



Council Guide to Destinations: 2017

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Destinations Website:

<http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/travel/take-a-trip/destinations/>

Destinations Application:

http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/travel/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Destinations_girl_application_2017-2018.pdf

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Section 1: What are Destinations?

Destinations, Getaways, International Events...

There are so many ways that Girl Scouts can travel! GSUSA helps to organize and promote three types of travel options for individual girls and groups: **Destinations**, **Getaways**, and **International Events**.

Girl Scout **Destinations** are travel programs available to **individual** Cadette, Senior and Ambassador girls. They are not troop or group trips, and they do not accept adult participants. (In **rare** circumstances, trip organizers may post their need for a volunteer with a specific skill on the Destinations website.) Each girl applies individually, and on her trip, she will have the opportunity to meet girls from all over the US, and sometimes from around the world!

Girl Scout **Getaways** or **International Events** are programs for troops and groups.

TRIP TYPE	WHO ATTENDS?	LENGTH	TIME OF YEAR	AGE	HOW TO APPLY?
Destinations	-Individual girls only -No Groups -No Girl/Adult pairs	Varies: usually 6 - 14 days	Summer (May - August) or Winter Break	11 - 18*, but most trips are either 11 - 14, 14 - 18, or 15 - 18	Girls' home councils send girls' applications to Destination sponsors
Getaways	-Troops and Groups - Adult leaders needed -Some may accept groups with equal girl/adult numbers	Varies: usually 3-5 days	Varies: year-round	Varies: see event listings	Groups apply directly to event sponsor
International Events	-Troops and Groups - Adult leaders needed -Some may accept groups with equal girl/adult numbers	Varies: because they are international, usually groups will travel for a week or more	Varies: typically summer	Varies: see event listings	Groups apply directly to event sponsor

**Note: These events can be attended by an 18-year old registered Girl Scouts as long as the event is prior to September 30.*

This Guide focuses solely on Destinations travel.

Destinations Statistics

Some statistics about Destinations 2016 (trips will be completed January 2017):

- 38 Destinations trips
- 18 domestic trips (47%) and 20 international trips (53%)
- Trips to 17 states and 14 countries
- ~500 girls attended Destinations (numbers not yet final)
- Girls represented 88 Girl Scout councils plus USA Girl Scouts Overseas
- Average of 13 girls on each trip
- Average age = 15 (This is down from average age of 16 in 2013. We are seeing increasing interest from younger girls in Destinations.)

Who Organizes Destinations?

1. Girl Scout Council–Sponsored Destinations

Each year approximately 15-20 Girl Scout councils are proud sponsors of Destinations, bringing together girls from across the nation. These Destinations can either take place locally – perhaps using a council property for accommodation – or the trip can take place out of state or abroad. Councils reserve no more than 50% of the spaces for girls from the local council; the rest of the spaces (typically more than 50%) are open to girls from any council.

Councils decide to host destinations for many reasons, including:

- Inspiring and activating a travel volunteer community
- Engaging older girls or young alumnae in planning the event (all events should include a girl committee to ensure it is girl-led!)
- Exposing your own girls to a diverse group of Girl Scouts from far and wide, encouraging them to participate in an out-of-council Destinations trip the next year!
- Showcasing your local area, a successful program, or a great property

2. Travel Vendor–Sponsored Destinations

Some Destinations are sponsored directly by a travel vendor. All vendors have been vetted by GSUSA and provide programs specifically for Girl Scouts. 2017 Destination Sponsors include:

- [ATS \(Alpine Training Services\)](#)
- [Costa Rica Rainforest Outward Bound](#)
- [No Barriers Youth \(formerly Global Explorers\)](#)
- [Teton Science Schools](#)
- [U.S. Space and Rocket Center](#)

All Destinations sponsors have contact information listed for each trip at the bottom of the trip posting on the [Destinations website](#).

Section 2: Application & Selection

Destinations 2017 – Timeline

Destinations can be life-changing experiences for girls, but they need **you** to get them started on the path, and to help them see it through. Your role is to help girls navigate the experience – from making girls aware that Destinations exist, to helping them share their experiences with other girls after they come home.

