

Home, Sweet Home

Welcome back! The trip is over and everyone will be excited to talk about her experiences, show photos and videos, and reflect on what she learned. Evaluate the trip with the girls: Discuss what was fun and worthwhile, decide what the group would like to change on future trips, and report back to the council with the group's evaluation. This is also the time to pay all bills promptly.

What's Different?

After girls have had a chance to reflect individually on their trip, bring the group together to discuss the impact of their travels. Support the Girl Scout process of "learning by doing" by having girls run the debriefing themselves.

Have girls answer the following questions (also included in *The Girl Scout Travel Log*):

- What three things did you enjoy most?
.....
- What three things did you miss from home?
.....
- What three things bothered you or were the most difficult?
.....
- What three things from home did you not miss?
.....
- My greatest single challenge was:
.....
- How do you think this travel experience changed you?
.....
- What, if anything, will you do differently?
.....
- What, if anything, would you change about your trip?
.....
- What did you figure out about teamwork that you can apply to other situations in your life?
.....
- In what other areas of your life can you use the planning and goal-setting skills you developed?
.....
- What has your trip inspired you to do next?
.....



Coach Girls Through:

- Reflecting on their trip
- Sharing their travel experiences
- Creating a Take Action project

Your To-Do's:

- Evaluate the overall trip.
- Complete and submit any follow-up paperwork (such as evaluations) required by your Girl Scout council.

Progress

18-24 Months

12-16 Months

8-12 Months

3-8 Months

6-8 Weeks

4-6 Weeks

On Your Trip

Back at Home

Sharing Experiences



Girls will want to share their experiences. If girls have *The Girl Scout Travel Log*, they can complete the “Be a Show Off” page. Here they are asked to decide who they want to share their trip with and how they want to do it. Once girls complete

the activity, ask them to put a timeline to their plans—who, what, when, where—and make a commitment to following through with them.

Next, ask girls to incorporate all of their plans into a giant chart or poster. By doing this, girls will be accountable to each other and be able to see the web of people who will learn about their trip. Encourage girls to reach out to younger Girl Scouts who are planning trips of their own.

As girls share their experiences, be aware of indicators (what girls say) in relation to the Take Action leadership outcome “girls educate and inspire others to act.” Look at page 4 of this guide to get reacquainted with outcomes and indicators, if needed.



Progress

18-24
Months

12-16
Months

8-12
Months

3-8
Months

6-8
Weeks

4-6
Weeks

On Your
Trip

Back at
Home

Take Action Projects



Now is the time for girls to bring their Take Action projects to the forefront, refine them, and execute them. Support girls in organizing a Take Action kickoff party. The party will give girls the opportunity to celebrate the conclusion of their trip and to start talking about possible projects. Ask girls to bring their travel journals with them.

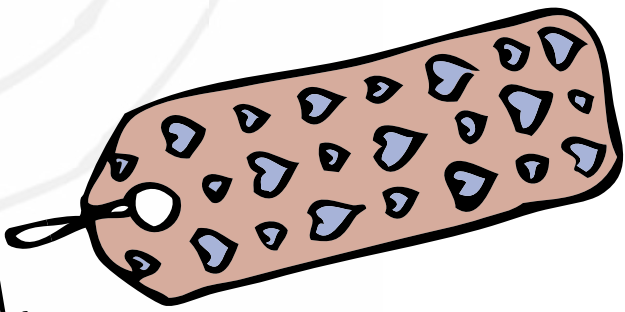
Your help will be invaluable as girls begin to identify issues they want to tackle in their Take Action projects. It's best to approach this topic in two steps, based on the activities in *Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel*, pages 41-42.

First, go over the "You Got Issues (and Solutions)!" activity with girls as a group. This activity helps girls identify issues important to them, stating: "To take on an authentic Take Action project, the issue you're identifying must meet two requirements:

1. Your issue needs to be something you feel passionately about.
2. Your issue must meet a community need.

Start by identifying three potential issues and then narrow them down to one."

