

## Trailblazers: World War One's inspirational women

### FAQs for Girls' Brigade leaders



#### **What is the Trailblazers project?**

Trailblazers is an engagement project with funding and a free resource pack. The project is led by Big Ideas, and encourages young people to explore the incredible lives of women from the First World War, to discover Trailblazing women in their locality, and to develop as future Trailblazers. This is a significant moment to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War and the centenary of the women's vote.

#### **Who created the Trailblazers resource?**

Big Ideas delivers community and education projects across the UK and internationally. Big Ideas specialises in projects which bring groups together, remove barriers to participation and create new experiences and relationships. Change the way you see the world with Big Ideas. [www.big-ideas.org](http://www.big-ideas.org).



#### **How is Trailblazers funded?**

The free resource pack and small-scale funding for the project (up to £1,000 – see next page) has been funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

#### **What age group is it for?**

Trailblazers is aimed at primary and secondary school age children so it would be perfect to use with GB's **n:counta** and **n:spire** groups.

#### **How can I use the resource in GB?**

The excellent resource is adaptable and flexible. You could just use it for a one-off night to celebrate International Day of the Girl (11 October) or Armistice Day (11 November). Or you could develop it into a five-week badge work programme.

#### **When do I need to use the resource by?**

Trailblazers has been created to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 and the Representation of the People Act. If you're planning on using it as a five-week badge work programme, we'd recommend that you start in late September/early October. If you're planning to host an exhibition (see below), you need to have your funding application submitted by late October.

#### **How can I facilitate it as a five-week programme in GB?**

Here's an idea about how Trailblazers could be adapted for the GB programme.

Week 1	Discover the stories of Trailblazers of the First World War. Each card tells a different story. Use the lesson plan and activity ideas in the resource pack to use the 20 cards detailing inspiring women to facilitate a discussion.
Week 2	Ask each young person to choose two inspirational women. Invite them to create a collage answering the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are they inspirational?</li> <li>• What impact did their achievements have on their community?</li> </ul> Allow time for the group to present their collages and display them in your hall.
Week 3	Invite the group to discuss and research contemporary Trailblazers in their community. This should be someone who is inspiring for doing something for the first time, such as the first female mayor or firefighter in your local town, or first student in your school to win a national science competition. You could also profile Christian women – the longest-serving GB leader, the first female minister etc.
Week 4	Invite one or two Trailblazers to come to GB and interview them. Photograph or make a portrait of your Trailblazer. Make sure you have the permission of your Trailblazer before you share the picture with Big Ideas.
Week 5	Share your research and photograph with Big Ideas. Follow the framework that has been shared with you by the Big Ideas team to make sure you don't leave any important information out! Big Ideas will then design your own Trailblazer card for your exhibition.

### **How do I get badges once we've completed the programme?**

If you use this resource as a five-week programme then you could award your GB members the *Our Choice* badge from the relevant age group, available from GB Trading. Or, if you use it with your **n:spire** members, then this topic may also sit well within Channels like *Current Affairs* or *Big Issues* - badges available from GB Trading.

### **What is the Trailblazers exhibition?**

Big Ideas invites GB groups across the country to research a contemporary Trailblazer in their local community and host an exhibition celebrating the incredible achievements of women today. Groups can share their research of a local Trailblazer with Big Ideas, who will design their research into a bespoke contemporary Trailblazers card. Groups can then select up to 10 cards from the online collection produced by different community groups across the UK. Big Ideas will produce their selection into 10 exhibition posters so groups can make their very own Trailblazers exhibition to share with their local community (optional).

### **Can I apply for funding to host a Trailblazers exhibition?**

If you're in England, you can apply for a grant of £200 to host a community exhibition before the end of October. This funding also comes from MHCLG. If you're in Wales, the grant of £200 to host a community exhibition is provided by the Big Lottery Fund. Please note that it is GB's national policy not to accept lottery funding.

### **Who should I contact if I have any GB related questions about Trailblazers?**

Dr Claire Rush, GB's Advocacy Co-ordinator, would be happy to answer any questions. Email [claire.rush@gb-ministries.org](mailto:claire.rush@gb-ministries.org).

**How can I order a free Trailblazers resource?** Contact Big Ideas directly on [trailblazers@big-ideas.org](mailto:trailblazers@big-ideas.org) or call the team on 020 3011 5275.