AUGUST 15	2017 and some 2018 Destinations begin to be released on GSUSA website.
SEPTEMBER 1	Final details for ALL trips updated & girl applications posted on website.
<i>November 28</i>	<i>Round 1 applications due to GSMISTS; GSMISTS to review and send to sponsors</i>
DECEMBER 5	Round 1 applications due to sponsors
JANUARY 6	All Round 1 applicants are notified of their status
JANUARY 20	Round 1 accepted participants must pay a deposit to hold her place on the trip
<i>February 13</i>	<i>Round 2 applications due to GSMISTS; GSMISTS to review and send to sponsors</i>
FEBRUARY 20	Round 2 applications due to sponsors
MARCH 3	All Round 2 applicants are notified of their status
MARCH 17	Round 2 accepted participants must pay a deposit to hold her place on the trip
After March 17	<p>Most sponsors who still have space on 2017 Destinations will continue to accept applications on a rolling basis until trips are full or recruitment is closed. Councils can choose whether or not to continue accepting and forwarding applications.</p> <p>Following Round 2, recruitment for 2018 Destinations will be suspended, and will begin again in August 2017.</p>

Section 3: Funding Destinations: Grants & Scholarships

There are scholarships managed by GSUSA that help lower the cost of Destinations travel for girls.

1. The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

Juliette Gordon Low was a prolific traveler who had friends around the globe. To honor Juliette's love of traveling, experiencing new cultures, and making new friends, Girl Scouts of the USA created the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF) in 1927. The purpose of the fund is to extend Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding to girls around the world, as well as to support international friendship through service projects, training events, and exchange visits.

Today, the JLWFF strengthens the Girl Scout Movement by supporting national and global initiatives to serve girls and young women. For Destinations, the fund subsidizes girl travel to WAGGGS-endorsed events through the Girl Scout Destinations program or Destinations trips on which girls will connect with other WAGGGS members.

Trips are identified and pre-approved by GSUSA, and each accepted girl accepted to those specific trips will be awarded the JLWFF scholarship. Girls who receive this scholarship (each girl for that particular trip) will have to complete an essay upon return. The Destinations website listings and "2017-2018 Destinations Listing" spreadsheet will indicate which trips have been awarded JLWFF scholarships.

2. The Elliott Wildlife Values Project

The Elliott Wildlife Values Project (EWVP) of Girl Scouts of the USA develops girls as leaders whose wildlife conservation & environmental stewardship efforts positively impact their communities and the world.

Since 1977, the Elliott Wildlife Values Project has instilled girls with a lifelong commitment to the environment and to wildlife conservation, thanks to a trust fund established by [Herford N. Elliott](#). Additional funding and in-kind support is provided through grants, sponsors, and alliances.

The EWVP fosters the Girl Scout Mission: building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girls develop science, outdoor, and leadership skills through girl-led, cooperative activities, in which they learn by doing. In the process, they:

- Discover a strong sense of self, develop positive values, and gain an understanding of their important role in caring for wildlife and our earth's natural resources.
- Connect with nature, the outdoors, and their local and global communities; network with environmental experts; and investigate career opportunities.
- Take action to identify community and environmental needs, positively impact the environment, and educate and inspire others to act as stewards of the earth and its wildlife.

The Elliott Wildlife Values Project will provide 40 scholarships for 2017 Destinations, in amounts between \$400 - \$500 per girl, for a total of \$20,000 in scholarships. All girls selected to travel on Wyoming Wildlife Wonders, sponsored by Teton Science Schools, will receive a scholarship upon acceptance. Other specific Destinations will have a limited number of scholarships available. Girls

must fill out a scholarship application form, in addition to the regular Destinations application form, and send to the Destinations sponsor. See website and Destinations 2017-2018 spreadsheet for details.

3. Vickie Traxler - Muskegon County Funds

Funds are available for those living in Muskegon County to travel in the Girl Scout Destinations program. Use the Financial Assistance for Activities form attached to this document.

4. Destinations Sponsor Scholarships

Some Destinations sponsors also may provide scholarship funding for girls. See Destinations website for details.

