



The Shropshire Way Challenge

What is the challenge?

The Shropshire Way Challenge is for members of Girlguiding Shropshire, between us, to walk the entire 200 miles of the newly way marked Shropshire Way. You can do as much or little as you like, every step counts, and all participants can gain a badge for taking part.

When is it happening?

Between Thinking Day 2020 and Thinking Day 2023 or until current badge stocks are exhausted.

What is the cost?

The only costs for taking part are those that you need to charge to cover transport etc. Badges will be £1 each + p&p.

What is the route of the Shropshire Way?

The Shropshire Way is a long distance path round much of the best countryside in the County. It includes the Wrekin, the Stiperstones, the Offa's Dyke borderlands and Wenlock Edge.

Take a look at www.shropshireway.org.uk for maps and information. There is also a link to a useful official guide book on that website.

There is also a table of suggested sections on the county website which can be walked individually or combined to make longer routes. The table gives the distance for each section and gives a grade according to difficulty.

Who can take part?

All members of Girlguiding Shropshire. Some sections are easy, even wheelchair accessible, and others are much more challenging. We're hoping that the new 18-30 section will tackle some of the less accessible sections.

You can walk with your unit or with family and friends. Even if you can't take part as a walker it would be great if you could help by offering lifts to group drivers to set up cars to shuttle walkers back to their start point or even offering a refreshment stop if you happen to live near any part of the Shropshire Way.

Who can lead walks?

Provided the Guiding requirements for planning and safety are followed then Guiding leaders can lead walks shown as easy or medium in the suggested sections table without holding a walking qualification.

If you don't feel confident about taking girls out walking then experienced leaders will be available to help. Over the year it is hoped to have a programme of walks that you can opt to join.

If you enjoy walking this could be a great opportunity to gain your level 1 walking qualification too.

There are two of the suggested sections which must be lead by a holder of a level 2 walking qualification or above, these are over Brown Clee and the Stiperstones.

If you'd be prepared to lead a walk that others could join Jo Revell Walking Adviser would love to hear from you.

There will be information events planned once the current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

What can the girls do on the way?

An I spy activity sheet is on the county website. Feel free to adapt it according to the season and location you are walking in.

Take some photos! We'd love to have pictures of your walk to put on the Shropshire Guiding website - make sure you have everyone's permission though.

Make a note of any problems you encounter along the way especially if the route is unclear or way markers are missing. Report these to the Shropshire Way Association as they have champions for each section of the route who try to look after the whole path.

What equipment is recommended?

A suggested kit list is on the county website.

What about risk assessment?

An outline risk assessment is on the county website which gives some ways of controlling the risks to give everyone a safe and enjoyable walk. Please adapt it for your own unit's needs, the season and the section you are walking.

What paperwork/ administration is needed?

- The usual Information and Consent Form is needed to get parental permission.
- Completed health form for each participant.
- Inform your commissioner of your plans.
- Arrange a home contact.
- Record your risk assessment and share it with the other adults taking part.

What do I do after we've completed our walk?

- Let Jo Revell the walking adviser know how many people took part and which Guiding Section they belong to, which section you competed, the date and the distance walked.
- Send in any photos or your walk that you'd like put on the Shropshire Girlguiding website by email to: enquiries@girlguidingshropshire.org.uk
- Order your Shropshire Way badges from the badge secretary Marion Wynn.

I've got a question - who can I ask? Jo Revell Walking Adviser
jmrevell@btconnect.com 01952 882055 or 07834 673204.