



Western Hemisphere Regional Newsletter

No. 5 / Dec 2024





True leadership lies not in worrying so much about being the one in charge, but in being the one who inspires and guides others toward success.

Lord Baden-Powell

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Thank you, Paty! Welcome, Ravicka!

Thank you, Volunteers!

Regional Conference 2025

The 17th Regional Conference will be held virtually during the first week of July 2025.

This decision was based on the survey responses of 29 out of 35 Western Hemisphere MOs (83%).

Of those surveyed, only 17 MOs (59%) indicated they could commit to attending an in-person Regional Conference. However, 27 MOs (93%) indicated they could commit to attending a virtual Regional Conference. It was a difficult decision to make, but we are

confident that a virtual Regional Conference in 2025 will allow for greater access and participation.

All Regional Conference circulars will be available on our Campfire page. Remember that the deadline to nominate candidates for the 2025-2028 Regional Committee is Thursday, 9 January 2025.

Nominations pack:
<https://bit.ly/WHR-NominationPack>

Regional Conference Chairs Team

We are excited to announce the Chairs Team of the 2025 Western Hemisphere Regional Conference!



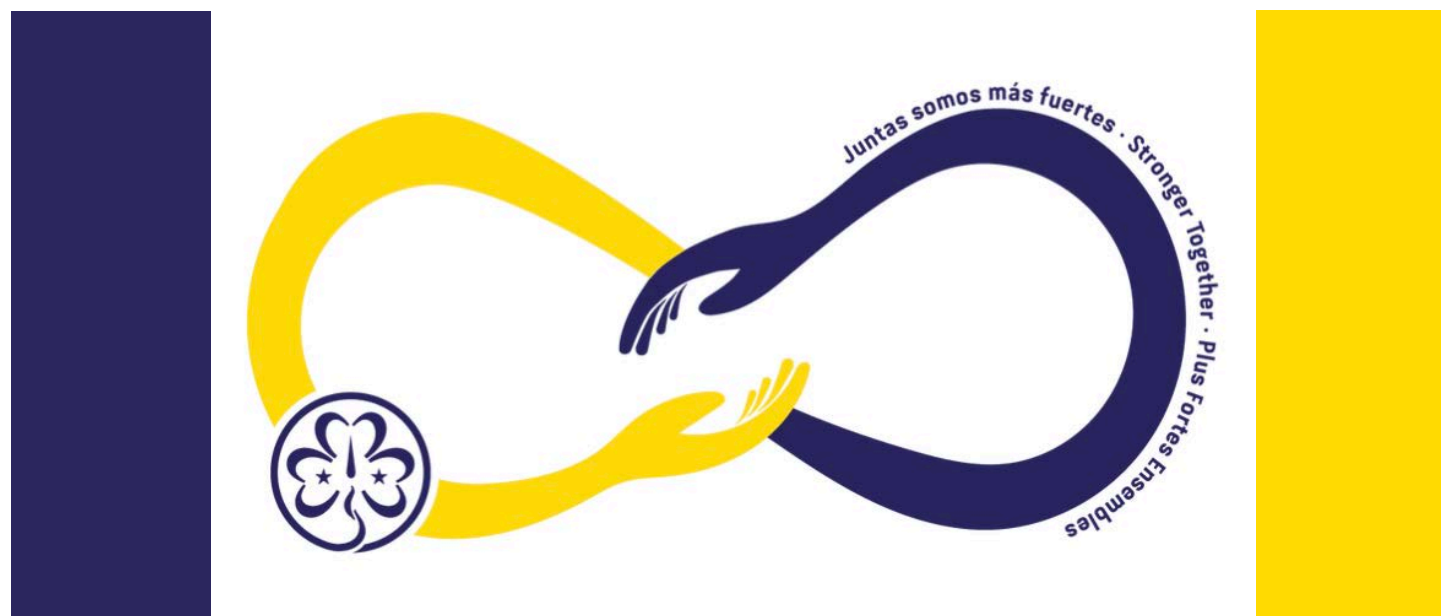
Amy
Chair
Canada



Vanessa
Vice-Chair
Bahamas



Mariana
Vice-Chair
México



Regional Youth Forum

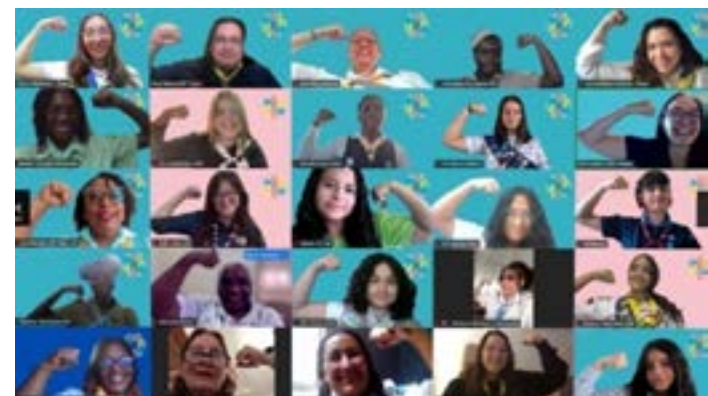


We are happy to announce that we have officially launched the “Regional Youth Forum” project (in response to Motion 22-03 approved by the 16th Western Hemisphere Regional Conference held in July 2022: “to create international experiences and connections for girls and young women from the Western Hemisphere Region”).

