

- 10 10



Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations

2011 Edition

Table of Contents

destinations IUI	03
Travel Categories	04
The Right destination for You!	06
destination Resources	07
The Application Process	08
Timeline	08
The Application	09
Parts of the Application	09
Essay	10
Short-Answer Questions	12
Check It Over!	13
You're In! Now What?	14
Financing Your destination	14
Money-Earning Ideas	15

Get Ready to Go	16
Packing Made Simple	.17
On Your Trip	18
Journal Your Heart Out	.19
Global Advocate	.20
Welcome Back!	21
Be a Show-Off	.21
Where You're Going, Where You've Been	22

EUROPA

destinations 101

There's a world outside your window, just waiting for you to explore it. Girl Scout destinations is your passport to travel!

destinations travel adventures, which range from two days to three weeks and are for all Girl Scouts ages 11–17, whisk you to the far corners of the Earth. You'll meet remarkable girls, develop leadership skills, gain confidence, and enjoy valuable learning opportunities. You will have the most awesome, outrageous, unforgettable trip of your life!

Factors that Make Each destination Distinct:

Length of trip

Topic

- Number of girl travelers
- Age of girl travelers

Most events are geared toward specific grade levels. • Grades 6-8 (Girl Scout Cadette)

- Grades 9–10 (Girl Scout Senior) • Grades 11-12 (Girl Scout Ambassador)

How to Apply for destinations 1. Log on to www.girlscouts.org/destinations. Search for events by date, category, age, location, and keyword. Select four top choices. 2. Download the application form and complete it. You'll need to fill out an application for each event you want to 3. Print out two copies of the reference form and ask two people who know how awesome you are to fill them out. You can use the same letters of reference for all your 4. Send your application to your local Girl Scout council-by their deadline of course! If you have questions, call or 5. You and your council will receive notification of acceptance from the host council or event sponsor.

Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations

¥

Page 3

6. Go on your destination. Bon voyage!

Travel Categories

destinations fall into six travel categories-and countless great experiences. Following are just a few examples of places to go and things to go.

International

Travel outside the United States is one of the best ways to learn about other cultures-and yourself. How about camping in Austria, rafting in Costa Rica, or soaking up the culture of India-one of the world's oldest civilizations?

Is gravity pulling you towards England, Switzerland, India, or Mexico? These countries are home to the four world centers, where girls from around the globe connect with each other, the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement, and the countries they are visiting. The centers offer cool things do, plus the facilities make for inexpensive lodging. You can visit any of the world centers through destinations.

• Our Chalet (Switzerland)

- <u>Pax Lodge (United Kingdom)</u>)
- <u>Our Cabaña (Mexico)</u>
- <u>Sangam (India)</u>

Outdoors

You could explore Alaska's Kenai Peninsula in sea kayaks or visit Hawaii's Mauna Kea Observatory and Volcanoes National Park. Or maybe you'd rather go canyoneering in California, biking through Michigan, or trekking across the Colorado Rockies on horseback?

Science

Ever dream of being an astronaut? If you have the "right stuff," then Space Camp® at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is for you. More interested in marine or aquatic biology? Then hop aboard a schooner with real-life scientists and learn about weather, waves, and zooplankton. Be warned-you'll take your turn at night watch!

Travel Categories (continued)

People

Travel from New York City to Washington, D.C., to trail the history and future of women in leadership, community activism, and advocacy. Or maybe you'd prefer exploring the Mall of America in Minnesota, home to more than 520 shops, the nation's largest amusement park, and the biggest underground aquarium!

Apprenticeships

Calling all budding biologists, anthropologists, geologists, and archaeologists: How would you like to survey Alaska's Copper River Delta, ancestral home of the Eyak people? Or perhaps your desired apprenticeship runs more along the lines of training with special education professionals to become a counselor at a camp for girls with disabilities.

Getaways

These two- to four-day events take place all over the country and don't require a Girl Scout destinations application. A Getaway can be anything from a Broadway career workshop in New York City to a home-building project with a local Habitat for Humanity group. Age requirements and length of event vary, but with all the choices of Getaways you're sure to find one tailor-made for you.

Event Sponsers

All destinations events are sponsored by Girl Scout councils or collaborators such as Alpine Training Services, U.S. Space & Rocket Center®, Costa Rica Rainforest Outward Bound School, and Holbrook Global Field Expeditions.



