

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:

Travel & Adventure

Our mission is to foster and support a sense of independence, self-awareness and tolerance by providing girls with opportunities to experience and explore beyond their horizons.

In Girl Scouting, our tradition is to use travel and adventure to give girls real life experience by researching, dreaming and planning. Girls work together to decide on a trip location, research options for sightseeing and travel, set money-raising goals, and execute plans to achieve those goals. Girl Scout travel is enriched by the fact that there are sister Girl Scouts in every state across the US and in 145 other countries throughout the world.

Many troops choose to plan and take a trip with their fellow troop members. Popular destinations include Washington, DC and New York City. Some troops have even taken cruises, visiting Bermuda!

Organizing trips at the council level is another option, which provides girls with the opportunity to make new friends from other troops. Currently, every three years, the council organizes an international trip to a destination of interest to older girls. Plans are already underway for a trip to London, Paris, Rome and Florence during the summer of 2015. Younger girls can participate in council-led trips to Boston, MA and Mystic, CT or tour Rose Island, Prudence Island or Newport.

But, we have much more ambitious plans. Increased and unique opportunities to travel are what the girls in our council have deemed a "must have".

"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

– Henry Miller



EXAMPLES OF PLANNED PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

For younger girls, we will offer a series of local and regional trips in a variety of categories: culture, career, history, adventure. These trips will provide younger girls with a chance to learn basic planning skills and get used to being away from home. A series of “adventure trips” might include a trip to Narragansett to try surfing, a trip to Yawgoo to try skiing, and a trip to hike the part of the Appalachian Trail that runs through the Berkshire Mountains.

For older girls, the options are even greater. Facilitated by Girl Scouts of the USA and hosted by individual Girl Scout councils and contracted organizations, such as Outward Bound, Girl Scout destinations events or trips open girls up to whole new worlds and ideas. Read the description for just one of these opportunities:

Patagonia: Adventure at the Bottom of the World. During this multi-sport adventure in the southern wilds of Chile, you will kayak through the Straits of Magellan and experience the local sea life, birds and shipwrecks in this beautiful area. A horseback ride through the wetlands and forests will introduce you to the local culture of the Patagonia cowboy. Other highlights include a full day glacier cruise to the Serrano Glaciers and a zodiac trip to Marta and Magdalena Islands to see the Magellanic Penguins and sea lions.

Older Girl Scouts may also participate in once-in-a-lifetime **international events** like the 14th International Scout and Guide Jamboree in Norfolk, England in August 2014. Five thousand young people will gather for a week of activities, fun and excitement and the chance to build a lifetime of memories and friendships.

Each year we will provide the opportunity for a group of girls from our council to take advantage of at least one of these rare experiences offered exclusively to Girl Scouts.

Ensuring Every Girl Has the Chance to See the World. We believe that every girl deserves a chance to see the world. But there will still be some girls reluctant to travel, some families not ready to allow their daughters to travel, and many cases where the cost of a trip – despite fundraising efforts -- is still prohibitive.

The technology in the Girl Leadership Experience Center will ensure that all girls in our council will have a chance to see the world by bringing the sights and sounds of distant places right into the girl lounge at 500 Greenwich Avenue in Warwick or to one of our camp locations. Technology will also allow us to provide previews of destinations to girls who aren't quite sure about traveling – giving them an opportunity to get a peek at what they might expect, who they might meet.




girl scouts
of southeastern
new england