

Training and Service for Girls of 14-16

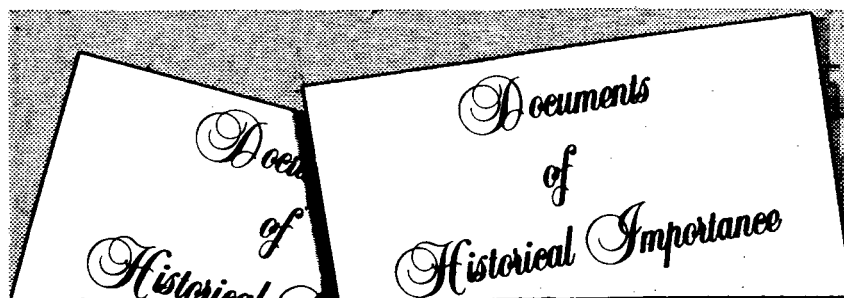
Circular 1630

May 1943

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## TRAINING AND SERVICE FOR GIRLS OF 14-16

Circular 1630, 27th May 1943

From the Government Board of Education to Local Education Authorities  
for Higher Education and copies, for information, to Local Education Authorities  
for Elementary Education.

1. The registration of older boys and girls and the stimulus which it has given to the provision of facilities to meet their demands for opportunities of training and service must not be allowed to obscure the claims of those in the younger age-groups (14-16) to have their needs met so far as is possible under war-time conditions. The attention of the Board has in particular been drawn to the needs of girls in this younger age-group for whom opportunities for training and service, carrying the attraction of some direct relation to the present national effort, may appear to be less adequate than those open to boys of the same age.

2. The Board have been in consultation on the matter with the Girls' Group of the Standing Conference of National Juvenile Organisations and they think it desirable that further publicity should be given to the work of the national organisations. The special training for national service undertaken by these organisations is briefly summarised below and the Board would ask Authorities and their Youth Committees to give them every possible encouragement and support in the development of their work.

(a) **Girls' Friendly Society.** — The Society's War Training Scheme is open to girls from the age of 14 and covers Housecraft (cooking, mending, laundry, electricity, plumbing, household repairs); Food Production (poultry keeping, vegetable gardening, dairying); Health I (first-aid, personal hygiene, home nursing); Health II (child welfare, personal hygiene, keep-fit or dancing); Secretarial (letter-writing, telephoning, book-keeping); A.R.P. technique; Citizenship. Non-members of the Society may join a Club and enter for the scheme. To gain a War Training Badge a girl must pass in any one section and, to gain a final certificate, in three out of the seven sections.

(b) **Girl Guides Association (Ranger Branch).** — Girls of the age of 14 are eligible for enrolment in Ranger and Sea Ranger Companies for a training planned to cover a maximum period of five years. A girl may join a Company or Crew for one year and take the basic Home Emergency Training and specialised nautical training. Sea Ranger training is of particular value to future members of the W.R.N.S. After completing the basic training a Ranger or Sea Ranger may undertake specialised training according to her individual choice and aptitude. This specialised training is arranged under groups as follows: (a)

Home Service; (b) Nursing Service; (c) Child Welfare; (d) Cultural; (e) Coast and River Service; (f) Outdoor; (g) Community Service; (h) World Citizenship. Camping, landwork, rowing and sailing, folk dancing, drama and singing also take their place in the general scheme of Ranger training. In this world-wide movement each Ranger, on enrolment, undertakes to be responsible for some form of regular national service in her spare time.

(c) **Girls' Guildry.** — In its Companies for girls aged 14-16 the Guildry offers opportunities for training in first-aid, home nursing, child welfare, domestic science, music and drama, handicrafts, recreative physical training, including games and folk dancing; outdoor activities of all kinds, including camping, swimming, nature study, games, etc., are included in the Company programme. The training provided prepares members and companies to give service in the home community and Church to which they belong.

(d) **Girls' Life Brigade.** — The Brigade offers training in first-aid, home nursing, child welfare, citizenship, signalling, physical training and drill, hygiene, local knowledge and map-reading, household management, life-saving from fire and water. Allotment gardening, thrift and war-time hobbies are encouraged and instruction is given in war-time cookery. There is a detailed syllabus for every subject and a high standard is required before a Proficiency Badge is awarded to girls who have given at least 100 hours voluntary service at First Aid posts, hospitals, nursery centres, canteen duties, help in salvage collections, etc. The Badge is alternatively awarded upon the satisfactory passing of an approved A.R.P. Test.

(e) **National Association of Girls' Clubs.** — The National Association of Girls' Clubs have a scheme of Service Cadet Companies, with an age-range of 14-20 years and division into 14-16 and 16-20 groups, as required. A company can be formed in any club, youth centre or school or as an independent unit. The cadets on enrolment undertake:—

- (a) regular voluntary service once a week;
- (b) regular training on a weekly basis, undertaking one course at a time;
- (c) to be ready to help in an emergency.

