing.

Then there is the highest award of all "The Queen's Guide Award". This is a very special award and a very high standard is required. For this your must have passed the First Class Badge before you are 15½ years old and the first clause states "Be a First Class Guide and show that she is trying to carry out the Guide ideals of service in the community, i.e., at home, at school and at her place of worship". You have to hold the Little House Rules, a First Aid Badge, the Commonwealth Knowledge Badge and two others, and for a period of at least three months undertake some form of sustained service.

So you will see that whatever your talents are there is room for everyone in the Guide Movement - not all of us can be First Class or Queen's Guides, but the whole programme aims at fitting us to be better persons and to take our place in the world, of training us in service to others and to the Community. It is interesting to note that all the Lady Senators have one thing in common - they have all been members of the Guide Movement.

But, some of you may say, this sounds just like school - I assure you it is not - there is fun at Guide Meetings - Captain is your friend helping and guiding you. You learn to do things together in your Patrol, there are different games to be played, whether it is to test your knowledge of the skills you have learnt, or a relay race, or the adventure of a wide game, trying to capture the other Patrol's equipment and returning to the
home base without being caught, hiding quietly behind the tree or around the
corner of the school building waiting to capture the message from one of
the Guides from another patrol — but look out, behind you comes another guide
trying to capture your message — what will you do — run away, turn to
face the enemy — it will depend — you have already lost your message so
you will try to get here — it is just a game, but whether you win will depend
up on you using your common sense and skill.

The most exciting of all, I think, is the preparations for camp —
learning how to put up a tent, then from bamboo making tables, towel rails,
stands for your shoes and haversack, and all sorts of useful things to make
your camp a home from home — and then the great day arrives when you set off
in a bus to the camp site.

The first night sleeping in the tent with only the canvas between you
and the beautiful stars. When your patrol are the cooks for the day, hoping
you will not burn the stew — and even if it has been slightly burnt everyone
will eat it, remembering that their turn will come. Being careful not to
put salt in the fruit juice thinking you are putting sugar.

At night sitting round the campfire singing the songs from different
countries, from Australia, Denmark, Switzerland, and a special treat on the
last night cooking marshmallows and sausages in the camp fire.

A wonderful week-end spent out in the open, the sadness of the flag
coming down for the last time — everyone is tired but happy and looking forward
to the next camp.

All these and many other pleasures you will get in the Guide Company
whilst you are learning you are enjoying yourself.

Those of you who are not Guides should join your School Company or
one in the district where you live, or if there are no Guides at your School
or in your area, then perhaps you can persuade an adult to start a Guide
Company, ask your teacher to make an appeal at the next Parent/Teachers meeting for someone to become the Captain. It does not matter whether she has been a Guide or knows anything about it, so long as she likes working with girls of this age group, arrangements will be made for her to be trained — for there is nothing really very technical in our Movement — all we are trying to do is to carry out the last message from our Founder to Guides — "It is your business in life to be happy — to bring happiness into the world by making happy homes" — for after all are not the Guides of to-day the homemakers of the future.