

Girl Scout Travel Progression

Progression allows girls to learn the skills they need to become competent travelers, including how to plan and organize trips. Because when girls take the lead, the possibilities are endless.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS

Get your travel feet wet! Walk to a nearby garden, or take a short ride to a firehouse or other local spot.

Keep it girl-led: girls choose the location.

DAY TRIPS

Take an all-day trip!

Keep it girl-led: girls choose the location and activity (perhaps working toward a badge) and make plans for lunch.

OVERNIGHTS

Start with one night, maybe at a camp or museum. Progress to a weekend trip in a nearby city or state park.

Keep it girl-led: girls plan the activity and meals, create travel games, and pack their own overnight bags.

REGIONAL TRIPS

Spend three to four nights away somewhere a few hours from home.

Keep it girl-led: girls plan key details of the trip, such as the activities, the budget, the route, and lodging.

(Extended trip insurance required.)

NATIONAL TRIPS

Travel the country! Trips often last a week or more. Girls should think beyond a typical vacation location and consider historical sites, museums, or national parks!

Keep it girl-led: girls lead the entire planning process and might add a community service or Take Action project.

(Extended trip insurance required.)

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Travel the world! These life-changing trips usually take one to three years to prepare. Consider visiting a WAGGGS World Centre!

Keep it girl-led: girls download the Global Travel Toolkit and plan their entire trip (including learning about the language, culture, passports and visas, exchange rates, etc.).

(Extended trip insurance required.)

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Older girls with national or international travel experience can travel nationally or internationally independently through council-offered travel opportunities or GSUSA's Destinations program. Check with your council, or visit the Girl Scout Destinations website!

Check with your council about age requirements. Girls should have experience at every level of the progression before moving on to the next level. For regional travel, girls must be Juniors or older. For national and international trips, girls must be Cadettes or older.

When moving up to each level of the progression, consider girls' independence, flexibility, decision-making skills, group skills, and cross-cultural skills.

Leaders

Traveling with Girl Scouts is unique because girls take the lead—during the planning *and* on the trip. This builds their skills, develops their confidence, and teaches them how to overcome challenges and practice collaboration. Girls are most likely to achieve these outcomes when they travel with the recommended girl/adult ratios (without too many adults on the trip.) Consider starting your travel experience by inviting parents/guardians to join local field trips and day trips. By the time girls are ready for a weekend trip—and definitely when it comes time for a regional or national trip—they should be ready to do the planning and make decisions. When too many adults participate, trips become less girl-led. Avoid having an excess of parents join your regional, national, and international trips. When girls have the chance to travel independently (with their troop leaders, of course!), there's no limit to what they can learn about themselves and achieve.