Troop Trips (Narrative)

The first step with any trip is to determine where they would like to go. This needs to be a decision made by all the girls. Set the parameters and let them brainstorm. Depending on their age:

* Will they go on a local trip?
* To the local library, or park
* visit a farm or orchard
* visit a local vet’s office.
* Would it be a whole day to spend at a zoo, or science center?
* or a Girl Scout council planned event like Journey the World

Or is it farther out of town?

* As the girls get older they may want to take a trip to Des Moines, Chicago or St Louis.
* Older girls could even travel by plane to New York or Savannah.
* They can be gone for 1 day or 2 or more days.

Next thing to consider is costs, transportation, what else you will do when you get there, what do you need to bring, and meals along the way.

Decide:

* Date to go – what is the best date for everyone, meeting time, evening, or weekend
* How long will you be gone? 2 hours, day or 2-3 days???
* Do you need reservations in advance – if so how far in advance do they need to be made…may affect your chosen date

Then make a decision!!

Next, consider what kind of permissions you will need:

* Parental Permission Forms
* For local trips/council events
	+ Do not need additional permission form as long as a Yearlong Permission has been signed.

Additional permission form needed if:

* Day Trip is over 100 miles (one way)
* An Overnight one night or more – hotel, lock in, camping
* When you Council Approval:
* Trip Approval form to local Leadership Experience Manager 2 weeks before going. Will need a trip approval form whenever you need additional permission.

When traveling overnight: additional training is needed.

* Overnight Troop Readiness (online) will be needed.
* Someone in your group must be First Aid/CPR certified.
* Contact AdultLearning@GirlScoutsToday.org if you have questions about these trainings.

And read up a little about making sure the girls are safe when traveling. All the information is on the bottom of your handout.

Sure seems like a lot of steps to get a trip off and running! Sure the first time you plan it, things might seem tedious, but once you have it done (and the girls have done it) it will just flow and be easy. The older the girls get, the more they can take an active role.

Just make sure it will be fun for the girls (and safe). And always have a discussion with the girls when you get back about how it went and how you might do things differently next time. You’ll never know what they might come up with!!

***Happy Traveling!!***

Troop Trips (Handout)

**Thinking About a Troop Trip?**

**Some Things to Consider**

***Summer trips are always at the***

***top of the list of things that***

***girls want to do! Start your***

***planning now so that you are***

***prepared and have everything***

***in place.***

As with all aspects of Girl Scouts, progression plays an important role in the travel experience. As girls grow in their travel skills and experience, they can better manage the planning process to longer trips. *Volunteer Essentials* will tell you about the progression of trips that is recommended for each grade level.

Overnight trips require additional training, so be sure to plan for that as well. The type and length of your trip will determine the type of training required and the kind of approval that is needed. At least one adult must have current CPR/First Aid Certification. The training courses will prepare you for each of these steps, but below is the information to help get you started on the planning process with your troop.

• *Volunteer Essentials*: Activities requiring council approval

• [Trip Approval/Information Form](https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/z1x2xogv006eu8q/) : Required before any trip over a 100 mile radius

• Trip Standards and Procedures: *Volunteer Essentials*

• Transporting girls and trip/ hotel safety is covered in Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity

 Checkpoints

• You will also want to check out [*Safety Activity Checkpoints*](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/content/dam/girlscoutstoday/documents/Safety_Activity_Checkpoints/Safety%20Activity%20Checkpoints.pdf)to make sure you have

 thought of all of the safety aspects