



# USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS

## PARENT GUIDE TO GIRL SCOUTING OVERSEAS

AN INTRODUCTION FOR FAMILIES LIVING OVERSEAS



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### The Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout law.

### The Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be  
Honest and fair,  
Friendly and helpful,  
Considerate and caring,  
Courageous and strong, and  
Responsible for what I say and do,  
And to  
Respect myself and others,  
Respect authority,  
Use resources wisely,  
Make the world a better place, and  
Be a sister to every Girl Scout.



## THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

The Girl Scouts can lead to success! There are five different age levels and each age level is specially designed to appeal to a girl's interests and meet her unique needs.

Daisy Girl Scout	5 years old or Kindergarten
Brownie Girl Scout	6-8 years old or Grades 1-3
Junior Girl Scout	9-11 years old or Grades 4-6
Cadette Girl Scout	12-14 years old or Grades 7-8
Senior Girl Scout	14-17 years old or Grades 9-12
Studio 2B	11-17 years old or Grades 6-12



As your daughter progresses through Girl Scouting, her opportunities expand. She can earn patches and badges that recognize her willingness to try something new, set goals and succeed to the best of her abilities. Try-Its and badge work emphasize building skills, learning about technology, performing service projects and exploring career options.

Your daughter can eventually aim for Girl Scouting highest recognition – The Girl Scout Gold Award.



*Girl Scouts is where today's girls become tomorrow's leaders.  
Through activities that are fun and personally challenging, girls learn decision-making  
skills and build self-confidence.*

## WHY BE A PART OF USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS?

According to the 2000 U.S. census, 7.4 million children aged 1-9 and 6.2 million aged 10-19 relocate with their families, either within the United States or abroad. Whether your family has relocated overseas with a corporation, an embassy, or missionary services, your daughter must leave everything that is familiar to her. But she can still remain active with Girl Scouts through USA Girl Scouts Overseas. Belonging to a familiar, reputable group gives girls the security of knowing that they'll have an instant group of friends when they reach their new home.

Your daughter's overseas experience will give her the advantage of appreciating different cultures, foods and religions. She will learn to respect and appreciate the innate beauty inherent in the different societies of the world through USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

## GIRL SCOUTS - FOR ADULTS AND GIRLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

USA Girl Scouts Overseas depends on a strong partnership of volunteer leaders, girls, families and the overseas community. The Girl Scout program works so well overseas because of parents and leaders.

Through this partnership, Girl Scouting overseas can make a difference in your daughter's life as well as in yours wherever you may relocate:



## HOW USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS IS ORGANIZED?

Girl Scouts of the USA recognizes "**Overseas Committees**" (**OC**) in communities outside of the United States. Girl Scout councils do not exist overseas. These Overseas Committees are collectively known as **USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO)**. While girls live in other countries — if they hold an American passport or attend American or International schools — USA Girl Scouts Overseas provides them with the fun, friendship and adventures of Girl Scouting no matter where they are in the world.

## WHERE USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS IS ORGANIZED?

You can organize an Overseas Committee at a school, embassy or other community-based site. Each location overseas may vary based on the community or school. An Overseas Committee can be small or large based on the number of girls and volunteers. There can be more than one Overseas Committee in a particular city, depending on how far away the schools are from one another. Usually in a large city, there will be several American or international schools and there can be an Overseas Committee at each school.



Discover the fun,  
friendship, and  
strength of girls together



## WHO FUNDS USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS?

USA Girl Scouts Overseas troops are often supported by overseas companies or corporations. This is provided through sponsorship.

Here's where the funds come from:

### The Girl Scout

- Pays \$10.00 annual membership fee to the national organization
- Pays weekly dues, set by the troop, for supplies, program materials, etc.
- Daisy Girl Scouts pay a small activity fee, set by the leader and parents

### The USA Girl Scouts Overseas Committee

Earns money for trips, special events and camping through:

- Girl Scout Calendars Sales
- Local sales of non commercial products such as baking cookies, spaghetti dinners, etc.



## WHAT USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS OFFERS YOUR DAUGHTER



Girl Scouts overseas participate in many different activities. We encourage our locations overseas to work with the Girl Guide organization in their country. There are two awards that girls can earn when working with the Girl Guides. The **International Friendship Recognition Pin** award encourages Girl Scouts overseas to develop international friendships with girls in their host country. Learning to find a friend and making new friends is a valuable skill at home and abroad.



The **Lady Baden-Powell International Friendship Award** encourages Girl Scouts in overseas locations and their host country Girl Scouts/Girl Guides to work together in the spirit of friendship. Required activities focus on communication, community service, camping, crafts, and culture. Girls earn the "Lady Baden-Powell International Friendship Award" patch and adults earn the award's bar and charm.

L.B.P



## WHAT USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS OFFERS YOU!

Adult volunteers are vital to Girl Scouting; without the volunteers the program could not exist overseas.



As parents, you should assist leaders in whatever capacity you can. There are many benefits for you as an adult member of Girl Scouts Overseas:

- Share an important part of your daughter's life and spend time with her in wholesome, meaningful activities
- **An opportunity** to make a **difference** in the lives of girls
- Attend one of our overseas trainings, depending on what part of the world you are living in. Europe - Germany, West Pacific - Japan and New York.

*Girl Scouting is International. As part of a worldwide movement for girls with members in 140 countries, this sisterhood builds global understanding.*

## THE USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

An Overseas Committee is made up of the **Overseas Committee Chair (OC)** and one adult registered with each troop and at least two adults from the community. An Overseas Committee member can be part of the troop or register as an individual with the committee. The Overseas Committee Chair in the location is ultimately responsible for the delivery of the Girl Scout program overseas. She will work with the leaders and Overseas Committee members in this effort.

### Overseas Committee Members –

Treasurer

Secretary

Registrar



These are the key positions that must be filled.

## THE USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS TROOP

*TROOP VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!*

Your daughter's Girl Scout overseas troop exists only because the adult volunteers make a commitment of time and energy. The troop cannot function without the help of other adult volunteers. The troops need the family members to support them in a variety of ways.

The following are positions that you may consider:

**Support Positions** – *as requested by the Overseas Committee Chair,*

- ∇ adult chaperones on trips,
- ∇ serving as emergency contact
- ∇ Transportation
- ∇ Fundraising
- ∇ First Aid



## THE GIRL SCOUT UNIFORMS AND HANDBOOKS

USA Girl Scouts Overseas use the same uniforms and handbooks that girls in the United States do. The uniforms and handbooks differ by age level. The uniform is not required for membership. Girls can wear a Girl Scout tee-shirt or sweatshirt, or wear their GSUSA membership and World Association pins on regular clothing. They can also wear the USA Girl Scouts Overseas pin.

## GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA HEADQUARTERS

### USA GIRL SCOUTS OVERSEAS OFFICE IN NEW YORK

USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO) is the arm of Girl Scouts of the USA in New York City. USAGSO provides support to all USAGSO Overseas Committees. We serve approximately 21,000 girls in 84 countries.

*Link Girls through friendship, learn respect and consideration,  
and expand your horizon  
With USA Girl Scouts Overseas*



## YOUR REFERENCE

Name of Overseas Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Troop Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_