The Right destination for You!

1. Start with what you like.

If rock climbing is your thing, stick with it and take it to the next level with a destination like Ultimate Challenge or Sequoia National Park Multi-Sport Adventure. Or if you're up for the challenge, you can try something totally new.

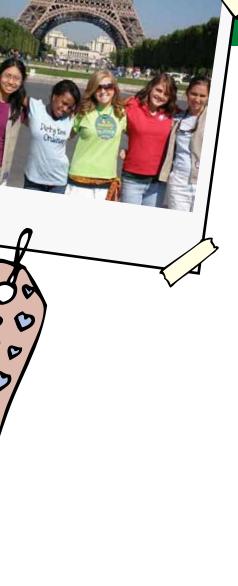
2. Timing is everything.

Sure, travel is huge in the summer, but it's not the only time to take a trip. While a majority of destinations take place in the summer, some happen in winter, spring, and fall, with a few offered yearround. If your school winter break is the best for you, check out Mush, Mush in Minnesota: Dogsledding, or Girls in the Glades.

3. What kind of trip are you "ready" for?

If you're a pro at hiking, spending two weeks climbing in the wilderness may be a piece of cake, but if the closest you come to hiking is walking around your block, you probably want to choose a different destination. If you don't have a lot of travel experience, start with a Getaway in your state, move on to a Getaway in a neighboring state, then try a *destination* that's longer in duration. Finally, when you're ready, enjoy an international trip.





Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations ~~
ightarrow~~ Page 6

destinations Resources

D

 Visit the Girl Scout destinations Web page, <u>www.girlscouts.org/destinations</u>, for trip descriptions, applications, and current offerings. • Get a Girl Scout Travel Log, designed especially for you. In this journal,

- you can record pre-, mid-, and post-trip reflections. Log on to www.girlscouts.org/travel to download a copy.
- Pick up Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel if you are
- going international. Filled with tips for traveling abroad, the Girl's Guide takes you through the steps of planning your own international group trip. Girl Scout adults may want its handy companion, Adult Guide to Girl Scout Global Travel. Copies of both are available at

www.girlscouts.org/travel.

1

Ť

Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations ¥ Page 7

The Application Process

1. Once you've completed a *destinations* application for each event you want to attend and submitted your reference letters, your packet goes to your local Girl Scout council (unless otherwise noted) by the due date your council has set. Next, your council sends the application on to the event sponsors.

2. There are "early" and "late" application dates, which means you have two chances to apply for a destination. So if you miss the council deadline and your application won't arrive to the event sponsor by December 1, you can apply for late acceptance as long as your application is received by the event sponsor by February 16.

3. You can submit up to four applications. If you're accepted to more than one event and want to attend all, go for it.

4. Because you could be accepted to four events but may only be able to attend one, event sponsors require an immediate nonrefundable deposit of between \$50 and \$350 to confirm acceptance and secure a spot. The deposit will be applied toward the event fee.



Application Due Date	Your destination application is due by the deadline set by your Girl Scout council.
Thanksgiving	Your Girl Scout council sends your application to the sponsors of the destinations event you applied for.
December 1	If you submitted an "early" application, it's in the hands of the event sponsors now.
January 16	If you submitted an "early" application, you'll be notified of your status.
February 1	If you submitted an "early" application, your deposit is due to the event sponsor.
February 17	If you submitted a "late" application, it's in the hands of the event sponsors now.
March 2	Whether you applied early or late, by this point you should have received notification of your status.
March 16	If you submitted a "late" application, your deposit is due to the event sponsor.

The Application

The application is officially known as the Girl Scout destinations Application Form for National and International Events. Use the form for all national and international destinations that require an application.

General Guidelines

Type or print clearly using black ink.

- Fill out the application completely.
- Make a copy for yourself. • Make sure you, your parent/guardian, and a staff person
- from your Girl Scout council signs the last page.
- Send or take your completed applications to your Girl
- Scout council before your council's deadline. (If you are a USA Girl Scout Overseas, send your completed application to your overseas committee chair by October 27. If you have questions about the application process, please email: overseas@girlscouts.org.)
 - While you can use the same short answers and references for each event you apply for, you need to
 - write a separate essay for each event. You can apply for up to four (4) destinations.
 - Write your essays on separate pages, using one page
 - Put your name and the event name on the top of each
 - page of your application.

