

Advocacy



What is advocacy?

The word 'advocacy' comes from the Latin 'advocare' and literally means 'to call out for support'. Advocacy is about standing up for an issue or cause you believe in, and trying to change people's lives to build a better world.

For WAGGGS, advocacy is simply:

**We influence people
to take decisions
that will improve our lives and the lives of others.**

So what does this mean?

We influence people (by speaking, doing and educating)
to take decisions (for example change policies or regulations, allocate funding, providing support) that will improve our life and the lives of others (the result we are trying to achieve)

For WAGGGS, influencing always includes **Speaking Out, Doing and Educating**.

Information taken from the WAGGGS website, <http://www.waggsworld.org>

The First Girl Guide Advocates

On 4 September 1909, over 11,000 boys assembled at Crystal Palace in England to salute Robert Baden-Powell. Among all these boys, there were also a handful of girls who turned up and wanted to be Girl Scouts! This may not sound like much of an achievement by today's standards, but back in 1909, this was an extraordinary action!

Back in 1909, it was not common for girls to camp and hike, as this extract from the Scout newspaper demonstrates: *"If a girl is not allowed to run, or even hurry, to swim, ride a bike, or raise her arms above her head, how can she become a Scout?"*

These very first Girl Guides were true advocates when they stood up for themselves and asked Baden-Powell to let them become Girl Scouts. Baden-Powell. He asked his sister Agnes to look after the girls under the name 'Girl Guides'. Without these first advocates at Crystal Palace we may not have Girl Guides today!



HOW CAN YOU CHANGE THE WORLD?

Advocacy

Advocacy and standing up for what you believe in is achievable for ALL Guides of ALL ages. As Leaders, we must facilitate activities for our Guides that encourage them to think of how they can make a positive difference in the world. You can modify the following activities to suit the ages and abilities of your Guides.

Activities for Younger Guides

Have you ever wanted to change the world somehow?
What would you do to make the world better?



If you had a magic wand and could change anything in the whole world, what would you change?



I think the world would be a better place if.....

My town/suburb would be a nicer place to live if....

I believe that I can.....

Activities for Older Guides

Can you list three issues in your local community that you care about?



Can you list three issues facing Australia that you want to speak out about?



Can you list three world issues that you care about and would like to see a positive difference in?



How to develop an advocacy plan

1. Identify your advocacy goals/What do you want to achieve?
2. Assess the situation/Where are we now?
3. Identify your resources/What resources do you need?
4. Identify your milestones/What can you achieve?
5. Identify your target/Who is your target?
6. Identify the message/What is your message?
7. How can you deliver your message?
8. How do you know if you are successful?

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!!