The Regional Cultural Connections Team and the Regional Youth Forum Team created a special connection space for 16- and 17-year-olds from across the Region. Youth participants are from Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominica, Guatemala, Grenada, Jamaica,

Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, and Venezuela.

The Regional Youth Forum Volunteer Team held two virtual meetings with the International Commissioners and adult leaders who will be supporting the youth participants throughout this initiative. Topics during these virtual meetings included the goals and key themes of youth participation and safeguarding protections to ensure that the Forum is a safe space for our youth.



21st Latinamerican Gathering of Girl Guide and Girl Scout Leaders in Costa Rica

From 4 - 9 November 2024, the Latin American Gathering took place in Costa Rica, bringing together participants from 12 Latin American Member Organizations and a delegation from Girl Scouts of the USA. Candela Gonzalez, Chair of the WAGGGS World Board, and Monika Dreik, member of the World Board, also attended.

The event was held at a camp named Iztaru, where delegations shared learning, networking, and Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting sisterhood. On behalf of the Regional Committee, we would like

to express our most sincere gratitude to the volunteers serving on the Executive Board of the event and to the Asociación de Guías y Scouts de Costa Rica creating an unforgettable experience for participants. From the warm welcome to the impeccable organization and the enthusiastic delivery of all activities, the MO authentically celebrated the values and principles of the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement. The environment allowed for connection, growth, and the strengthening of relationships between Member Organizations.

We would also like to thank Asociación de Guías y Scouts de Costa Rica for hosting the Regional Committee meeting and for making us feel so at home. Thank you for opening your doors to us and for inspiring us with your example of service!

Photo album: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/182221592@N05/albums/72177720321745609>



Regional Committee Meeting in Costa Rica







STEM Webinar: "Camping Edition"

On 22 September 2024, more than 20 participants from across our MOs attended a virtual campfire at the STEM Webinar: Camping Edition. Participants shared promising practices and learned a variety of activities that can be implemented in camp settings. Thank you to the Regional Program Team!

Webinar: Leading with Balance and Passion Vol.2

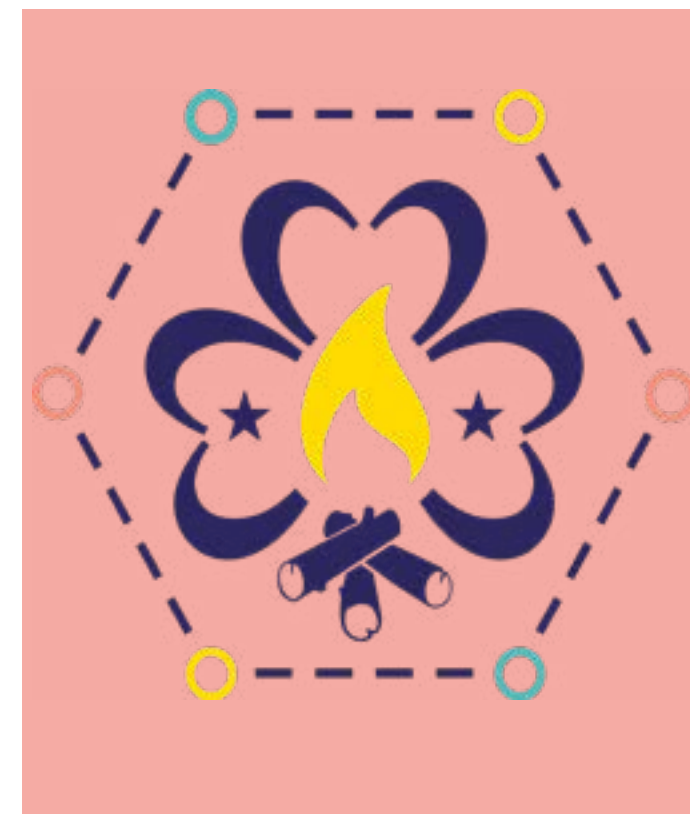
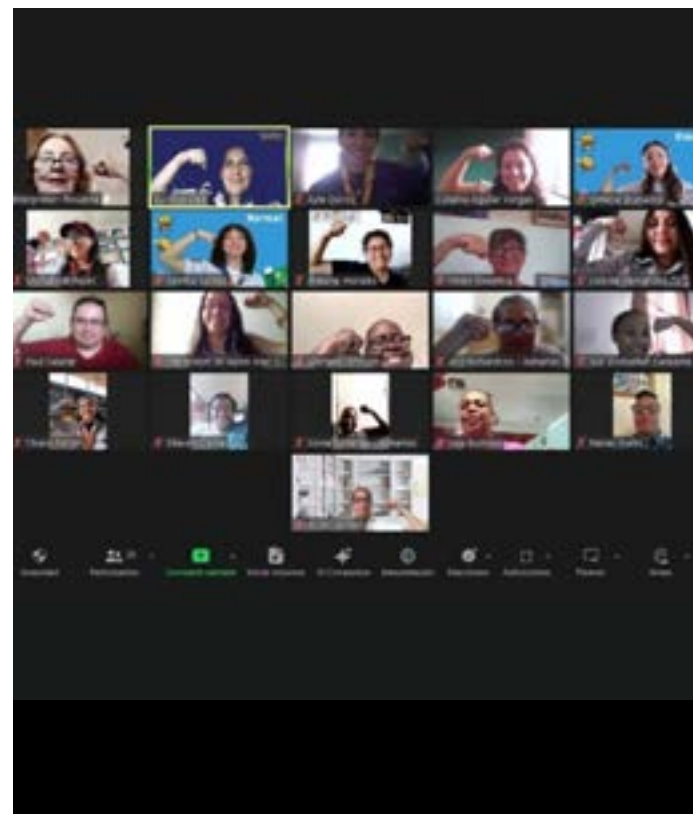
The Young Women Resources Team designed and delivered a webinar on 27 October 2024 to showcase volunteer opportunities in the Movement. 63 participants from 12 MOs joined the session.