Parts of the Application

- Event Choice and Sponsor
- Applicant Information
- References Information
- Essay
- Short-Answer Questions
- Skills Inventory
- Signatures (yours, your parent's/guardian's, and a council staff member's)
- Reference Form

References

- You'll need to submit two personal references with each application.
- You can use the same two references for each application you submit.
- The references shouldn't be from anyone related to you.
- Consider teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, Girl Scout volunteers, and employers.
- Ask people who know you and your abilities and can give you a good recommendation.
- Be sure to explain destinations to your references.
- Make it easy for your references to write a recommendation by giving them your resumé or a list of your accomplishments.
- Give your references a stamped, council-addressed envelope in which to mail the reference form. Be sure to select people you know will return the information on time.
- Play it safe and ask a third person for a reference. If something comes up with one of the other references, you'll have backup.
- Follow up with a thank-you note.

Essay

The essay is your chance to stand out and express who you are. It should also speak to the event to which you're applying. This means that if you're applying to more than one event, you'll need to write an essay for each.

The question you'll need to respond to in the form of an essay is: Why do you want to participate in the event you have chosen? Think of it as why YOU should be chosen for THIS event. Answer the questions below to practice writing your essay, remembering to be as detailed as possible.

What are the specific values, skills, and experiences that you will bring to the event? How will those values/skills/experiences be useful during the event?

	6	
	A	
	1/	
A		

Essay Question Do's And Don'ts Do:

- Answer the essay question in the first paragraph.
- Be sincere. Write about the real you, not the person you think they want to read about.
- · Start with a great lead and a "wow 'em" finish.
- Use the active voice (strong): "I planned and organized the event." This is preferable to the passive voice (weak): "The event was planned and organized by me."
- Use simple language.
- Check for spelling, punctuation, and grammar; proofread for typos.
- Give yourself enough time to write and proofread. Don't leave it for the last minute!

Don't:

- · Give irrelevant or repetitive information.
- Write a résumé or the story of your life.
- Use clichés or big words (unless that's how you talk every day).

What knowledge and skills would you like to bring home? How would you use the knowledge/skills in your life right now and in the future?

What specials skills, such as those acquired during camping or community service, do you have that are related to the event?

Why do you want to attend this event?

What excites you about trying something new?

How will attending this event change you?

Work on the questions until you're satisfied. Then organize your answers and use them as the basis of your essay; you'll have the specific and detailed information that's important. Next, write a few lines that tie the answers together into one cohesive essay. In the final draft, make sure you explain at least three reasons why you should be selected to the event to which you're applying.

Short-Answer Questions

Keep short-answer questions specific but brief. Following are a few examples.

Question 1:

Have you ever been away from your family overnight? If yes, briefly describe. Answer Ideas: Overnight camping trips, Girl Scout trips, Religious youth-group trips, School trips, Visits to out-of-town friends

Question 2:

What have been your two most meaningful experiences away from home without your family?

Answer Ideas: Use two examples you listed for question one and give each more detail. For instance, where did you go? What was the purpose? What made it special to you?

Question 3:

What kind of activities (sports, clubs, etc.) do you do outside of school?

Answer Ideas: Instead of listing every single activity you've ever done, list only those activities that count, those that best show who you are and that relate to the event to which you're applying. For example: sports, school clubs, religious youth group events, jobs, community service, playing a musical instrument, dancing, and writing (for a school newspaper or yourself).

Skills Inventory

(Languages and Camping/Outdoor Skills)

Check all skills that apply on the application, even if you don't really like the corresponding activity. Do you hate to cook on a fire or camp stove but are still good at it? It's a valuable skill if you want to go on one of the outdoor *destinations* events.



Ch	necklist	
	e you send in your application, make sure	
it's co	mplete by using the checklist below.	
	I reviewed all the destinations information my Girl Scout council gave me and all relevant travel information on the Web site, www.girlscouts.org/destinations.	
	l understand the destinations process.	
	I meet the qualifications, e.g., age requirements or hiking ability or prior travel experience, for all the events to which I'm applying.	
	l blocked off the dates of the events l applied for on my home calendar.	
	My application is honest, concise, and complete.	
	My application is super neat.	
	l made and kept a copy of all my application materials.	
	I have the references that I need.	
	My parent/guardian and I have discussed my application and we have both signed it.	

You're In!

