



Irene Fairbairn Fund

Irene Fairbairn's vision of providing opportunities for young women to travel and experience events within Australia and overseas led to the establishment of the Irene Fairbairn Fund in 1955.

Irene Fairbairn held local, state, national and international positions in Guiding. She was Australia's first Federal Secretary and first Chief Commissioner. She was keenly interested in the outdoors and particularly in the development of new varieties of daffodils, hence the daffodils on the Irene Fairbairn badge. Irene Fairbairn died in 1974 and is remembered for her warmth, sense of fun and interest in young people.

Funding Support

The Irene Fairbairn Fund (IFF) aims to help girls and leaders to attend special projects, trainings, camps and conferences in Australia and overseas. Irene Fairbairn Selected Events and the grants available are advertised in State Magazines.

Funding is for members:

- 13-35 years for Australian events
- 16-35 years for international events
- Provision is made for an extended age range, provided 75% of funding available is disbursed to those under 35 years of age.

Funds are available to enable members to attend recognised events in Australia or overseas. These funds also support the 'Fairbairn Challenge' or 'IFF Selected Event'. When there is a financial need, a girl or leader

16-35 years may apply to her state for assistance from the IFF state allocation.

Fairbairn Challenge

The Fairbairn Challenge is held biannually. A 'challenge' is set for applicants to complete and one or two members between 16-35 years are selected to receive this prestigious award. Successful Challenge awardees receive at least \$1,000 each towards attending a selected international event.

Special Circumstances

- Grants are available for interstate participants 13-35 years for events within Australia, except where specific funding is already indicated.
- Grants are available to help other countries have representation at events within Australia, with preference to Asia-Pacific countries.

Fundraising

The Fund relies on donations from groups and individuals. These donations are invested by Guides Australia who provide the funding for distribution. To encourage the widest possible involvement by young Australian people at events, the fund is increasingly in need of financial assistance.

Could you or your Unit raise money for the IFF? After all, you may, one day, receive assistance to attend a national or international event. Individual donations to the IFF forwarded to your state or national office are tax deductible. Or your unit could create your own fundraising challenge.