

Every year on **22 February**, millions of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the world celebrate**World Thinking Day**. It is a day of international friendship, reflection, and empowerment, where members of the movement unite to recognise their shared values and the positive impact of guiding and scouting.

World Thinking Day is not just about looking back at the history of the movement—it is about recognising the power of young people, the strength of community, and the responsibility to create change for the future.

The Origins of World Thinking Day

The idea for World Thinking Day was first proposed in 1926 at the 4th World Conference of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement in the United States. Leaders from different countries decided to create a dedicated day for Guides and Scouts to think about one another and the global sisterhood they are part of.

The date, 22 February, was chosen because it is the shared birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement, and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, the first World Chief Guide. Over the years, the celebration has grown into a global day of action and fundraising, empowering girls and young women to make a difference in their communities.

World Thinking Day 2025: "Our Story"

This year's theme, "Our Story", encourages Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to reflect on their personal and collective journeys in the movement. Stories shape our identities, build connections, and inspire change. This year's theme encourages participants to:

- Share their personal experiences in guiding or scouting to inspire others.
- Explore the history of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in different cultures.
- Strengthen international friendships by learning from each other's stories.
- Raise awareness of how the movement has empowered generations of girls.

By understanding where we come from, we can build a stronger future together.

How to Take Part in World Thinking Day 2025

World Thinking Day is an opportunity for young people, leaders, and communities to come together in celebration and action. Here are some ways to get involved:

1. Share Your Story

Storytelling is a powerful tool for connection and change. Reflect on your guiding or scouting experience and share your journey:

- How has being a Guide or Scout shaped who you are today?
- What skills or values have you learned from the movement?
- What is your favourite memory or most valuable lesson?
- You can share your story through videos, blog posts, social media, or local events.

2. Organise an International Friendship Event

One of the key principles of World Thinking Day is global unity. Connect with other Guides and Scouts around the world by:

- Hosting a virtual meet-up with members from other countries.
- Writing letters or postcards to Guides and Scouts abroad.
- Learning about the traditions and cultures of different countries.

3. Take Action for Change

World Thinking Day is also a chance to inspire change. Consider taking action on issues that matter to your community:

- Organise a charity fundraiser to support local projects.
- Raise awareness about gender equality, climate change, or education.
- Volunteer in community service projects to help those in need.

4. Support the World Thinking Day Fund

Each year, donations to the World Thinking Day Fund help support projects that empower girls and young women in over 150 countries. The fund provides resources, training, and opportunities for leadership development. Consider making a donation or organising a fundraising event to contribute.

5. Earn the World Thinking Day Badge

Each year, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) creates an activity pack filled with fun, educational challenges related to the year's theme. Completing the activities can earn you the World Thinking Day badge while learning new skills.

Why World Thinking Day Matters

World Thinking Day is more than a celebration—it is a global movement that empowers young people to make a difference. It reminds us that:

- 1. Guiding and scouting create a worldwide sisterhood.
- 2. Young people have the power to shape the future.
- 3. By sharing our stories, we build stronger communities.

By taking part in World Thinking Day 2025, you honour the past, celebrate the present, and contribute to a brighter future.

Events & Organisations in North Tyneside

Check with your local Girlguiding or Scouting leaders for special Thinking Day events in your area. In North Tyneside, you can connect with local Girlguiding and Scouting groups to take part in World Thinking Day:

Girlguiding North Tyneside

Scouts North Tyneside

North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) - for volunteering opportunities

Find Out More

For official resources, activities, and fundraising ideas, visit the links below. Let's celebrate World Thinking Day 2025 together and continue sharing our story with the world.

Related Links

- Girlguiding North Tyneside
- Scouts North Tyneside
- North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA)
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
- UK Girlguiding
- <u>Scouts UK</u>







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