

Young Women Speakers

Terms of Reference



World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Background

WAGGGS is a dynamic and respected organization that works on a diverse range of issues. As a result, we are regularly approached to provide Young Women Speakers that can represent the organization and speak about our campaigns, curricula and the experience of being a Girl Guide or Girl Scout.

We often receive these requests for young speakers at very short notice. Frequently, it is the most prestigious opportunities – speaking at the United Nations, for example – that come with the tightest timeframe. In the past, we have sometimes been given as little as 72 hours to put forward a candidate. Because we have not been able to put forward a name this quickly, we have missed out on opportunities to participate in high-profile events and to showcase our work and our Movement.

About the Opportunity

We want to be transparent and fair in our selection of speakers and to open opportunities to the breadth of our membership, while also being able to quickly respond to and capitalize on the opportunities that arise. We are therefore looking to create a pre-approved pool of young women to draw from for short-notice speaking opportunities.

The Young Women Speakers will represent the organization internally and externally at speaking engagements. We are looking for confident public speakers who have knowledge and experience of WAGGGS curricula and messaging around issues that affect girls and young women. The Young Women Speakers may be called upon to represent WAGGGS at events, conferences, media interviews and at any other public speaking opportunities that may arise.

WAGGGS will offer initial training and support for Young Women Speakers should a speaking opportunity arise.

Length of engagement

Young Women Speakers will be part of the pool for a period of 2 years. This means that anytime during the 2 year period WAGGGS **may** call on any one of them to speak publicly as a representative of the organization. At the end of the 2 year period, there will be a new call for speakers who will then form the new pool. Please note that there is **NO** guarantee that a speaking opportunity will arise during the 2-year period.

Selection Criteria

- Girl Guide or Girl Scout between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of this application
- Involved in Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in their Member Organization in any capacity
- A confident writer and public speaker, able to communicate well in English
- Regular access to the internet and able to communicate quickly if and when a speaking opportunity arises
- Experience of publicly speaking on behalf of WAGGGS (desired but not essential)
- Knowledge of, and commitment to, issues relating to girls, young women and girls and women's empowerment
- A valid Passport

Evidence of public speaking skills

We are looking for strong public speakers who can confidently and capably represent WAGGGS at public events. In selecting young women for the Speakers Pool, we will need to see evidence of strong public speaking skills. Therefore, **ALL** applications for this Pool **must** include a short video of the individual speaking.

If you have limited internet access, and uploading a video is difficult for you, please contact jean-ann.ndow@waggs.org, and we will try to work out alternative arrangements.

Evidence of English language skills

The pool of Young Women Speakers will consist of young women from all five regions of WAGGGS. There is no restriction on the number of speakers accepted into the Pool, as WAGGGS requires a diverse and varied group of confident public speakers to represent the organization. However, unfortunately, the pool will be restricted to those who are able to communicate in English at a high level of proficiency. The international conferences and events that the young women would be speaking at are almost always conducted in English, so proficiency in English will necessarily be an important selection criterion.

Contact between WAGGGS and the Young Women Speakers

Selecting a speaker for an opportunity

When opportunities to represent WAGGGS arise, WAGGGS will review the pool of speakers and select the most appropriate young woman based on experience, knowledge of the topic and geographical location.

WAGGGS will also make an effort to choose someone from the Pool who has not yet had an opportunity to speak. No young woman will be given more than two opportunities to represent WAGGGS as a speaker.

Endorsement will not be sought again from the Member Organization during this selection process, as all members of the Speakers Pool will already have been endorsed during the initial application process.

Contacting the selected speaker

WAGGGS will email the selected speaker directly, but will copy her Member Organization into all correspondence. We will explain the opportunity and discuss the individual's suitability and the requirements of the engagement.

Accepting/ Declining a speaking engagement

The Young Woman Speaker will be given a deadline by which to review any relevant material and decide if she would like to accept the opportunity. Again, the Young Woman Speaker will not have to obtain endorsement from the Member Organization as this was given during the application process.

If the young woman accepts the opportunity, WAGGGS will provide support to prepare for the speaking engagement. WAGGGS will also provide guidance on how the MO can publicise what their member is doing on their website and social media.

Participation in other WAGGGS Opportunities

It is important to note that this process will **NOT** replace the current open application processes that exist for annual events such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP) and other similar opportunities to be part of a full WAGGGS delegation. We will continue to hold our standard open call for these events, and *any* of our members – *including* the members of the Young Women Speakers pool – are welcome to apply to be part of a WAGGGS delegation.

Benefits to Member Organizations

There are obvious benefits to Member Organizations in having one of their members included in the Young Women Speakers Pool, including:

- Potential for increased exposure and publicity for the MO
- Potential for new partnerships and networks to be formed

Young Women Speakers will have the opportunity to speak at high-profile events to showcase and celebrate the work their MO is doing, building the visibility and profile of both their MO and of WAGGGS.

Note to International Commissioners (ICs) & Chief Commissioners (CCs)

WAGGGS asks ICs/CCs to complete the section at the end of the application form to approve and therefore support the applications by their members. ICs/CCs can - if they wish – carry out a pre-selection process at a national level and rank the applicants, or leave the selection to WAGGGS. Please review the criteria and expectations for the Young Women Speakers above and use these as guidance when reviewing applications.

Member Organizations are required to provide endorsement of the individual's suitability for the role and further organizational support, if necessary, to assist the individual should a speaking engagement arise.

Independent applications made without your endorsement will not be accepted.