



**Girl Guides
Singapore**

Girl Guides Singapore
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Girl Guides Singapore celebrates World Thinking Day

Every year on 22 February, Girl Guides & Girl Scouts all over the world gather to celebrate World Thinking Day. World Thinking Day is an opportunity to celebrate international friendship, learn about and take action on important issues, and raise funds in support of the World Thinking Day Fund.

In Singapore, more than 6000 members of the Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) will gather with others in their Divisions to commemorate World Thinking Day 2014.

This year's celebration activities will be hosted at four schools: Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School, Yishun Secondary School, New Town Secondary School and Changkat Changi Secondary School.

WTD 2014 Theme: "Education opens doors for all girls"

GGS has developed the theme "Education opens doors for all girls" for World Thinking Day 2014. This aligns closely with the World Thinking Day 2014 global theme "Achieve universal primary education". Chosen from the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the global theme raises awareness about a key issue affecting girls and women around the world today.

The MDG Report for 2013 showed that although access to education has improved worldwide, an estimated 250 million children of primary school age still lack basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, whether in school or not. Globally, 123 million youth (aged 15 to 24) lack basic reading and writing skills; 61 per cent of them are young women.

The global theme helps draw focus on the key messages that "every girl has the right to learning so she reaches her fullest potential" and "education opens doors for all girls and boys. It rallies together Girl Guides around the world whose collective efforts can help to bring about change.

Girl Guides Singapore Prepares & Empowers Girls for the 21st Century

In Singapore, a high priority is placed on the importance of education and nurturing the young. Primary school education is compulsory and accessible to all children. During these formative years, students learn in both academic and non-academic environments.

To enable a well-rounded primary education, students are given broad exposure to different activities that help them discover their interests and talents. They are encouraged to participate in Community Improvement Programmes (CIP) and Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) which include uniform groups such as Girl Guides and Brownies.

Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President of Girl Guides Singapore, said, "The aim of the Girl Guides Singapore continues to be preparing girls and young women to thrive in a changing world by helping them reach their fullest potential. We develop dynamic programmes for our Girl Guides and Brownies that equip them with competencies for the 21st century, including character, creativity, citizenship,

communication and collaboration skills. We are grooming girls who are independent learners, concerned citizens, active contributors and confident individuals.”

World Thinking Day 2014 Celebrations in Singapore

World Thinking Day offers a unique opportunity to learn about life for girls and young women in different countries and to explore the similarities and differences in the Girl Guide and Guide Scout experience across the globe. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has identified five focus countries for this year. They are: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Egypt, Bangladesh, Armenia and Benin.

Participants in Singapore will enjoy hands-on activities relating to the cultures of these countries, including craft-making, games, dances and even food-sampling.

ENDS

PROGRAMME AT KUO CHUAN PRESBYTERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

- 0800hrs : Arrival of Brownies, Guides & Adult Leaders
Pledge a Dollar@Entrance
- 0830hrs : Brownies, Guides and Adult Leaders to be seated
Arrival of Guests
- 0900hrs : Arrival of President and Chief Commissioner, GGS
- 0910hrs : Presentation of WTD Competitions Prizes and PNA (Bronze) Award by Ms Kim Lay Eng, Chief Commissioner, GGS
- 0920hrs : Presentation of WTD Competitions Prizes and PNA (Silver) Award by Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President, GGS
- 0930hrs : Arrival of Guests
- 1000hrs : Arrival of GOH: Mrs Mary Tan, Patron, GGS
- 1005hrs : Colours
World Song
Opening Remarks by Ms Kim Lay Eng, Chief Commissioner, GGS
Presentation of WTD Pennies
Item performance by Guides from Cedar Girls' School
World Thinking Day Message by Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, President, GGS
Item performance by Guides from Nanyang Girls' High School
World Thinking Day Song
Promise Moment
- 1045hrs : Group photo session for PNA (Gold) Award recipients and Mrs Mary Tan
- 1055hrs : Item performance by Guides from CHIJ Katong Convent
- 1100hrs : Reception and Learning Carnival
- 1200hrs : Colours, Brownie Bells and Taps

More About World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day was first created in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide / Girl Scout International Conference held at Girl Scouts of the USA's Camp Edith Macy (now known as Edith Macy Conference Center). Conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation for their "sister" Girl Guides/Scouts. The delegates chose February 22 as it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement and his wife, Olave, who served as the World Chief Guide.

In 1932, during the seventh World Conference held in Poland, a Belgian delegate suggested that since birthdays usually involve presents, girls could show their appreciation and friendship on Thinking Day by extending not only warm wishes but by offering a voluntary contribution to the World Association. This is how the World's Association Thinking Day Fund began. The fund helps offer Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to more girls and young women worldwide.

To emphasize the global aspects of Thinking Day, members of the 30th World Conference, held in Ireland in 1999, changed the name *Thinking Day* to *World Thinking Day*.

World Thinking Day provides an opportunity for Girl Guides/Girl Scouts around the world to put their thoughts into action by participating in activities that promote international understanding.

Girl Guides Singapore

Started in 1917, Girl Guides Singapore (GGS) is a non-profit Uniformed Group that is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Guide Scouts (WAGGGS). It has over 9,000 members in Singapore and is the largest and choice Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) group for girls. There are more than 10 million Girl Guides and Guide Scouts in 145 countries today.

GGS teaches leadership, promotes resourcefulness and supports cultural diversity in today's world, for today's girls. We offer opportunities and challenges that shape each girl into a leader of courage, confidence and character. As she takes her place and makes her mark in the world, the Girl Guides experience is something a girl will carry with her for life.

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