



Guide leader – age 25

17TH GREENOCK GUIDES

A Part of the Village

I loved my time in Guides and from the age of 14, I started to help out with Rainbows and then Brownies. I became a leader with Brownies in 2016, and gradually took on more responsibility from there. Since 2018, I've been responsible for running the Rainbow unit here and I've also led on raising funds and successfully establishing a new Guide unit. We now have 35 girls who attend Guides regularly.

To begin with, I was just the song and game queen! I got lots of hands on support from the Brownie leaders. You always knew they were there for back-up. But now I'm comfortable with taking responsibility myself, both during the evening sessions and on residential trips away. I know what needs to be done and I'm learning how to delegate to others.

The Brownie leader who has supported my development is a really important role model in my life. She is just the kindest, most decent person imaginable and her first thought is always about doing what is right for the young people. I feel like she really believes in me. Even when I ask for advice, she doesn't tell me what to do. She allows me to talk things out and come to my own decision. It's like she knows I have the answer in me and she just helps to pull it out of me.

Guiding was a constant for me through difficult times. My mum was unwell when I was doing my Highers and the team in guiding were there for me when it really mattered. They feel like 'my people' in life. I know I can rely on them – and they can rely on me.

I believe 'it takes a village to raise a child'. I've had my village and now I hope I'm a small part of the village for the girls that we're supporting now.