

# Girl Scout *destinations*



## Information Packet

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council, Inc.



## Questions?

GSCBC, Inc. Teen Leadership and Travel Pathway Manager:

Renee Naughton

302-456-7150 or 1-800-341-4007, ext. 7186

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## What are “*destinations*”?

A “*destinations*” event is any travel experience, regardless of distance or length of time, which provides girls ages 11-18 with an opportunity to expand her personal experience beyond her everyday scope.

## Girl Scout *destinations* Online

Girl Scout *destinations* 2010 is totally online. All *destinations* events will be posted on the Girl Scout website within the **Escape** section ([www.studio2b.org](http://www.studio2b.org)). The website will not only contain information about all of the national and international *destinations* choices, but it will also contain additional travel information including:

- The application and reference forms, which you can download
- Tips for writing the application essays
- Tips for choosing a personal experience



If you do not have computer access at home, you can access the website at school, a public library, or a local community center. You can type your application responses on-line and then print the document; you can download it to a computer or disk to work on at another computer; or print the document and fill it out by hand or typewriter. If computer access is a problem, please contact GSCBC, Inc. for assistance.

## Application Process

### How to fill out the application

The application process was originated in order to help prepare girls for the many applications they will write throughout their lives, especially as it pertains to life after High School and applying to institutes of higher learning. In an effort to better mirror the college application process, shorten the selection timeframe, and simplify work for councils and event sponsors, the following process was instituted:

1. There will be "early" and "late" application times, thereby giving a girl two chances to apply for a *destination*. There will not be any selection rounds, as in the past. All applications will be mailed to the event sponsors at the same time.
2. Should a girl miss the Council deadline, implying that her application will not arrive to the event sponsor by December 1, 2009, she may apply for "late" acceptance if the event sponsor receives her application by February 1, 2010. The application process will be completed and finalized by March 1, 2010. No applications will be accepted or processed after March 1, 2010.
3. Girls will need to complete one application for each event they intend to apply for. The application will remain basically the same and there will be two letters of references required, unless otherwise noted within the event description on the website. A girl may use the same references for each event she applies for.
4. A girl may submit up to four applications. If a girl is accepted to more than one event, and she is financially able to attend more than one event, she may.
5. Because this means that a girl could be accepted to four events, but only be able to afford to attend one, the **event sponsors will require an immediate deposit of between \$50 and \$200 to secure her spot in an event.**
6. There will be additional deposits due after the acceptance regardless of whether a girl is selected for "early" or "late" acceptance. The deposits will go toward the event fee. The total deposit will not be over and above the stated event fee.

### A general timeline for the selection process for 2010 follows:

November 2, 2009	All early applications are due to GSCBC, Inc. by 4:30 pm.
Thanksgiving, 2009	All applications are enroute to event sponsors from the applicants' home councils.
December 1, 2009	All "early" applications are received by event sponsors.
January 15, 2010	All applicants are notified of their status. Participant status is reported to GSUSA by event sponsors.
February 1, 2010	All deposits holding a participant's spot are due to event sponsors for "early" applications.
February 15, 2010	"Late" applications are received by event sponsors.
March 1, 2010	All additional applicants are notified of their status. Participant status is reported to GSUSA by event sponsors.
March 15, 2010	All "late" applicant's deposits are due to event sponsors. Selection process is closed and ended.

### Tips:

- Type or neatly print your application – *Reason:* if a sponsoring Council receives an enormous number of applications, you will want your application to be easy to read.
- Be mature in answering the application questions. Do not say you want to go because "*it sounds like fun.*" Say something about how the event will be an educational experience or document past experiences that qualify you to attend the event.
- Create a rough draft of your application and then have several people review your application so that you may receive suggestions for improvement. You want to sound like you are one of the best choices for your selected *destinations*.
- When the application is completed, it should be hand delivered or mailed to be received by the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council, Inc., by **November 2, 2009, by 4:30 pm.**

## References

### Applicants are required to have *two* letters of recommendation:

- One from a Girl Scout adult who has worked closely with you (*no relatives*). This could be your leader, an event leader, or a camp counselor.
- One from an adult who has worked with you in the community, such as a teacher, religious instructor, supervisor, or employer (*no friends of the family or peers*).
  1. Choose your references wisely. Choose people outside your family who know you well. Choose someone who has known you for over three years. For example, if your *destinations* focus is on canoeing, have an adult who has known you for three years and has been on a canoeing trip with you to fill out the reference form.
  2. Discuss with your references the skills you need for your event and the reasons why you are applying for your desired event. Inform your references about the content and requirements of the event you are applying for so that they are prepared to write you a great recommendation!
  3. Give each reference a photocopy of the reference form along with a stamped envelope addressed to: GSCBC, Inc., Attn: Renee Naughton, Teen Leadership and Travel Pathway Manager, 501 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19713. It is your responsibility to make sure your references are sent to the Council office. Call each reference a week before the application deadline to see if they have filled out and mailed the form. Please ask your reference to type or neatly print their remarks on the reference form. You will want the selection task force to be able to read all of the wonderful things your reference says about you.
  4. You may use the same reference letters for multiple applications. It is a good idea to ask for three references to ensure that at least two arrive by the deadline.