You will be notified of an acceptance to your destination by January 15 if you applied the "early" application. On acceptance, a deposit will be due. The next step is to fill out the appropriate forms, pull together finances, and prepare yourself for travel.

Financing Your destination

Consider what it will cost to attend your event: fees, transportation, equipment, and spending money are just a few anticipated expenses. destinations vary in cost so you will need to anticipate expenses well-before you are selected.

Money to cover the cost of your destination may come from:

Your savings

るる

- Money you've earned from a job
- Girl Scout cookie credits
- GSUSA travelships*
-:: Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF)
 - for international destinations

Financial assistance/scholarships from your local council

Investigate each option. Discuss it with your parents/guardians and determine which options work best for you and your family.

*GSUSA travelships are awarded to Girl Scouts councils as D-Pass Grants. Councils will award scholarships to girls to support the cost of destinations that meet their requirements.

I was asked to be an alternate. What does this mean?

Each destinations event sponsor will select the designated number of participants as well as three to six alternates. If you're selected as an alternate, you have two choices:

1. You can agree to be an alternate. If you agree, your application is not taken out of the selection process. However, you shouldn't agree to be an alternate if it conflicts with another destination you're attending. You may be a to fill in for a previously selected participant at any time including days before the start of the event. If you later decide you're not able to participate in the event if needed, contact the event sponsor as soon as possible.

2. You can decline to be an alternate. Once you decline, it's final. You can't contact the event sponsor and accept at a later date.

Money-Earning Ideas

Here's the cool thing about working on money-earning projects: You'll not only be working to cover trip expenses, you'll be building skills, such as budgeting, goal setting, and customer relations. Learning these skills will impact your future and that of your community.

Been There, Done That

Girl Scouts have traveled everywhere, so why not benefit from others' experiences? Here are ways Girl Scouts have earned money for travel:

"I know of troops in small communities that have put on big money-earning dinners and breakfasts. The key is to sell tickets ahead of time, so you only buy enough food to feed those who RSVP. Otherwise, you are out the money

"We sell roses for Mother's Day. We partner with a flower wholesaler who sells us roses for \$9 a dozen and we sell them for \$20 a dozen. There is no out-of-pocket expense, and we get money from the customer at the time of the order. Then, we pick up and deliver the flowers the day before Mother's Day. The girls prepare nice boxes and each rose has a water vial on its base, so they are really fresh."

"We made and sold 'Jolly Jars,' jars with layered ingredients to make cookies or hot chocolate." "We collect pop cans. Of course, Oregon, which is where I am, has a five cent deposit on pop cans, so it pays off. A garbage bag full of pop cans is worth about \$10. So, we collect cans from friends and neighbors all year long."

"We run the town Father/Daughter Square Dance and Spaghetti Supper."

Fleed

Get Ready to Go!

Once the paperwork and finances are under control, start getting ready for your destination.

- Talk with other Girl Scouts who have been on trips.
- Go on local and regional trips to build up your travel comfort level.
- Link up with a travel advisor who can help you prepare.
- Get comfortable with the place you'll be visiting by learning everything you can about it.

MONEY-EARNING

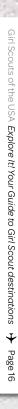
\$

- Get council approval for all money-earning projects.
- Always check with your council before requesting funds from local organizations, foundations, or businesses. Imagine if they gave you \$50 when your council could have gotten \$5,000 if you had coordinated the request?
- Present travel plans to potential contributors—but leave the "ask" to adults In other words, share your excitement about your goal, but let the adults ask for donations.
- Set up a group travel bank account overseen by a designated adult.
- Review the money-earning information on the GSUSA Website: <u>www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_</u> <u>central/money_earning/</u>

Cool Ideas

- Participate in the Girl Scout Cookie program
- Provide childcare at an event such as a community meeting or celebration dinner
- Pick up litter after sports events
- Organize a car wash
- Do face-painting at a neighborhood event
- Hold a can or bottle drive
- Teach dance or cooking
- Care for pets
- Create your own product or service

Look around your community and note what needs there are to be filled and how these needs match up with interests the girls in your group have.



0

Pack Like a Pro

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere

(better known as SWAPS)

Pack Like a Pro

What you pack can make or break your trip. Too much stuff and you'll be lugging around a heavy suitchase. No comfy shoes? Blisters could be in your future. Follow the packing tips below and people might just think you're the pro!

