

The Olave Program: What's New?

Olave Program Framework

We are very pleased to introduce the new Olave Program Framework, which provides focus and clarity on what is really important to Olaves and to Guiding. The new Framework reads:

The Olave Program is for members of Guiding in Australia aged 18-30, and focuses on the three aspects of community, adventure and self-development. Olaves take opportunities to:

- *Make a positive difference in their communities through volunteering, service and advocacy;*
- *Challenge themselves through new experiences especially in the outdoors and internationally; and*
- *Develop skills and knowledge to enable them to grow as individuals.*

The Olave Program is underpinned by the Guide Promise and Law and the innovations and traditions of Australian Guiding.

Olave Program Resource

The new Olave Program Resource is now online and mobile friendly! It includes all the information and resources that Olaves need to understand the new Framework (with lots of ideas) and to provide guidelines and suggestions for Peer Groups. It is clear, useful and accessible for a variety of people, from brand-new Olaves to 29 year olds who have been in Guiding for years. It is available online or as a downloadable PDF.

Olave Program INSPIRE

The Olave Program INSPIRE program has been created in response to the high priority placed upon creating ways to improve relationships with Olave Peer Groups at unit level and to foster connections between Olaves and Guides of all ages. It provides a different opportunity to the AGP-OP Link Badge. It encourages Olaves to visit Guide Units – of all ages – to introduce them in a fulfilled way to the Olave Program and inspire the Guides about their future in Guiding.

State Structures

There will be changes taking place in the states in order to improve structures for the Olave Program and ensure that it is not up to individuals only to make the Olave Program and peer groups successful in their area. One of the key recommendations from the report was to make the Olave Program an opt-in system so that only 18-30 year olds who identify as Olaves are counted as such. States will develop new procedures in relation to registration of Olaves and Peer Groups and the timing of this will be between states.

Marketing and Communications

We have been working with the newly formed national Management and Communications Management Committee to start a new direction for the Olave Program. We're really excited to have developed a video, which we will show shortly, as well as a new tagline: Live for the Challenge. This encapsulates the energy of young women in the Olave Program as well as the focus on challenge which permeates all aspects of the Olave Program – challenging yourself to better your community, to undertake adventures, to develop your skills and abilities.

What's Next?

The work of the Olave Program Ignite project does not stop here! We are excited for the other initiatives that will be developed as part of phase 2 of the Olave Program Ignite process – including a mentor scheme to engage older Olaves, updating the awards to align with the new Framework, developing induction resources, and further program initiatives. The question of uniform has been included as part of the Girl Guides Australia Uniform Review which is scheduled for next year.

Live for the Challenge...

Olave Program: FAQs

It sounds like there are some things that haven't changed about the Olave Program?

Yes - the Olave Program is still run by young women for young women! The name is the same and the age range remains 18-30. You can still participate in the Olave Program as an individual or as part of a Peer Group.

There is no more 'social networks' in the Olave Program Framework – does that mean I can't just hang out with my Peer Group anymore?

The new Olave Program Framework is designed for Olaves to get the most out of Guiding by focusing your energy (and your Peer Group's energy) on taking part in worthwhile activities. Take the opportunity to do something new and interesting with your Peer Group rather than just 'hang out' – do something to help the community, challenge yourselves with an adventure or learn a new skill. Keep on meeting new people through the Olave Program and gaining support from your Peer Group, but don't forget to live for the challenge!

So I will now only be recognised as an Olave if I am registered as such? How do I do that? What if I don't register?

A key recommendation from the Olave Program Review Report was to make the Olave Program an opt-in system so that only 18-30 year olds who identify as Olaves are counted as such. States are in the process of developing procedures to enable this registration and you will be informed by your State Olave Program Manager once this is in place (if it is not already). There will be some flexibility in the initial stages to ensure that nobody misses out on the chance to be an Olave!

I am about to start working on my Olave Baden-Powell Award – should I wait until the new awards have been created?

We would encourage anyone who is thinking of starting an award (or who has already started one) to not change their plans. The new awards will be some time away, and there will be no disadvantages to those who have already started working on existing awards. If you have started or are thinking about starting work on an award then DO IT! You won't be affected by any changes and will still earn the same award when you have completed it.

What can I do to help develop the Olave Program now?

We now all take responsibility for making the Olave Program a great one. For sharing the word in a positive way. For committing to events, activities and roles and making them successful. For making the most of our opportunities and taking on challenges. It is up to each Olave and how we talk and how we act that can improve the Olave Program from here. Live for the challenge!

What if I have comments or feedback on the new Olave Program?

We'd love to hear from you! Email olave@girlguides.org.au or connect via the Olave Program Facebook Page.