Webinars: YUNGA

On 4 August 2024 and 20 October 2024, the Regional Program Team held two webinars featuring the YUNGA Challenge Badges. Thank you to Asociación de Guías y Scouts de Chile and Guías de México for sharing their experiences! More than 75 people in total from 15 MOs attended these webinars.

Learn more:
<https://bit.ly/3Pbo81y>



New resources available!

The Regional Program Team has been working hard! Thanks to their efforts, you can now find additional resources available on Campfire.

STEM Webinar: Camping Edition:
<https://bit.ly/3CQcMgG>

"Leading with Balance and Passion" for Young Women:
<https://bit.ly/3Z5Wg3C>

Caribbean Champions for Change Project

8 Participating MOs

Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Curaçao, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago

- Leadership and Advocacy (September)
- Leader’s skills (October)
- MO Sharing (November) featuring Canada, Chile, and Mexico

Virtual Sessions

We held 7 virtual sessions with participating MOs from the Caribbean subregion:

- Introduction to the project (June)
- Diagnostic for the Champions teams (July)
- Young Women focus group (August)
- Girl Member focus group (September)

In-Person Event in Curaçao

From 5 - 8 December 2024, Champions from the participating MOs met in Curaçao to share promising practices and to work on national program updates.



Capacity Building Webinars

In addition to the Caribbean Champions for Change girl experience initiative, we have arranged two additional series. The Image and Visibility series (with sessions on 2 November 2024, 7 December 2024, and 11 January 2025) focused on promoting MO brand visibility internally and externally through social media, building relationships with the press, and smaller-scale marketing and promotions such as

leaflets, posters, in-person events, etc.

The upcoming Fundraising and Finance series (with sessions on 15 March 2025 and 29 March 2025) will review fundraising and grant management principles and then present information on how best to promote individual giving. Additional details and registration information will be shared in January!



Member Organization Relations Portfolio



The Region at the EGM

The Regional Committee supported Western Hemisphere Member Organizations at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 14 September 2024.

28 out of 35 MOs (80%) attended.

A special thanks to the following MOs for their great engagement during the consultation sessions and the EGM: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, USA

You can review the Record of Decisions here:
<https://bit.ly/3Dqfxpp>



Member Organization Relations Portfolio

2024 MO Survey

The Regional Committee supported MOs in completing the survey that will help guide the development of the 2026-2029 Regional Action Plan.

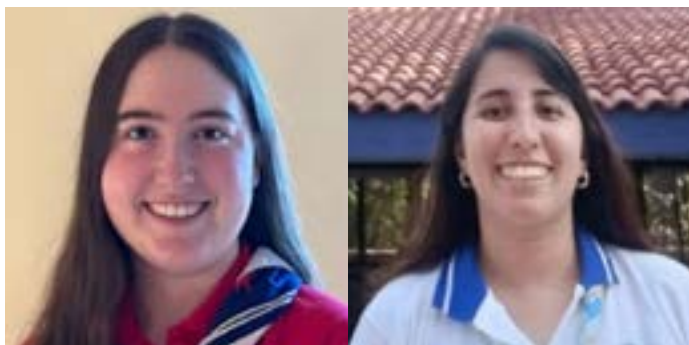
The contributions MOs provided will allow WAGGGS to have a clearer understanding of the current state of our Movement and help us identify the immediate and future needs of the organizations.

