

# A G.I.R.L. Journey



## The World Is Her Oyster

### Four Reasons You Should Let Her Travel as a Girl Scout

We're not talking field trips. We're talking access to life-changing opportunities to explore different locales and cultures and flexing her risk-taker, do-gooder muscles. Did you even know, as a Girl Scout, she has opportunities to travel not available to non-Girl Scouts? From *Meghan Schafer, GSCWM's Volunteer International Trip Coordinator*, here are the top four reasons you should let her travel as a Girl Scout:

1. **Courage, confidence and character.** Travel helps girls grow in unique ways. When girls travel to new places they open themselves up to experiencing new cultures, connecting with new people, experiencing new adventures and so much more. 75% of Girl Scouts who travel on big trips stay in Girl Scouts and 78% use their travel experience on their college resume. As one girl said, "Absolutely go! It's an amazing experience to get pushed outside of your comfort zone in the best way possible and in a safe environment with other Girl Scouts."

2. **Connections.** She'll build connections and relationships. Girls get a chance to connect with others who are unlike anyone else they have ever met. This gives them a

chance to gain new and global perspectives and ways of doing things. It allows them to learn how to connect on different levels and solve conflict in healthy ways. These new skills will transfer to their experience when they are thrust into the college world in just a few years and make them far more prepared to take on this new challenge.

3. **Self-care.** She'll learn to take care of herself. Travel offers girls a chance to learn how to be fully responsible for themselves often for the first time on their own. Group travel requires girls to be mindful of their own belongings, get themselves up and ready each day, make decisions about meals and activities and much more. It allows them to learn how to deal with situations when their decisions are not always the best. They learn new coping skills and ways to problem solve. These will translate into lifelong skills.

4. **Experience.** She'll have amazing new experiences. Travel gives her a chance to see more of our amazing world. She'll get to try activities she may not have access to at home such as snorkeling with giant turtles, climbing 14,000 foot mountains or seeing Broadway Shows. She'll meet people she would have never met which often leads to lifelong friendships. She'll try food she's never imagined (food can be a great way to experience new places and gain a new sense of the world around her). Her experience will change her for the better. Everything she sees, does, eats and experiences will make an impression. The girl who sets off on the adventure won't be the same girl who returns. She'll have set the stage for adventure and transformative experience.

Future travel destinations include Iceland, Peru, Spain, France, Japan and more. The next information session is April 9, 2020. Contact [travel@gscwm.org](mailto:travel@gscwm.org) to register. For more on all the ways she can travel as a Girl Scout visit our [webpage](#).

*When she's not leading Girl Scouts to fabulous places or zip lining through the jungle, Meghan Schafer is Director of the Playspace Program at Horizons for Homeless Children.*