

# Now Adventures in Life

## Link

BY JENNIFER WALKER

We promote Guiding as being full of new adventures, but perhaps one of the biggest adventures for our girls is simply becoming an adult. This transition can be daunting. It often involves other transitions, such as leaving home and starting post-secondary education, employment, or a new family. Guiding has a way to help young women stay connected to our organization during this challenging time in their lives. It's called Link.

**G**uides Canada Link members are women aged 18 to 30 who are encouraged to support and benefit from our organization however they can, and are made aware of opportunities for further involvement in Guiding. Some Link members may be Unit Guides or hold other regular positions in Guiding; others may not have time for such ongoing commitments. A recent study done by Girl Scouts of the USA suggests that many young adults (aged 18-29) don't want set schedules and routines. They prefer one-day or once-a-week projects, part-time internships, and activities they can participate in when they're able and inclined to. Link offers these young women this flexibility.

New adventures in Link may include being able to help Guiding in innovative ways. Link members may have specialized knowledge from their school studies, or from recent travel experiences, that they would love to share with girls in Guiding. For example, the UBC Links of Fraser Delta Area in B.C., who count several engineering students among their members, have developed a Guide Engineering Interest Badge workshop. The

2003 National Link Service Challenge, "Taking Care of You and Me," has Link members working on service projects based on a health theme, such as Da Hon Neh Area Links in Ontario, who are running sessions for girls to complete the new Bone Building Challenge. And many Link members across Canada have visited or worked at World Centres and use the knowledge and experience they gained there to help units, areas or districts with international activities.

Link members can also have new adventures with other Link members. Backpacking, canoeing, hiking, winter camping, tobogganing, and rock climbing are just a few of the adventures Link members across the country shared in 2002. Ontario Link members conducted two adventure trips, backpacking and canoeing, along the Rideau Canal Waterway in May 2002 (see "From the Internet to the Great Outdoors" on page 14). Link members in western Canada are planning something similar for summer 2003.

Young adulthood is well recognized as a distinct developmental stage in the human life cycle. The new adventures in Link can facilitate the transition to adulthood by providing a group of people with similar interests and values as new friends. Particularly in a new community, it may be easier for some girls and young women to get involved in Guiding through the social environment offered by Link, and this may provide a transition to becoming a leader later on. Ultimately, Link helps Guiding retain the leadership, skills, and talents we worked hard to nurture when these members were girls in our organization. ❁

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Photo: Jennifer Walker