5. Product Sales

Monies earned during the Cookie Sale can be used toward Destinations in the following ways:

- Booth Sales proceeds can be set aside for individual girls, connects with the Sally Ellis to coordinate. sellis@gsmists.org
- Home and Garden Show/Expo (March 2-5, 2017), GSMISTS will reserve one cookie booth shift for girls traveling on Destinations. More details to come.
- Earned Cookie Dough can be redeemed for Destination funding. Please use the Service Unit Cookie Dough Redemption form attached to this document. Funds will be sent directly to the Destinations Sponsors to go toward girl's balance.

6. GSMISTS Financial Assistance & Money Earning Activities

GSMISTS has set aside funds to support girls participating in GSUSA Destinations. Use the Financial Assistance for Activities form attached to this document.

- Girls who receive this assistance (each girl for that particular trip) are asked to complete an essay (written, video, photo) upon return.

Girls that want to organize Money Earning activities for their GSUSA Destination are encouraged to read the [Money Earning Guide](#).

Girls may want to reach out to local Service Unit to brainstorm ideas on how they may support the Destinations program.



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Service Unit Event Cookie Dough Redemption Form

Form must be filled out in its entirety. A copy of the event flyer or brochure MUST be attached for processing.

Send form and attachment(s) to your GSMISTS Council Product Sales staff member or productsales@gsmists.org.

Prior approval is needed. Cookie Dough amount used per girl may not exceed event cost. Allow 4 weeks for processing.

EVENT INFORMATION

Name of Event _____ Date of Event _____

Event cost _____ Service Unit _____

Name of Service Unit Treasurer _____

Address of Treasurer _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
(This is where the check will be sent for reimbursement)

COOKIE DOUGH INFORMATION

Name of Girl _____ Troop # _____

Cookie Dough Number _____

Dollar Amount used from Cookie Dough \$ _____

Name of Girl _____ Troop # _____

Cookie Dough Number _____

Dollar Amount used from Cookie Dough \$ _____

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Financial Assistance for Activities Form

Council Sponsored Activities/Training Events
**Please do not use this form for Camp Activities*

This form must be completed by the parent/guardian and enclosed with a Council Event Registration Form. In order to process your request, a separate form must be used for each girl. All information remains confidential. Individuals applying for Financial Assistance must participate in Fall Product Sale AND Cookie Sale to be eligible for Financial Assistance through the council. Please submit this completed form to mvp@gsmists.org. Allow at least 4 weeks for processing. **Incomplete forms will not be processed.**

Applicant Information:

Girl's Name	Birth Date	Age	Current Grade
Parent/Guardian Name	Email Address	Telephone	
Address	City	State	Zip
County of Residence	Troop Number (if applicable)	Service Unit	

Level of Participation:

- GS Daisy (Gr. K-1)
 GS Brownie (Gr. 2-3)
 GS Junior (Gr. 4-5)
 GS Cadette (Gr. 6-8)
 GS Senior (Gr. 9-10)
 GS Ambassador (Gr. 11-12)
 Adult

Event/Activity Information:

Event/Activity Name: _____ Event/Activity Date: _____
 Event/Activity Fee: _____ Parent/Guardian Payment: _____
 Cookie Dough Applied: _____ Assistance Requested: _____

Family Information:

Has the applicant received any financial assistance before? Yes No
 If yes, what years? _____
 Is your daughter a registered Girl Scout in the current membership year? Yes No
 If yes, did she participate in the most recent Girl Scout Fall Product Sale? Yes No
 If no, why: _____
 Did she participate in the most recent Girl Scout Cookie Sale? Yes No
 If no, why: _____

Girl resides with: Both Parents Mother only Father only Guardian Other: _____

Number of children living in the home: _____

Number of adults living in the home: _____

Total family income from all sources (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$11,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 - \$29,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000 - \$49,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$11,000 - \$14,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000 - \$34,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 - \$54,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 - \$19,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 - \$39,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55,000 - \$59,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 - \$24,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000 - \$44,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000+

Please provide any information explaining the need for financial assistance:

I verify that the information given is true and accurate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Applicant

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received/Received by: _____

Date Approved/Denied: _____

Registered Member: Yes No

Council Debt Amount: _____

Cookie Dough: _____

Other Support: _____

Event/Activity Name: _____

Event/Activity Date: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Amount Granted: _____

Approval/Denial Letter Sent: _____

Amount Used: _____

Approved by: _____

Approved by: _____

Account Number: _____