 Know what you have to work with. Check airlines to find out about restrictions on luggage size, weight, and carry-on. If you're traveling between countries, investigate specific regulations for those countries.

• Go light and easy to wash. Choose an easy-care wardrobe that can be mixed and matched and adapted to unexpected occasions and unpredictable weather. Hand-washables and clothing that dries fast are good travelers. Layering is important, especially when traveling at different altitudes. Minimize bulky items, like shoes, coats, and sweaters.

 Pass on the bling. Keep expensive jewelry at home. Avoid appliances and electronics like hairdryers and laptops that can weigh down your bag and often require special power converters. Instead, use that space for an extra pair of contact lenses, sunglasses, socks, etc.

· Go label crazy. Label your luggage, clothing, and equipment inside and out with your name and address.

· Leave a little room. Where are you going to put all the funky things you bought? And don't forget SWAPs and souvenirs. Unless you're prepared to ship things home, leave some wiggle room in your bags.

• Bring special supplies with you. Get extra film and sanitary supplies because they may be expensive abroad. Travel can sometimes disrupt menstrual schedules.

• Keep the important stuff close to you. Place airline tickets, passport, cash, travelers checks, medicine, contact lenses, glasses, etc. in your handbag or money belt. Pack your carry-on luggage with one spare change of clothes just in case your checked luggage gets temporarily lost.

• Pull your own weight. Take a walk around the block with all your luggage. If you come back huffing and puffing, unpack things that might not be so vital. As a rule of thumb, you should be able to run for a train with all your things.

SWAPS is the beloved Girl Scout tradition of exchanging small keepsakes. It started long ago when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from England first gathered for fun, song, and friendship. SWAPS are still a fun way for Girl Scouts to meet and promote exchange.

Each SWAPS article reflects a memory of a special event or a particular girl, saying something about a Girl Scout's journey or highlighting something special about where she lives. And it's simple—the items can even be made from donated or recycled goods. If you're bringing SWAPS, make sure they are reasonably sized and don't take up too much room in your bag.



Pack Like a Pro

Important Stuff

 Airline tickets Passport (with visas) Copies of passport Health forms (if required) Wallet 	 Cash Traveler's checks Credit card Itinerary Lodging information 	 Emergency phone numbers Prescription medication in original containers 	
General Stuff	_	_	
 Travel alarm clock Safety pins Spot remover Umbrella Raingear Calling cards 	 Magazines, books Pen and paper Addresses Glasses Sunglasses Camera/memory card 	 Binoculars Batteries Towel/washcloth Watch Comfort items (stuffed animal, blanket) 	
Toiletries			
 Toothbrush Toothpaste Soap Shampoo Deodorant 	 Comb Hair ties Bandana First-aid supplies Sunscreen 	 Feminine hygiene products Ear plugs Cotton swabs Baggies 	
Clothes			
 Dresses Shirts Skirts Pants Shorts 	 Swimwear Shoes Pajamas Underwear Socks 	 Hats Comfortable shoes Sneakers Flip flops Sweater/sweatshirt 	Purse/backpack

Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations $\,\,
ightarrow\,$ Page 18

On Your Trip

Journal Your Heart Out

-

At the end of each day, find a way to get some you time in and express your feelings about the day's adventures. The laughs, interesting sights, experiences you felt moved by, the moments and scenery you never want to forget-get it all out on (journal) paper.

The Girl Scout Travel Log is designed especially for you... and it's free! Download a copy by going to www.girlscouts.org/destinations. In the Journal, you'll find guided questions that will help you think about what happened that day.

MOSCOW BUL

You, the Before Picture

Departure time is approaching. How exciting!

how you're feeling at this very moment.

about home?

about home?

Veparture time is approaching. How exciting! All those months of planning and preparing have really paid off.

An triose months or planning and preparing have reary paid ont. Answer the questions below to capture the you pre-trip, recording

What three things are you most excited about?

What three things are you most worried about?

What three things do you predict you'll miss the most

What three things do you think you'll miss the least

SU 0206Y DES

12 21:15

recon this trip will be...

Global Advocate

As you travel, you may feel inspired by the things you'll see and do. You may even by spurred on to take action to change something. The questions below can help you identify and record things you want to address as Take Action projects back home. Think hard about the questions each day.

