

Girlguiding Young Leader and Leadership Awards and SQA Leadership Award SCQF at Level 5 – G9D3 45

SQA and Girlguiding Scotland have been working together to demonstrate how Girlguiding's Young Leader qualification could generate evidence that meets the assessment standards for the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5. Girlguiding Scotland is a leading charity for girls and young women in Scotland, with 50,000 young members. Girlguiding Scotland builds girls' confidence and raises their aspirations. It gives girls and young women a chance to discover their full potential and encourages them to be a powerful force for good.

As an organisation, Girlguiding Scotland empowers girls to be their best and face the challenges of growing up today, and has been doing that through adventure, friendship and fun for over 100 years.

This case study outlines ways in which Girlguiding Scotland units and SQA centres can work in partnership to use evidence from the Girlguiding Young Leader Qualification towards the achievement of SQA's Leadership Award at SCQF level 5*.

The contribution that Girlguiding Scotland offers, in terms of evidence, will also depend on the project being undertaken.

All evidence should be subject to rigorous assessment procedures and internal verification. This will vary from centre to centre, depending on the projects undertaken.

*Please note that this case study is for the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5 only. The Girlguiding Adult Leadership Award has the potential to fit with the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 6.



Case Study of the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5 in conjunction with Girlguiding Scotland's Young Leader Qualification

Introduction by Girlguiding Scotland

Girlguiding Scotland is Scotland's leading charity for girls and young women, with 50,000 young members. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun.

Girlguiding Scotland has provided a wide-ranging non-formal education for over 100 years. From learning first aid to finding your way, and world issues to white water rafting, what we offer effectively encompasses the remit of 'wider achievement' in the Curriculum for Excellence.

As young people move through Girlguiding, one of the key transferable skills they develop is leadership. This can be as a sixer in Brownies, a patrol leader or helping out at another unit as a pack leader whilst in Guides, being a young leader whilst in Senior Section, or even moving on to adult leadership.

Although they can achieve qualifications as a Girlguiding Scotland member — as a young leader or as an adult leader — we wanted to find a way for young people to get recognition for their leadership skills in schools. We ran a pilot scheme in a number of secondary schools around Scotland in 2014–15, working with groups of female Senior Phase pupils who currently participate in, or would be interested in joining, the Senior Section of Girlguiding. By working toward our leadership qualification, they could then also use their volunteering as evidence towards the SQA Leadership Award SCQF at SCQF level 5.

SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5

The SQA Leadership Award at SCQF levels 5 aims to encourage learners to respect the cultures and beliefs of others through working co-operatively with them and through valuing their contribution. The Award encourages learners to develop knowledge of leadership styles, skills and qualities and to understand the impact a leader can have on others and on the success of an activity. It is designed for learners who take, or plan to take, a leading role in an activity and is delivered through two units Leadership: An Introduction and Leadership in Practice.

Case Study: S6 student at Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline, Fife

This case study focuses on an S6 student at Queen Anne High School who is also a young leader of two Girlguiding units in Dunfermline. She has completed the Girlguiding Young Leader Award, and is working on her Adult Leadership qualification, which she can be awarded on her 18th birthday. She chose to undertake the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5 as an extra-curricular class at her school, working in conjunction with Girlguiding Scotland.

The first unit of the SQA award, Leadership: An Introduction, enables students to learn about Leadership as a subject — what makes good leaders — and allows them to reflect on themselves in

the leadership role they hold in Girlguiding. Through this reflection, they can identify their own leadership style, their strengths and weaknesses when leading and what they need to focus on improving:

'It's helped me learn more about my approaches to leadership and gain a more in-depth understanding of leadership. Also, how your personality reflects the way you lead which I discovered after working with other new leaders lie me which I never had the opportunity to do before. It helped me grasp a different perspective about me and my style of leadership.'

'My leadership style is "Knowledge", I think it says that I'm a thinker and evaluate things thoroughly which reflects the dedication and thought I like to put into my work.'

'My strengths were: I'm committed, friendly, approachable, creative etc. My weaknesses are I stick to my comfort zone too much and don't really take as many risks I think I maybe should. Additionally, I can be too nice and a bit of a pushover in certain situations. I will improve this by focusing on new exciting challenges I've never done before and try my best to stand my ground with my ideas and delegate more.'

During the second unit of the award, Leadership in Practice, she had to plan, lead a team and run an event for her Guide unit over a series of meetings. (As part of that, photographic evidence was produced):

'This qualification gave me the opportunity to plan and organise a thinking day event with my Guide unit. This took place over several weeks and even though I did need support from other leaders, it allowed me to evaluate my own work and improve for the future. I really enjoyed this and feel I learned a lot from it, such as planning skills and getting feedback from the girls.'

It gave her a greater level of responsibility than she had held before, leading the rest of the team of leaders within the unit, which at first she found intimidating, but over the course of the unit she developed more confidence and a greater sense of self.

'There is a lot more planning involved than I originally thought. I think I improved over time. It can be quite intimidating at first because the other leaders are a lot older than me and have so much more experience than I do but I learnt that everyone is equal within the leadership team and that my ideas and contributions are just as important.'

'It's really helped me gain more of an understanding of leadership and what it is about because it feels like no one ever really explains it, it's just one of those things. It's also opened my eyes to different styles of leadership which I had no idea about before. Again, the confidence I gained is invaluable towards completing my award.'

She was able to complete her SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5 with parts of her work also contributing to the completion of her Girlguiding Leadership Award, allowing her to become an adult leader with the organisation.

'I personally think it's a stepping-stone between school and the Girlguiding Leadership Award as, at 17, doing the qualification and going on training days (with someone whose son is in your year at school) can be quite frightening and at times you feel like you're in the wrong place! It's given me great support and encouragement to do what I want to do; become an adult leader.'

'I have developed more confidence in the work I have done/do which is really helping with my adult Leadership Qualification. I feel like my creative side has benefited too as I really enjoyed coming up with games and activities. My social skills have developed as a result too, as well as being able to take constructive criticism.'

'As I was applying for education at university, it gave me invaluable knowledge and experience not only for my personal statement but also to talk about at interviews to really show off my skills and what I'd learned so far.'

She was also able to see how the learning she had gained could be used in the future, for example, to achieve her Girlguiding Leadership qualification and in her chosen career path.

'I'm hoping to apply it to my work at university and also completing my adult leadership. I think what I've learnt won't be forgotten and I can carry it with me through my teaching career.'

Taking everything into account, she benefitted greatly from undertaking the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5:

'I have got invaluable experience which I will take with me to university and wherever else. I learnt so much over the year about things I'd never even thought about before; it really has opened up my eyes. Having an award like this will help my job prospects and is something I am very grateful for. It's not like any other class I've had; it's very enjoyable and practical. I have recommended the course to some of my friends in the year below. It's given me the confidence to become a better leader.'

Summary

There have been a number of visible benefits for all stakeholders in undertaking the SQA Leadership Award at SCQF level 5 in conjunction with Girlguiding Scotland. These include:

- ◆ *A formally recognised qualification, benefitting the student and the school.*
- ◆ *Added strength to the participating students' CV's and personal statements for UCAS.*
- ◆ *The ability for students to reflect on themselves in a leadership role and to apply their learning.*
- ◆ *Students are more aware of and able to articulate the things they have learnt and achieved through Girlguiding Scotland.*