For examples of amazing Take Action projects, refer girls to "Awesome Action Projects" in *Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel*.



Discuss It!

Guide girls by asking:

- Do you feel passionately about something you saw or learned on your travels?
- Are there one or two ideas that recur in your journal writing? Who would like to share some of the issues you are interested in pursuing?
- Are you interested in working on one project or several "mini team" projects?

As girls narrow down choices to one issue, they'll need your support on size, scope, and feasibility. Emphasize that Take Action projects should reflect their passions. Projects do not have to take place in the location they visited or even benefit the people they met, but girls can draw from things they felt inspired by. For example, if girls were moved by poverty they observed in India, they could create a Take Action project to benefit residents in their own communities.

Once girls have picked an issue, they will think about the root cause of the issue and possible solutions. Then, they will zero in on one practical solution based on the time and resources they have. Your role is to coach girls to think carefully about how they can have meaningful impact. A clearly focused project can have more impact than a big campaign.

Progress

- 18-24 Months
- 12-16 Months
- 8-12 Months
- 3-8 Months
- 6-8 Weeks
- 4-6 Weeks
- On Your Trip
- Back at Home

Home, Sweet Home

Second, as girls start to build Take Action plans, they can find help in the guiding questions in "Put the Pieces Together" on page 42 in *Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel*. In this section, girls are asked to respond to the following prompts to help frame the details of their projects. The prompts are:

- My project focuses on this community issue:
- My project involves this realistic plan of action:
- My project will take this amount of time to complete:
- My project goals are:
- The impact of this project will be:
- This project could be sustainable if:
- I'll know I will have succeeded when/because:

You can help by recommending that girls write in their journals about these statements. Also remind them that the journaling they did on their trip is a treasure trove of information about their experiences: how they felt, what they noticed, and what their intentions were. Remind girls: "You'll know you have carefully focused your issue and solution when you can write it in one short paragraph. This is what success will look like."

As girls make progress on their projects, continue engaging them with reflection questions:

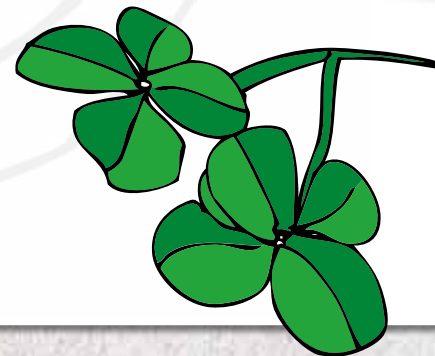
- While doing this project did you meet anyone new? What have you learned from that person? How is your network expanding through this project?
- What kind of impact do you think the project is having? Why?
- Have you experienced any setbacks? How did you deal with them?
- Are you on track with your time frame? Do you need to make any adjustments?
- If you were starting over, would you do anything differently?



Discuss It!

Guide girls by asking:

- Do you want time during each meeting to devote to your project (even just for a check-in or progress report)?
- What other time do you anticipate you will need?
- What do you need help with? Whom can you ask?
- How can you break the project into achievable steps?



Self-Evaluation for Girls

The section “Where You’re Going, Where You’ve Been” in *Exploration: The Girl Scout Guide to Global Travel* and *The Girl Scout Travel Log* is designed as a self-survey for girls. When they answer the questions, they will be able to see their own progress from beginning to end. While their answers are not meant to be discussed in a group, girls may want to talk about what they’ve learned—it’s a great opportunity to have quality one-on-one time with a particular girl.

The survey is derived from outcomes described at the beginning of this guide on page 5. Refer to information about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (in the GSUSA resource *Transforming Leadership* and on the Girl Scout Web site, www.girlscouts.org) for support.

Your current travel experience may have reached its end, but girls are probably already thinking of the next place they want to go. Keep the excitement going by encouraging girls to turn their travel dreams into reality.



Progress

18-24 Months

12-16 Months

8-12 Months

3-8 Months

6-8 Weeks

4-6 Weeks

On Your Trip

Back at Home