Your responses also allowed us to evaluate the impact of the Regional Team's support to MOs and understand how we can continue working together to ensure our sustainability.

Thanks to everyone for completing the survey!



Communications Portfolio



The Communications Team continues to strive to keep the Region informed with Regional and global Girl Guiding/ Girl Scouting information. The aim of the team is to ensure that every MO within the Region feels connected to each other as part of this sisterhood. We have been able to connect MOs through unique and interactive social media posts featuring volunteers from all 35 MOs.

We will continue to highlight interviews with Regional Volunteers on Western Hemisphere Table Talk, where we share the amazing and adventurous stories that keep the GG/GS flame alight in the Western Hemisphere Region.

Recently, we've launched our new social media campaign "Friendship Fridays" to highlight the bonds created in the movement throughout the Region.

Here's a summary of all Communications initiatives in 2024:

- WH Table Talks
- WH ThrowbackThursdays
- MO Mondays
- World Centre Wednesdays
- Friendship Fridays
- Mother's Day the Girl Guide Way
- Guiding Sisters feature
- WH JLS participants social media takeover
- WTD Gold Badge competition
- International Women's Day social media campaign
- Good vibes posts
- WAGGGS Giving Day social media takeover

Stay connected with us as we have exciting upcoming plans including the Let's Talk Governance Segment of the WH Table Talk where we will showcase the stories of young women in governance across the Region.

If you are interested in being featured on the WH social media or on a Table Talk, please reach out to abigail.christmas@wagggs.org





Thank you, Paty! Welcome, Ravicka!



In September 2024, Patricia Marroquín decided to step down from her role as a member of the Western Hemisphere Regional Committee for personal reasons.

The Regional Team is grateful for the work and time Paty dedicated as the Volunteer Management portfolio lead, as a facilitator, and as the liaison between the Regional Committee and the 20th Latin American Meeting of Girl Guide and Girl Scout Leaders. She made valuable contributions to our Member Organizations and the Region. We wish her much success in her future projects. Thank you, Paty!

Due to Paty Marroquín's early departure, the Volunteer Management portfolio is now led by Susan Birnie and Bárbara Muñoz Madariaga.

In accordance with Article 25.1 of our statutes, Ravicka Phillip, a member of the Girl Guides Association of Grenada and a person approved by the 16th Regional Conference, enthusiastically accepted the invitation to join the Regional Committee from October 2024 until the next Regional Conference in July 2025. Welcome, Ravicka!



Thank you, Volunteers!

From Emi

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the time, effort, and dedication you have given throughout 2024. Your tireless work and enthusiasm have been key to achieving our regional goals and have left an indelible mark. Thank you for your commitment and generosity. I want you to know that together we are stronger, and it is a privilege to count on people like you who inspire and bring so much value to our region. Thank you for being an example of solidarity and dedication. You are incredible!

From Abby

Thank you to the Communications Team for your contribution to creating a vibrant Region! Your efforts do not go unseen!

From Susan

A big thank you to Sarah Ali and Deana Burlett from Trinidad & Tobago, who have provided cultural context to the Core Mission Team for our Caribbean Champions for Change project over the past 6 months. It was great to have them both join us in Curaçao in December.

From Bárbara

I'm very happy with the work of the Program Team and the Pen Pal Team. I really appreciate the activities, resources and webinars prepared by the STEM, Young Women Resources, and Global Programs subteams.

These volunteers contributed to the national programs of participating MOs.

The Pen Pal pilot project was developed to promote networking across the Region, which will also promote international, cross-cultural connections.

Thanks to all of these volunteers for your work and for the love that you give to the Region through these projects.

From Stefanie

Thank you to the Regional Volunteer Management Team for designing and delivering the "Regional Volunteer Teams Gathering" on 19 October 2024! It was great to celebrate everything our teams accomplished.

The work of the Western Hemisphere simply would not be possible without the time and talents our Regional Volunteers dedicate. Your contributions are invaluable! Thank you for all that you give.



From July 2022 – 30 November 2024, 6 Regional Committee members have donated a minimum total of 8,309.4 cumulative hours to WAGGGS, an equivalent value of \$278,281.81 USD, based on \$33.49/hour rate from <https://independentsector.org/>.

Get connected!

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Ravicka Phillip: ravicka.phillip@waggs.org