



World Thinking Day



World Thinking Day 2011 is based on the Millennium Development Goal 'Girls worldwide say', "Empowering girls will change our world"
Visit [Girl Guides Australia](#) to download activities for WTD

Each year on 22 February, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world are encouraged to participate in activities, games, and projects with global themes to learn more and better understand their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries by celebrating World Thinking Day. In 2011 World Thinking Day is again looking at the WAGGGS Global Action Theme (GAT) based on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.



HISTORY

The idea for the foundation of Thinking Day began in 1926 at the fourth Girl Guide/Girl Scout International Conference held in the United States of America. Those attending the Conference decided that there should be a special day for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world to "think" of each other and give thanks and appreciation to their "sister" Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. **February 22** was chosen as the date for Thinking Day because it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, and his wife, Olave, who then served as World Chief Guide.

WAGGGS has selected five countries of focus for World Thinking Day 2011 to represent the five WAGGGS regions:

Bolivia (Western Hemisphere)
Cyprus (Europe)
Democratic Republic of Congo (Africa)
Nepal (Asia/Pacific)
Yemen(Arab Region)

World Thinking Day gives girls the opportunity to celebrate international friendships, and reminds us that Girl Guides Australia is part of a global community — one of 145 countries with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

In 1932, at the 7th World Conference which was held in Poland, a Belgian delegate suggested that since birthdays usually involve presents, maybe the girls could show their appreciation and friendship on Thinking Day by not only by extending warm wishes but by offering a voluntary contribution to the World Association. This is how the World Association's Thinking Day Fund began. Today the fund helps offer Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting to more girls and young women worldwide. Olave Baden Powell wrote to all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts after this idea was adopted asking them to help support the Movement by donating just a penny. You can read [Olave Baden Powell's first letter](#) on the WAGGGS website. In 1999 the 30th World Conference changed the name from **Thinking Day** to **World Thinking Day** to emphasize the global aspect of Thinking Day.

What **are** the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

In 2000, the 189 United Nations Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration which promised to: "free all men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty." Each of the eight MDGs identifies a key area which must be targeted in order to tackle poverty worldwide. This historical and inspirational declaration was a global deal by which rich and poor governments of the world agreed to unite in an unprecedented common effort to eliminate poverty and hunger and also tackle other major issues by the year 2015.

Some of the ways you can be involved with World Thinking Day 2011:

1. Learn more about Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in other countries.
2. Participate in the activities that can be found on the WAGGGS WTD website and learn more about the focus countries chosen to be supported in 2011.
3. Participate in the Thinking Day postcard exchange – visit <http://www.mythinkingday.com/>
4. Raise money in your unit for World Thinking Day.
5. Find fun and interesting ways for others in your community to learn about World Thinking Day

Go to

<http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home>

and explore the activity pack and fundraising ideas for WTD 2011. You are encouraged to choose a range of activities from the different sections.



WTD is an opportunity to highlight the difference Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting makes and the way it empowers girls and young women.

Just a few Ideas for Guides

- Make a World Thinking Day scrapbook of your Unit / District / Division / State or Australia and include a page displaying badges, awards and events.
- Use badges from your World Thinking Day events as swaps.
- Correspond by letter or email with Scouts and Guides in other countries. Maybe even swap badges with your penfriend.
- [WAGGGS Badge Exchange](#): This is a badge exchange group for Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, and active adult members. It is similar to the [WAGGGS International Postcard Exchange](#). It began in August and will run until World Thinking Day in February. This is a great way to get badges and postcards from the 145 WAGGGS countries.
- This year WAGGGS Picked five countries to think about at the 2011 World Thinking Day, they represent the five regions: Bolivia (Western Hemisphere), Cyprus (Europe), Democratic Republic of Congo (Africa), Nepal (Asia/Pacific), Yemen (Arab Region). Pick one of the five countries to learn about .
- Learn about Women's rights in the country you are studying.
- Volunteer with an organisation that helps women in your community prior to February 22.
- Earn an award that focuses on women and or leadership.
- Do a project on an issue effecting women today.