

GSCTX Council Travel FAQ's

My daughter has never been away from me that long before. How do I know she's ready? Girls will be talking with the trip lead way before the trips happen to get comfortable with the adult she is going with. If you daughter has never traveled before we suggest a shorter trip. Our trips are progression. Shorter ones for first timers, longer national ones for girls who are not old enough to go abroad yet and 2 week trips internationally for girls who are ready to see the world!

Who are these "adult chaperones" that are taking my Girl Scout on this trip? And what are their qualifications? The trip lead (the adult) leading the trip is a member of the volunteer travel committee. Each person has the required travel trainings as well as first aid and CPR. Additional chaperones apply to attend the trips and if their application is suitable and their qualifications meet the trip standards, the committee will allow them to chaperone the trip.

What if my daughter gets homesick? We will make every effort to work with your daughter on the trip to show her how enjoyable everything is and what new experiences she will get able to see. If necessary, we will have her contact home to speak with a parent for reassurance, but the trip will continue on as planned.

Will my daughter be meeting strange people on this trip? That is the beauty of traveling, meeting new and interesting people. All of the activities that were planned by the girls will be supervised by the adult chaperones and they make sure that the girls' safety is the number one priority. They will have the chance to make new friends and talk with different people.

Will I get a detailed itinerary of the trip? Yes, every trip as it gets closer to the event will have a detailed itinerary as well as phone numbers of places the girls are staying and chaperone cell phones in case of an emergency. Remember these are girl planned trips, so the girls make the decisions on the activities and lodging so if the group hasn't talked about it yet, there is no information to give.

Can my Girl Scout take her cell phone so we can be in touch in case of emergencies? Yes, she will be allowed to take her cell phone. Each trip has a cell phone policy that the girls and adults are expected to adhere to. If the girl does not, her cell phone will be in possession of the trip lead. Adult chaperones are not responsible for lost or stolen phones or electronics on the trip.

You talk about independence and leadership on these trips. How will my Girl Scout gain that on this trip? From the beginning, the girls talk on conference calls planning out these trips. Girls will learn to navigate in the new city they are visiting, maybe a new language and money management. These are just some of the few independent skills girls will be taking away from council trips.

Do you worry about discipline on these trips? Both girls and parents will be signing a behavior contract before leaving for the trip. If the girl does not adhere to the contract and is being asked to leave the trip it will be at the expense of the girl and her family.

What happens if my Girl Scout gets sick on the trip? Parents will receive a copy of the emergency procedures if something happens on the trip. All of our adults chaperoning the trip are trained in first aid and CPR. They will be able to care for her if she gets sick. If she has a severe medical problem, the parents will be contacted and notified of the situation and the girl will be taken to the nearest medical facility.

What happens if my Girl Scout gets lost on the trip? Ideally, this will never happen. However, sometimes girls get distracted or a group gets separated. Before each day, the trip lead will lay out a "what if" plan, so if the group does separate, the girls will know what to do. Each girl will also have each adult chaperone's cell phone number to contact them for anything.

Is there financial assistance available? Yes, you can apply for financial assistance using the financial partnership application form found on GSCTX.org and note on your form the council trip you are applying for.

Will my Girl Scout learn anything on this trip? What won't your Girl Scout learn on this trip? How to work in a group, money management, teamwork, navigation and map skills, use of public transportation, manners and etiquette (for those fancy nights out!) and if she is going abroad, a new language!

How do I know my Girl Scout will be safe? Safety of girls is always an adult's number one priority. Although the girls are planning the trips, the trip lead will make sure that the activities are safe and appropriate. We will not go to places in which are not safe or countries in which the U.S. does not have a good relationship with.

Can I come with my Girl Scout? Council trips are meant to be girl based trips, which means we want to take as many girls as possible on a trip with the minimum number of adults needed. These trips are for girls, not adults. You can apply to chaperone a trip that your daughter is not attending if you have the experience needed for that trip. Only special circumstances will allow chaperones to attend trips with their daughters but that is at the discretion of the travel committee.

Can I sign my Girl Scout's whole troop up for the trip? Some trips, yes! Only 2 trips right now are troop based trips, Ft. Davis and Smokey Mts. The rest of the trips are not troop based so the leaders cannot go with the whole troop. However, if the whole troop wants to sign up and the leader is ok not attending, that is ok!

What if my Girl Scout doesn't know anyone on the trip? That's ok! The girls are all from Central Texas so they will all have that in common. She will be able to make new friends with girls her own age. They all want to go on the same trip so they will be able to share with each other the activities they want to do. Plus, if they attend the phone conferences before the trip so they will have at least spoken to each other by phone and communicated beforehand via e-mail.