Choose Your Own Adventure!

A Resource Guide for how to plan a *super* girl-led Girl Scout trip

What is Choose Your Own Adventure?

A Choose Your Own Adventure trip (CYOA) allows Girl Scouts the chance to plan a trip from start to finish, including

- Choosing where they want to travel
- Planning an itinerary
- Mapping skills
- Transportation – how to get there and how to get around
- Budgeting

The first step is to let the girls decide where they want to go. If you're planning this trip with younger Girl Scouts, you may want to decide on a few destinations that your girls can choose from. From there, let the planning begin! Girls can decide on everything from the sights to see, the restaurants, and even how to get there and how to get around!

Follow these steps for a great adventure!

1. Decide where you're going to travel! Take a vote. Look at a map. Search travel websites to see what girls are most interested in doing.
2. Create a budget: How much do you have to spend as a group and how much is that per person?
3. Figure out how you're going to get to your location: Can you rent a van? Are there multiple parents that are willing to drive?
4. Pick your accommodation. Where can you afford to stay? Can girls share a bed (get parent permission first!)?
5. What do the girls really want to do while they're in that location? Make a BIG list of all of their suggestions, including the price per person, where it's located on a map, and the times/days each attraction is open. Whittle down your list to what girls *really* want to do and what you'll have time for. Be sure to consult Safety Activity Checkpoints.
6. Plan and map out your itinerary, including restaurants, sightseeing spots, and how to get from place to place.
7. You're on your way! Each day be sure to keep track of your budget. Assign captains each day to help with navigation, record the adventure, track receipts, and be "in charge".

Trip Planning Resources

These are some suggestions of websites girls can peruse to plan their trip!

- Groupon – discounted tickets
- Lonely Planet – sightseeing, food & lodging suggestions
- Trip Advisor – sightseeing, food & lodging suggestions
- Wikipedia – sightseeing suggestions
- Yelp – restaurant suggestions
- Hotels:
  - Kayak
  - Travelocity
  - Hotels.com
  - Expedia
  - Priceline
- Do a hashtag search on Instagram, Tumblr, or WordPress
- mymaps.google.com – map builder
- Rand McNally Trip Maker – suggestions for things to do
- And many more!

Itinerary Template

Date: _____

Time of departure	
Destination	
# of miles from previous destination	
Length of time *to* destination	
Length of time *at* destination	
Notes	

Budgeting

When deciding on a location, make sure that all the costs are doable within the budget you decide. It's probably best to decide on how much you want to spend altogether and let girls work backwards.

Figure out how much money you'll have total (the cost each girl is paying to go on the trip) and then divide that by the total number of people going (including chaperones). This will ensure that you know about how much per person you have to spend throughout your trip. After you have that number you can begin to plan activities, restaurants and lodging costs.

*Pro Tip: When thinking about restaurants and activities, make sure you aren't choosing things that require a lot of advanced notice (unless you've had time to plan) or have a large cost. It is doable to have a great time while not breaking the bank and stretching your funds!

Use the budget outline below to keep track of your daily spending. Make sure you assign someone the task of keeping all receipts (like your captains for the day) and then writing them in this budget each night so you know how much you have left after each day!

Date	Location/Business	Item Purchased	Total Cost
Total Cost of Day _____ of trip:			**$**