



JOAN HOWELL, YOUTH FORUM

PARTICIPANTS' REPORT

**This report of the JHYF (August 27-31, 1992)
was written by the participants at
Geneva Park Conference Centre on
the final day of the event.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the participants of the Joan Howell Youth Forum, propose the following three recommendations to the National Council:

1. That a Young Adult Committee be formed at the National level to ensure the involvement of young adults in the decision-making process. The committee would be composed of young adults aged 17 to 30 who would serve a maximum term of three years. Application forms would be made available to all eligible young adult members of Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada, for submission directly to the Chief Commissioner, who will appoint the Committee in consultation with the Provincial Commissioners. The Chairwoman of this Committee would be a full voting member of the National Council.
2. That the National Council recommend to the Provinces that wherever possible there be a Young Adult position created on each Provincial and Area Council. The young adult holding this position would be a full voting member of said Council.
3. That a National Young Adult Forum be held every five years. Participants would be selected on a Provincial level through an application process. The proposed Young Adult Committee would set the agenda for the Forum which could include the following items:
 - review the effectiveness of the Young Adult Committee
 - review the decision-making process, involving young adults
 - provide an opportunity for learning about National Council and its responsibilities
 - discuss current Guiding issues and local concerns
 - develop leadership skills and problem solving strategies.

We recommend that the Number One Recommendation be implemented as soon as possible. Until that time, we recommend that the Committee be formed as stated above, working as a focus group with the chairwoman sitting as an observer on National Council.

Additional Suggestions

During the process of developing our final recommendations many ideas and suggestions came forth. We, the delegates of the Joan Howell Youth Forum, feel it would be beneficial if these suggestions were also considered by the National Council and/or appropriate committees.

1. Creation of an annual Provincial Young Adult Forum to facilitate open communication between young adults and the Provincial Council
2. Promotion, clarification and encouragement for Link Members
 - creation of Link as an official branch of Guiding
 - development of a Link program to be used as a loose guideline for Link members
 - introduction of an officially recognized Link scarf to foster a sense of identity
 - national newsletter for Link perhaps including a mailing list of all Link members
3. Allow a dual membership for young Guiders who wish to register and who also wish to participate in the Link program, giving young Guiders the opportunity to interact with their peers
4. Creation of a Provincial Senior Branches Council with the possibility of a representative from the council to attend Provincial Council meetings; this council would have a similar structure to Ranger Councils already established in provinces such as Alberta and British Columbia.

5. More effective communication structure
 - promotion of young adults and their skills in national and provincial publications
 - reminder to Provincial Councils to keep communication channels clear and flowing
 - use of the *Canadian Guider* to give young adults and youth members a voice, perhaps through the creation of a young adult/youth column
6. Consideration be given to length of time members spend on councils, and the possible introduction of sabbaticals, thus providing the opportunity to include new members and new ideas
7. Review methods of adult training in order to avoid repetition for Guiders, especially those who have had previous Guiding experience
8. Encourage joint activities with other organizations
9. Re-examine the role of religion in Guiding
10. Examine the process of evaluation in Guiding
 - have girls evaluate Guiders at all levels
 - have girl recommendation forms for Guiders applying to events