Be an Advocate

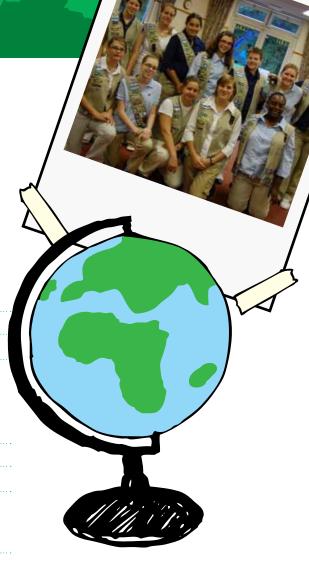
Questions to Help You Identify Issues to Tackle Think about places you visited, things you did, and people you saw today.

Did you:

See something you felt "wasn't right" or needed a change?

Come face to face with a community issue that wasn't being addressed?

Learn about an innovative approach to a community issue?



Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations \rightarrow Page 20

Welcome Back!

Be a Show-Off

-

1

-7

i.

You went on an absolutely amazing trip and had a fabulous time, but now it's over. Don't be sad. Instead, keep the experience alive by sharing it with friends, family, your community, your sister Girl Scouts... Well, okay—with anybody who's willing to listen!

In the space below, write the names of those with whom you want to share your experiences. Include at least two people or groups not part of your immediate circle of family and friends.

Pictures? Scrapbook? Video? How are you going to tell the story of your trip? Use the space below to brainstorm ideas. (Hint: Look back at your journal pages.)



Girl Scouts of the USA Explore It! Your Guide to Girl Scout destinations ightarrow Page 21

Where You've Been and Where You're Going

Now that your travel experience has come full circle, take time to reflect.

First, figure out what's changed about you. Think about each statement below in relation to your travel experience, from the very first moments of brainstorming location ideas to working on your Take Action plan. Put a check next to each statement you feel is true of you. You can record this in The Girl Scout Travel Log, too. Because of my trip:

I have a stronger sense of self

(For example, I learned it's okay to be different from other kids around me; I did things that made me feel good about myself.)

I gained practical life skills

(For example: I learned how to do things I didn't think I could do; I learned how to take care of myself.)

I seek challenges and new opportunities to expand my knowledge

(For example: I tried new activities even if they were hard to do.)

I can think critically about and use different viewpoints to look at issues and ideas

(For example: I tried to solve problems for myself before asking for help; I was willing to change my mind about something if I learned new information.)

I developed healthy relationships with other girls and adults

(For example: I learned I could disagree with someone and still be her friend; I felt like I belonged.)

I know how to work together with other girls toward a common goal

(For example: I worked with a small team of girls to research where we'd stay; I read maps and figured out where we were going while traveling.)

I feel connected to my community and others

(For example: Connecting with other girls helped strengthen my sense of belonging to the Girl Scouts; I interacted with people of different cultures and it helped me feel part of the global community.)

I have educated and inspired others to act

(For example: I will share with others what I learned from my travels.)

I made a difference in the world

(For example: I made decisions about what kind of Take Action project we would do; I felt empowered to make a difference in my community)



Have your story featured on the destinations Web page! Submit your travel story and pictures to GSUSA.

E-mail:

destinations@girlscouts.org

Snail mail: Girl Scouts of the USA

Attention: Destinations 420 Fifth Ave., 15th Floor New York, NY 10018

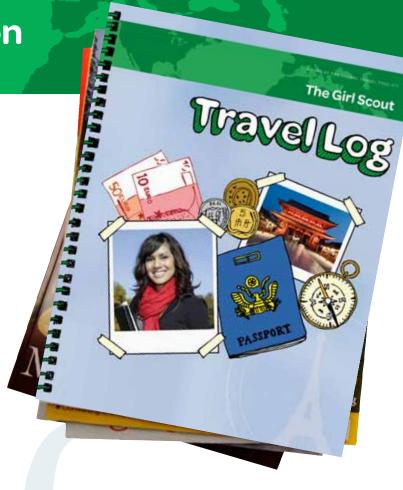
You can also send your story to your Girl Scout council.

Put the "New" You Into Action

Sustain the changes within you. Keep the momentum going by applying what you learned about yourself right now and in the future.

Choose at least two statements (from the previous page) that you checked. In your journal, write how you can use these skills to help with something else you plan to do this year.





The most significant thing I learned is that no matter what our backgrounds or where we were from we were still able to help each other.

– Ayana