

Virtual Troop Meeting Guide: Planning a Trip!

Even though we aren't traveling at the moment, it doesn't mean we have to forget about travel! Let girls exercise their travel brain by planning a trip – even if it means you can't go on it quite yet OR have girls plan a field trip you *are* able to take. Use this as a guide at your next virtual meeting!



If girls decide to daydream about international travel, they can check out [this link](#) to video recordings of the WAGGGS World Centres or the [GSGCNWI Travel YouTube Channel](#) for inspiration.

Step 1: How to plan a trip & decide where to go

Ask: When planning a trip from scratch, what are all of the things you need to plan?

- Where you want to go – how many cities or countries are you going to?
- Sightseeing
- Food
- How to get there
- How to get around
- What to pack
- Budgeting
- How long you're going to travel for
- Accommodation

The first step in any trip is deciding where you're going to go. Is it a day trip to a nearby museum? Or are you planning a future trip to another state or country?

Are your Girl Scouts planning a future international trip to one of the [WAGGGS World Centres](#)?

Above are links to videos about the WAGGGS World Centres. WAGGGS stands for World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts – there are Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries. The world centers are places for these Girl Guides and Scouts to get together, meet each other, and learn about various cultures. The world centers are...

- Sangam, located in India
- Our Cabana, located in Mexico
- Our Chalet, located in Switzerland
- Pax Lodge, located in London, England
- And Kusafiri, a world center that travels around Africa

Which of these world centers are you most interested in traveling to? Why?

Itinerary Planning

Let's take some time now to do a little research – besides the location you've chosen, what else do you want to do while you're there?

- Are there sights to see?
- Are there must-visit restaurants?
- Are there particular foods this location is known for?

Take 10 minutes or so to make a GIANT list of all the things you want to do when you take the trip. This can be done in breakout rooms or one of the adults can share their screen and type out the list. It might not be possible to get to ALL of the places the girls want, so take some time to narrow down your list to what's feasible in the amount of time you have.

One great way to help plan your itinerary is to use a [My Maps on Google](#). On this site, you can pin all of the sights and restaurants you want to visit, and color code them. By seeing all of the places on a map, you can see what's close and decide what you could easily do in one day. Before making your itinerary, pin all of the places you want to go. Then, when you start to plan out a daily itinerary, you can see what's closest to each other – this makes travel between locations much easier!

Budgeting

When planning a trip, money is probably the most important thing to keep at the forefront! So, it's important to have a budget when planning a trip – and to stick to it when you're on the trip! What are all of the things you'll need to pay for on your dream trip?

- Transportation – flight, train, gas, rental car, etc.
- Accommodation
- Food – 3 meals a day and snacks!
 - Does your accommodation provide any meals?
- Entrance fees to museums and sites
- Transportation to/from the airport
- Transportation from city to city or country to country
- Transportation around the city you're visiting
- Souvenirs

Because they're not yet adults with a full-time job, Girl Scouts like to travel on a budget! What are some ways you can think of to make your trip more affordable?

- Stay at a hostel (like a hotel, but shared accommodation with bunk beds and shared common space)
- Shop at the grocery store for meals
- Do your research!
 - Some museums may have free days

- Go to free museums or sites
- Choose a less expensive airline
- Look up the menu at restaurants before going there
- Find accommodation that has breakfast included
- Sit in economy on the flight
- Find discounts online like Groupon

When you're keeping a budget, do you use any particular apps or websites? Using an Excel spreadsheet is an easy way to track your expenses because of the functions. Now that you know where you want to go, start a budget for the trip in Excel.

Nitty Gritty

We've planned some of the big parts of the trip, but there's a lot of smaller – but important! – things to keep in mind.

- Do they speak English in the place you want to travel to? If not, learn a new language – or at least a few important phrases. What phrases do you think a person needs to know when going to a new country?
 - Hello
 - Thank you
 - Goodbye
 - Where's the bathroom
 - The name of the place you're staying
- To go to an international location, you need a passport. Do you have one already? If not, what's the process of obtaining a passport?
- Once you have a passport, you may need to obtain a visa for the country you're traveling to. How do you do that?!
- Are there any vaccinations you *must* get in order to this country? Are there any you *should* get? Check out the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).
- What is the country's currency? How do you get this currency? What is the conversion rate?
- Check out the weather for the days or time of year you're going. What should you pack?

Documenting your experience

If your group decides to go on this trip, don't forget to take pictures and share with other Girl Scouts about your trip! Why not show off how much fun you all had?

If you have any questions or want to share your trip plans, I'd love to hear them! Reach out to Ashley at achristensen@girlscoutsgcnwi.org. Happy traveling!