

Celebrate Family Literacy Day with your Unit on January 27th, or International Children’s Book Day on April 2nd.

Fostering a love of reading at an early age is key to developing strong literacy skills in our girls. One way we can help develop literacy skills is to promote literacy events in our Units. Just because we’re reading, it doesn’t have to be like school! Literacy includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, representing and viewing, so just going to a museum and talking about the artwork can be a literacy-enhancing activity. Below are some ideas for your Unit meetings that focus on literacy and come from or fit well with existing program.

Check out ABC Canada at <http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/> for more ideas on Family Literacy Day and to find out how to order free materials to help you celebrate Family Literacy Day. You may also contact Crayola at <http://www.crayola.com/calendar> or http://www.crayola.com/calendar/detail.cfm?event_id=122&year=2005 for some ideas and printable resources to help you.

Literacy Activity	Program Connections
Invite another Unit to your Unit meeting and read aloud or share favorite books together.	Sparks: Sharing with Others, p. 27-31, old Spark Program: Let’s Share a Story, p. 54-65 new Spark Guiders’ Manual Brownies: Key to the Arts, p. 89, Hurray for Reading Interest Badge., Reading Box, p. 113
Visit a senior citizen’s home and read books to people who are no longer able to see to read by themselves	Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Knowledge and Service # 19 Brownies: Community Event Helpers, p. 113
Find books or stories about Lord and Lady Baden Powell and work in teams to find out something interesting about the founders that you didn’t know before, or ask someone to tell you stories about the founders.	Sparks: p. 47, Spark Guiders’ Manual Brownies: Key to Girl Guides, p. 98-100 Guides: You in Guiding 5, #1
Invite grandmothers or a Trefoil Guild to your Unit to hear stories read by the girls and share stories about what life was like when they were girls .	Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Heritage #5, p. 62
Using a digital camera, have girls take pictures of themselves doing “Things that we do in (Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders”. Print them out and write some text to go with your photos to create a book. You might even want to send your book to girls in another WAGGS country!	Pathfinders: World Emblem, World Guiding #21, p. 110 Guides: You in Guiding 6, #6; Discovering You 6, #6 Brownies: Key to Me

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With older girls, find out about countries in which women are not allowed to go to university, or in which women have access to different courses than men do. If possible, invite a guest speaker from another country.	Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Citizenship # 13, p. 61
Read aloud to Sparks the participation story of the Baden-Powells (p. 47, Spark Guiders' Manual)	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 19, world guiding # 1
Listen to a folk tale from another culture and act it out	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 5, cultural awareness #4
Visit a museum, a fair or a place of interest to learn about Canadian folklore, or listen to a local storyteller or children's librarian perform. Create a craft and do a puppet show or skit about the story.	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 9, folklore #1, 2,3, and Adventures in Guiding 12, heritage # 7; Adventures in Guiding 16, provincial heritage # 7 Pathfinders: Citizenship, Heritage #9, p. 63
Read and Inuit, First Nations, or other Canadian story, or find out about a story, legend, monument or landmark in your community.	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 12, #5
Hold an interview with someone, such as a social worker, who helps others heal from violence in their lives.	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 14, #7 Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Citizenship # 12, p. 61
Find information needed to plan a trip. Fill out a passport application and demonstrate how to read a bus or train schedule and an airline ticket.	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 17, #2, 4, and 5 Pathfinders: World Emblem, Travelling #14, p. 107
Keep a journal about your everyday life. Write down your feelings and describe your mood when you are stressed. Make a list of activities you like to participate in when you are stressed. Write an article about dealing with stress.	Guides: Being Healthy 3, #2, 3 and 4
Design a package for a product such as a breakfast cereal, a CD, DVD or video, or a product you invent	Guides: Girls Creating 2, #5
Write and produce a puppet show or skit demonstrating at least two emotions.	Guides: Girls Creating 21, Performing Arts # 1

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Find out how a reporter's story gets into the newspaper. Describe some of the jobs involved. If possible, visit a local newspaper and discuss the influence of news media.	Guides: Girls Creating 25, Reporting # 1 Pathfinders: World Emblem, Global Understanding # 17, p. 105.
Write a brief announcement for a Guiding event, suitable for radio or television, or write an account of an event that you have attended and report all the details.	Guides: Girls Creating 25, Reporting #2,3 Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Arts and Recreation # 15, p. 57.
Explain censorship. Write a poem about it.	Guides: Girls Creating 26, Reporting #4. Girls Creating 31, Writing #4
Together, write an exaggerated story of not more than 1000 words that would be fun to tell at a campfire.	Guides: Girls Creating 31, Writing #1,2 Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Arts and Recreation #18, p. 57
Read a book of poetry written by a Canadian author. (Try Loris Lesynski: she's funny!)	Guides: Personal Growth 23, Reading #1 & 2
Write an advertisement about your Thinking Day celebrations for the local newspaper. Place the ad in the paper.	Guides: Science and Technology 8, Business Communication #1 Pathfinders: Community Emblem, Arts and Recreation # 15, p. 57
Read a poem or story written by a writer from your province. Invite a local writer from your area to talk about how she got published.	Guides: Adventures in Guiding 15, provincial heritage #1