



# Destinations Application Information

## Why is there an application for Destinations?

Destinations are the ultimate Girl Scout travel experience. Each Destination is made up of a group of individual Girl Scouts who are passionate about attending the trip, and have the prior travel experience to make their participation a success. Your application helps tell the Destination host that you're ready to take this step, and why this is the best Destination for you. (Plus, it's good practice for the college or job applications coming in your future!)

## What is the application timeline?

August 1	Destinations applications open!
November 15	"Early decision" deadline. Be sure to apply by this date if there is a specific Destination you really want to join! Every application submitted between August 1 <sup>st</sup> and November 15 <sup>th</sup> will be reviewed in late November. Acceptance is NOT first come, first served during the early decision period.
December 15	Destination hosts send early decision notifications.

**After November 15<sup>th</sup>, most Destinations will still have some spaces remaining! Applications will remain open on a rolling basis (first come, first served) until the trip is listed as "FULL" on the website and application link.** Applicants who apply after November 15<sup>th</sup> should expect a decision from the Destination host within three weeks of applying.

## Application checklist

(You are THREE steps away from starting your next great adventure!)

- ☐ 1. **Draft your application on pages 3-4 of this worksheet.** Once you begin the online application, you will NOT be able to save it and continue later – you must complete each application in one sitting. To avoid losing any work, use the worksheet to draft your answers, and then cut and paste the text into the online application. NOTE: You must complete a **separate application with a unique essay** for each trip.
- ☐ 2. **Request your references.** You must ask two people to provide a reference (with the option of adding a third reference). If you are applying to more than one Destination, you can ask the same, or different, people to be references for each trip.
  - **Who should I ask to be a reference?** Someone who can provide examples of strengths or skills that could help you succeed on a Destination. Consider asking your troop leader, a coach, a teacher, a member of your place of worship, or any adult who knows you well. Remember: you may **not** ask a family member.
  - **What should I tell my references beforehand?** As with all reference requests, it's a good idea to ask them if they are willing to do this before submitting their email on your application. Let them know that they will be

asked to complete an online form for each application you are completing. They will be asked “to provide specific examples of the applicant’s special strengths and/or skills that would enable them to enjoy and succeed in the Destination.” They can enter the information directly into an online form they will receive by email, or they can choose to upload a letter. Either is fine!

- **How you’ll submit references:** You’ll type your references’ email addresses into your online application, and they will automatically receive the form to complete. After you submit your application, immediately inform your references to look out for the email, and be sure to ask them to check their JUNK MAIL folders – it often goes there! If they cannot find it, not to worry; we will also email YOU a copy of the reference link in your application confirmation, so you can pass it along to your references if needed.



- 3. Apply online!** Complete your [online application](#) well in advance of the deadlines. If you are applying for early decision, aim to complete your application by November 1<sup>st</sup>, so your references have enough time to finish their part of the application by the **early application deadline: November 15<sup>th</sup>**. After November 15<sup>th</sup>, applications are open on a rolling basis until each Destination is full.

## What happens next?

- As soon as you complete your application, you will receive a confirmation email (check your JUNK MAIL if you don’t see it!)
- Your application will be sent to your references, so they can each complete their section. You will get an email (again, check your junk folders) once each reference completes their section.
- The application will also immediately be sent to a contact at your local Girl Scout council so they can verify that you are a current Girl Scout member.
- Finally, your application will be sent to the Destination host – the organization that is running the Destination.
- The Destination host will review your application and let you know their decision. If you apply by November 15<sup>th</sup> (the early decision deadline), you will be informed by December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you apply after November 15<sup>th</sup>, admissions is rolling, and you can expect a decision within three weeks.
- If you have specific questions about the trips, please contact the Destination host, using the contact details on the webpage of the Destination.

## Ready to get started?

Start drafting your application answers on the next page!



# Destinations Application Worksheet

This worksheet is for your **personal use only**. Below is the full list of questions on [online application](#). You can use this worksheet to draft your answers and prepare to complete the form.

## General Information

- Your Age
  - If you are 13 or over, you can complete the application yourself, but *make sure your parent/guardian is nearby!* They must verify their support for your application on the last page.
  - If you are under 13 years old, your parent/guardian must complete the application on your behalf.
- Your home Girl Scout Council
  - Many Girl Scout councils have similar names! Please double-check your council – just in case – using our [Council Finder](#).
- Name & Dates of Destination
- Your First Name, Last Name, Birthdate, Present School Grade, Email Address, Phone Number, Address, Racial/Ethnic Background (*optional*)
- Parent/Guardian Name, Parent/Guardian Email Address

## Short Answer Questions

- Have you ever been away from your family overnight?  
Options: Lots of times, Once or twice, Not Yet
- If you HAVE been away from your family overnight, briefly describe length of time, where, when, and with whom. If you HAVE NOT, please describe why you are ready for this trip away from home now.
- Briefly describe a meaningful experience that you had away from home, without your family.
- Please list any activities (sports, clubs, arts, or other activities) you do outside of school.

- List any languages (other than English) that you speak fluently.
- List any languages (other than English) that you speak conversationally (beginner to moderate level).
- Do you have any other special skills, relevant to this Destination, which you'd like to mention?
- If you have previously attended a Girl Scout Destination(s), please list the name and dates of the Destination(s).

**Essay Question** (If you are applying to more than one Destination, please *write a different essay for each Destination* to which you are applying, explaining why you want to go on that specific Destination, and why you would be a great candidate!)

**Essay Prompt:** Please describe why you want to participate in the Destination that you have chosen. Be specific about what knowledge and skills you would bring to this trip, and what knowledge and skills you would like to bring home! Don't forget to describe any special experience you have, like camping or community service, OR why you're excited about trying something new!

### References Information

- Reference #1 Name:
- Reference #1 Email:
- Reference #2 Name:
- Reference #2 Email:
- Reference #3 Name (*optional*):
- Reference #3 Email (*optional*):

You're now ready to complete the [online application](#)!

# Submission Checklist

Use this space to keep track of your application process for all Destinations.

Destination name	Date my portion of application completed	Reference #1 name	Date reference completed	Reference #2 name	Date reference completed	<i>OPTIONAL Reference #3 name</i>	<i>OPTIONAL Date reference completed</i>