

# Traveling with Girl Scouts



**Whether you travel around the world or around the block, some of the most memorable moments in a Girl Scout's life happen while taking trips! Traveling offers vast opportunities for girls to develop leadership skills.**

Girl Scouts is a great place to learn how to plan and take trips! Traveling is built upon a progression of activities and girl-led processes. Girl Scout Daisies, for example, can begin with a discovery walk planned by the leaders. By the time the girls are Cadettes or older they are able to plan their own national and international travel!

Troops are strongly encouraged to go through the progression process together.

**Here is an example of ideal travel progression for any troop:**

<b>Level 1</b>	Short trips to points of interest in the neighborhood, like a walk to the nearby garden or a short ride by car or public transportation to the firehouse or courthouse. <i>Level 1 Trips usually take place during regular troop meeting times.</i>
<b>Level 2</b> <i>Day Trip</i>	An all-day visit to a point of historical or natural interest in a nearby city. Girls can select locations and do much of the trip-planning, while never being too far from home. <i>Level 2 Trips are day trips, not overnight trips.</i>
<b>Level 3</b> <i>Overnight</i>	One or two nights away to a nearby city, museum overnight or Camp Scherman. These short trips, less than 300 miles away, are just long enough to "get their toes wet", but not long enough to create homesickness. Traveling a short distance as a troop sets the foundation for planning a longer trip. <i>A "parent and me" trip can be part of your troop's Level 3 progression.</i>
<b>Level 4</b> <i>Extended Overnights</i>	Two to Four nights over 300 miles away. Girls are able to assist with reserving accommodations and finding flights if needed. GSUSA Getaways are a great introduction to Troop/Group Travel. <i>Level 4 travel should be completed as a troop or group.</i>
<b>Level 5</b> <i>National Trips</i>	Travel anywhere in the country, often lasting a week or more, is considered a Level 5 trip. Try to steer clear of trips girls might take with their families and consider trips that offer some educational component. Check out the many incredible cities, historic sites, and museums around the country!
<b>Level 6</b> <i>International Trips</i>	Traveling around the world often requires up to two years of preparation. When girls show an interest in traveling abroad, download the Global Travel Toolkit for the Girls to use to plan their trip. Visiting one of the four Girl Scout World Centers is a great place to start, but also consider traveling with worldwide service organizations.

# Travel Paperwork Timeline

The table below gives a timeline of when Travel Paperwork is due. The levels correspond to the Travel Progression Levels on the front of this document and in the Troop/Group Travel Guidelines.

Level	Service Unit Manager Approval	Program Department	Troop/Group Travel Update	Itinerary	Insurance Required	Training Required
Level 1	48 hours prior	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required*	New Leader Orientation Level Training
Level 2	2 weeks prior	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required*	New Leader Orientation Level Training
Level 3	6 weeks prior	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Level Training, Indoor Overnight Adventures, CPR/First Aid, Troop Tent Training (if camping)
Level 4	8 months before departure	6 months before departure	4 weeks before departure	4 weeks before departure	If more than 2 nights, Plan 3E, 4 weeks before departure	Level Training, Travel Training, Indoor Overnight Adventures, CPR/First Aid, Troop Tent Training (if camping)
Level 5	15 months before departure	12 months before departure	4 months before departure	4 weeks before departure	4 weeks before departure, Plan 3E	Level Training, Travel Training, Indoor Overnight Adventures, CPR/First Aid, Troop Tent Training (if camping)
Level 6	20 months before departure	18 months before departure	6 months before departure	4 weeks before departure	4 weeks before departure, Plan 3PI	Level Training, Travel Training, Indoor Overnight Adventures, CPR/First Aid Level II, Troop Tent Training (if camping)

Safety Activity Checkpoints must be followed with all Girl Scout Events. These may require additional paperwork or training. Please make sure to follow all guidelines. Safety Activity Checkpoints are found on the [Forms and Docs page](#) of the Girl Scouts of Orange County website.

\*Level 2 Activity Insurance is required for Level 1 and 2 trips when non-members and guests attend.