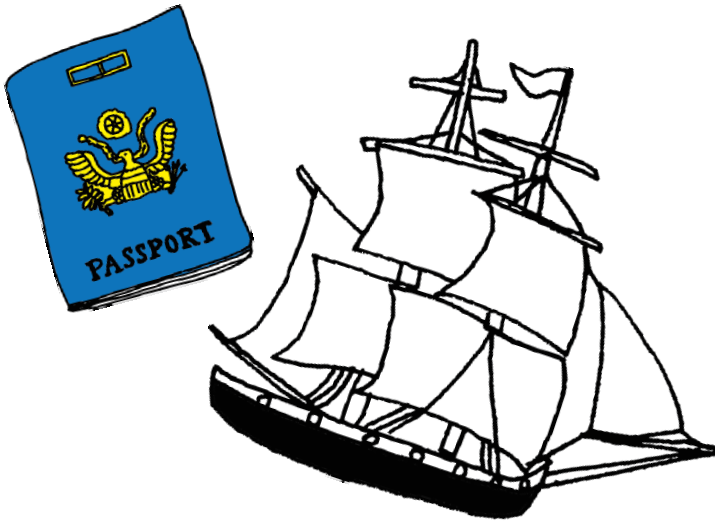


Short and Snappy – Traveling with Girls



Objective

To provide volunteers with an understanding of the benefits and processes of traveling with girls.

Length

20 minutes

Materials Needed

Pencils and paper or a white board/chalk board

Information to Share (spend 10 minutes on this section)

Travel is one of the many exciting experiences that girls can enjoy in Girl Scouts. It provides opportunities for girls to learn about other cultures and locations, plan and budget a travel experience, and bond with other girls. A Girl Scout Trip occurs any time the troop meets or travels outside of their regularly scheduled meeting place. When traveling with girls, think about the 3 P's: Purpose, Progression, and Planning.

- **Purpose:** Travel within Girl Scouts should have a planned outcome – a reason for going. It can be as simple as flying in an airplane for the first time or learning about a particular animal. Even a trip to Disneyland can – and should – fulfill a purpose. Talk with the girls about why they want to travel and what they'd like to learn. This will help guide their choice of destination.
- **Progression:** Travel experiences follow a progression to help girls grow in their leadership and life skills. Progressing through these new experiences helps them to gain confidence in their own abilities. Start simple and progress to longer trips of greater distance.
 - Daisies: Trips during meetings, local daytime activities or trips, Day Camp
 - Brownies: Backyard overnights, slumber parties, Mini Camps, Resident Camp, Troop Camping at GSU facility, Troop trips (1-2 nights)
 - Juniors: Troop Camping trips (24 hrs.-2 nights), Extended troop trips (3+ nights in Mountain West region)
 - Cadettes-Ambassadors: National and international trips
- **Planning:** Girl Scout travel takes a lot of planning because girls are taking the lead and learning throughout the process. Planning is also key to keeping everyone safe as they travel. Below are a few things to keep in mind as you plan:
 - Attend training! *Planning Trips with Girl Scouts* (online) is required for any and all Girl Scout travel (even short trips and day trips). *Planning Extended Overnight & National Trips* is required for trips of 3 nights or more, and *Planning International Trips* training is required for any international travel. Take training for national travel at least 6 months in advance. For international travel, take training at least 18 months in advance.

Information to Share (continued)

- Council notification is required for trips of 1 night or more, and approval is required for trips of 2 nights or more. The application for 2 night trips is due to Council 6 weeks before departure, and notification for 1 night trips is due 2 weeks before departure. The application is the same for both, and is found on our website, www.gsutah.org, on the travel page.
- Juniors and older can participate in 2 money-earning projects outside of the Cookie Program each year to help support the funding for their travels. Make sure to get Council permission before starting!
- Check *Volunteer Essentials* and *Safety Activity Checkpoints* BEFORE planning your itinerary. Both documents contain important safety procedures, required council policies, and informational tips for planning your trip.

Activity (spend 5-10 minutes on this section)

Below are examples of travel opportunities that girls can take through Girl Scouting. Order the activities sequentially by experience level. Start with 1 as the trip that requires the least amount of travel experience and end with 10 as the trip that requires the most travel experience (aka progression!).

___ Train Trips across Canada

___ Three nights in San Francisco

___ Sleepover in Troop Leader's backyard

___ Day trip to the zoo

___ Fourteen Days in Europe

___ Ten days in Costa Rica

___ Alaskan Cruise

___ A week in Savannah, Georgia

___ Weekend at local campground

___ Two nights at a GSU Service Center

Review

These optional questions can be used as a review of the above information at the conclusion of the training.

- 1) Which training is required for trips of 3 nights or more? (**Answer:** Planning Extended Overnight & National Trips)
- 2) When is Council approval required for your trip? (**Answer:** For 2 nights or more, notification required for trips of 1 night or more)
- 3) How far in advance must you submit a Travel Application to Council for trips of 2 nights or more? (**Answer:** 6 weeks before departure)
- 4) What are the 3 P's to consider in Girl Scout travel? (**Answer:** Purpose, Progression, Planning)