## Registration in Girl Scouting

We cannot mail your application if you are not a currently registered member in of GSCBC, Inc. It is your responsibility to verify if you are registered. Please call the Council Membership Registrar at 302-456-7150 or 800-341-4007, x 7183 to verify your current membership.

## Application and References Deadline

**ALL applications and references must be received at the Newark Resource Center, located at 501 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19713, *no later than 4:30 pm on November 2, 2009.***

Please hand deliver or mail original applications; DO NOT FAX.

## Selection Process

If you are selected to be a participant, ***return the form to accept or reject your participant status immediately.*** Also, upon receipt, please notify the GSCBC, Inc., Teen Leadership and Travel Pathway Manager, Renee Naughton (*contact information on page 1*) of your participant status, and whether or not you are going to attend the event. This is very important if you want to apply for financial assistance from Council for your trip. Once you have replied that you accept, you will receive a participant packet from the sponsoring Council with more information about your destination.

If you are selected as an alternate, you may choose to stay an alternate **or** submit applications to additional *destinations*. Suggestion: if you are alternate #8 or higher, it is suggested that you apply for other *destinations* that interest you.

## Funding and Money Earning Activities

### “How much money will I need and how will I earn it?”

The event fee listed in the book is only part of the *destinations* expense. The event fee includes meals, housing, and program fees. The cost of airline tickets is not included in the event fee. Therefore, you will need to contact a travel agent or call around to different airlines to find the cheapest airfare. Also, some events ask for special equipment (*i.e. backpack*), so you will need to add that to the total cost of your *destinations*.

**Do not be discouraged** if the total cost of the *destinations* is not in your family's budget. There are several ways to fund your trip, but you must act now to make the most of them!

## Saving money for your trip

Even though you have not been selected for a Girl Scout *destinations* yet, assume that you will be selected and start saving money for the trip. If you are not selected this year, you may apply the money you saved towards next year's *destinations*. The following are ways you can earn money.

- Get a part-time job
- Offer to babysit for neighbors or your Girl Scout Leader
- Instead of presents, ask family members to give you cash for your birthday or for special holidays.

## Money-Earning Activities

If you hold a money-earning activity, you must obtain the Program Department or GSCBC, Inc.'s approval for your money-earning activity by filling out the *Troop Money-Earning Activity Application Packet (303-FM)* and giving it to the Girl Scout *destinations* Teen Leadership and Travel Pathway Manager, Renee Naughton. After approval, you may begin your money-earning activity.

As stated in the GSCBC, Inc., Fund-Raising and Money-Earning Procedures, girls who are engaged in money-earning activities to supplement their Girl Scout *destinations* are required to follow the same procedures as Troops and Service Units. Since these are Girl Scout programs monitored by the Council, all approvals must go through their respective program coordinator and then to the Product Sales Manager for approval.

## Money Contribution Scholarships

- **Service Unit Contribution Scholarships** – Most, however, not all Service Units budget some money to award to girls in their Service Unit who are selected to participate in a *destinations*. Please call your Service Unit Manager and ask to make a presentation at a monthly Service Unit meeting. You can ask for donations from the Troop Leaders in your Service Unit, as well as the Service Unit itself. You can also ask the Troops in your Service Unit to donate other items for your trip. For example, most Girl Scout *destinations* will require you to wear an official Girl Scout uniform. If you do not own one, you can ask if there is one you can borrow from another Girl Scout. Or you can ask them to donate film, swaps, or any other equipment you might need.
- **Council Financial Aide** – *The Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council, Inc.* has money budgeted to provide some financial assistance to *destinations* participants. The amount awarded to each participant is based on the number of girls attending *destinations* in the year you apply for this money. To apply for financial assistance, you will need to fill out the Financial Assistance Application that will be sent to you upon acceptance to a *destinations* program and return it to the GSCBC, Inc. If you are selected for more than one *destinations*, you may only receive Council financial assistance for one of your trips. **In order to be eligible for assistance, you must participate in both the Fall Product Sales and Cookie Programs.** You will be notified by mail of the amount you are awarded. Council will then make payment directly to the host of your destination.

501 South College Avenue, Newark, DE 19713 • 302-456-7150 • 800-341-4007 • www.gscb.org

