

# WHAT IS A GIRL SCOUT TRIP?

A troop trip is an opportunity for girls to learn, have fun and experience adventure. Girls should plan it with guidance from adults. Girls should be active in planning, participate in pre-trip activities at troop meetings, and be prepared for travel prior to departure. When planning trips with girls, be sure to use GSUSA **Safety-Wise**, the Council's **Policies and Standards** and level handbooks.

Learning how to plan a trip should be a progressive experience for a Girl Scout - one that starts at a point she is ready to handle. Daisy Girl Scouts, for example, might begin with a discovery hike. Brownies and Juniors should start with simple trips if they have never done any traveling. Once a troop understands the planning process, girls may progress to longer trips. Refer to **Safety-Wise** pages 44-60 for details. Use this guide during troop meetings to plan your trip.

## Start with the basic questions:

- Where are we going?
- When are we going?
- How will we get there?
- How much will it cost?
- How should we prepare?
- What will we do along the way?
- What will we do when we get there?
- What will we do when we get home?

## Then go one level deeper:

### Where are we going?

- What are the goals for the trip?
- Does the destination have a tie-in to the Girl Scout Program?
- What are the girls' expectations? What are the Leaders' expectations?

**When are we going?** Check the calendar to be sure the date does not interfere with a religious observance, school trip or other event, which will limit participation.

**How will we get there?** An opportunity for girls to participate in the planning begins here.

Small groups, committees or patrols can be assigned to check the costs of bus, train, and air fares, estimate mileage if going by car and learn to use road maps.

Have groups report findings back to the troop members for the purpose of discussion and decision-making.

**How much will it cost?** After the report and discussion, plan a budget based on several methods of transportation. Let girls decide which would be most advisable, with Leaders help, of course. Consider fees such as overnight lodging, food, etc., as part of the budget.

## HOW TO GET READY:

- Now the real fun begins. Activities at troop meetings could focus on:
- What part of the Girl Scout Law will be put into action on the trip?
- What safety procedures should we take?
- What games to play on the bus or train?
- What to wear? What to bring?
- What will we see along the way?
- What forms need to be filled out, i.e. parental permission forms?
- What will we do when we get there?
- Does each girl and parent/guardian understand the purpose of the trip? Introduce the girls to the things to look for and ask them what they expect to see, do and accomplish.
- What will we do when we get home?
- Did the trip meet our expectations? Have troop members evaluate.
- Create a trip log and share with another troop or parents/guardians.
- Write thank you notes!
- Would you recommend this trip and itinerary to others?

**BUDGETING:** Consider cost factors when planning a troop trip.

**A.** What other types of program will be offered during the troop year if all troop money goes towards the trip?

**B.** What is the troop's projected income?

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Family & Friends
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cookies
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Troop money earning projects (*permission required*)

**C.** What are the anticipated expenses?

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Meals
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Accommodations
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Activity Fees
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contingency Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**D.** What will the trip cost per girl?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost per person

What will be paid for by:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Troop funds
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Girl/Adult