The service may take many forms, according to the

circumstances of the locality and the capacity of the Cadet. The training is intended to prepare the Cadet for her service, e.g., first-aid, fire-fighting, map-reading for emergency service; child welfare, household repairs, war-time cookery, secretarial for regular service. Companies vary in size from six to sixty. They are divided into sections under girl Section Leaders. The Section Leaders' Committee is responsible, under the Company Leader, for the administration and the welfare of the company. A special badge is worn, with or without a special uniform.

(f) **National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.** — The Federation welcomes girls to membership, either as members of existing Young Farmers' Clubs or with a view to the formation of new clubs, and offers pre-service training to those who may wish to join the Women's Land Army or otherwise to participate in the vital service of national food production.

(g) **St. John Ambulance Brigade.** — The Brigade accepts girls aged 11-17 for enrolment in the Cadet Divisions and the training covers first-aid, home nursing and hygiene, cooking, swimming and life-saving, sea and boat training, fire-fighting and A.R.P., clerical work, signalling, homecraft, handicraft, "handyman", citizenship, interpreter, physical training and organised games, camping and nature study, child welfare, knowledge and care of animals. A special War Service Badge has been introduced and is awarded for every period of twelve months in which the Cadet has given 300 hours or more war service (e.g. domestic work in hospitals, duties in connection with Nursery Schools, War Nurseries, Hospital Libraries, Central Hospital Supply Service, A.R.P. and schemes organised by the Red Cross Agricultural Fund).

(h) **Welsh League of Youth.** — The League is a co-educational youth organisation with a slightly higher percentage of girl members than boys. The aim of the movement is the inculcation of Christian citizenship and the training is divided into four main sections: religion and civics: health and physical activities: culture, arts and handicrafts: and national service such as ambulance, nursing, cookery, gardening, together with such war service as the boys and girls in their several age-groups can offer.

(i) **Co-operative Youth Groups.** — All co-operative Youth Clubs provide for girls of 14 to 16 years of age, as well as for boys. As part of the general educational plan for good citizenship, girls are offered training in cookery, housekeeping, laundering, home nursing, first-aid, marketing, gardening, biology and sex knowledge, parenthood, physical training and organised games, play reading, camping and swimming. Community service includes "make and mend" for hospitals, adoption of children's wards, toymaking for war nurseries and children's orphanages, collecting for war naval libraries, adoption of ships, herb collecting, harvesting, National Savings and salvage.

(j) **The Young Women's Christian Association.** — The Association have organised the Blue Triangle Service Corps for their clubs that want a Service scheme for girls in the 14-16

age-group. The scheme is run as an integral part of the general Y.W.C.A. programme and its aim is to offer, through the Company within the club, a programme of service which is as flexible and creative as possible. It is divided into two parts — Company and Club. The scheme provides the discipline of Company drills and inspection and recognised tests in subjects such as morse-signalling, health and first-aid: and opportunities of service, such as land work, salvage and messenger work. The second part provides creative activity such as art, drama, toy-making, dress-making and mothercraft. Girls must take part in two activities, one in each section. As with other Y.W.C.A. club activities, membership is open to any girl without her necessarily becoming a full member of the Association. A simple uniform is worn, consisting of navy skirt, white blouse and blue forage cap with special badge.

To the above may be added —

**British Red Cross Society.** — The Society enrolls girls (and boys) aged 12-16 in the Upper Division of the Red Cross Links and in Cadet Units attached to Red Cross Detachments. At 15 members may become probationers of the Red Cross Detachment and begin their training, proceeding at 16, on passing the qualifying examination, to full membership of the Detachments. Detachments may be formed as separate units, or within a School or Club or within a Company of the National Association of Girls' Training Corps. The training covers first-aid, home nursing, hygiene, infant and child welfare, cookery, A.R.P., recreative physical training, drill, and attention is also given to general educational training in the responsibilities of citizenship. Cadets are encouraged to do war service by helping in hospitals, Civil Defence, or collecting supplies, etc., required for the hospitals. Members of Youth Detachments serve in hospitals, First Aid Posts, war nurseries, either part-time or full-time, and some have been already mobilised as V.A.Ds.

**National Association of Girls' Training Corps.** — The Association was formed, with the assistance of the older voluntary organisations for girls, to meet the needs of the 16-18 age-group prior to the first registration of young people. Its training programme was designed for this age-group and the Association has throughout the first twelve months of its existence resisted all suggestions to lower its age of entry. The recent incorporation of the Women's Junior Air Corps and the Girls Naval Training Corps has brought into the Association some 18,000 girls below the age of 16. Moreover, unofficial junior Companies and Sections using the programme devised for the older age-group, are becoming increasingly prevalent. After careful consideration of the factors and after consultation with the Girls' Group of the Standing Conference and with the Board, the Association proposes to establish a Corps for the 14-16 age group. The Companies of this Corp will be organised separately from the Companies of older girls (except in the very rural areas) under separate officers, with a distinctive uniform and badge, and a separate syllabus of training, which will include, in addition to the basic training, a number of optional subjects, both recreational and practical. Full details will be announced by the Association in due course.