

# Discover the World Girl Scouts Go Hostelling!



## Guide: Participatory Patch for Girl Scouts Ages 11 to 17

The Discover the World patch is fun to earn and can start you on the path to traveling around the world! This patch can help your troop become global citizens who are connected to people and places near and far. Troop leaders are responsible for completion of the patch requirements for each Girl Scout receiving a patch. Get connected by having your scouts complete just one activity in each of the following three areas:

### I. Before You Go: Trip Planning

- 1) Find out about hostelling! Go to the Hostelling International-USA web site at [www.hiusa.org](http://www.hiusa.org). How did HI-USA get started and what is its mission? Where are the hostels in the US? What are the costs involved? Why do so many people love to go hostelling?! Share your findings with your troop.
- 2) Interview someone who has been hostelling or contact a staff member at the hostel you plan to visit. Get advice about what to pack for a hostelling trip -- and what to leave at home! Learn about why someone would rather stay at a hostel than a hotel. Ask about special tips to help you have a great trip.
- 3) Any good hosteller knows that to travel smart you need to have a budget. How much will it cost for food, lodging, and travel expenses? How much can you spend on souvenirs? Create a budget, keep track of your trip expenses during your trip, and then compare your budget to your actual costs. Figure out what budget travel tips you can share with friends and family.

### II. On Your Trip: Catch the Hostelling Spirit!

- 1) Part of living the hostelling life is getting to know other hostellers traveling from around the world. Learn how to say hello and good-bye in at least four different languages. By the time you're done, you'll know how to have a good time both coming and going!
- 2) Start a hostelling "icebreaker" activity by hanging out in the hostel kitchen or common room with a world map and getting hostellers to sign their names on their home country. You can also use this opportunity to start a conversation about the place you're visiting, the food you're eating, or whatever you think would be cool to know.
- 3) Volunteering has always been a part of girl scouting and hostelling. In the hostel, you can volunteer to cook a meal for other guests, lead an activity, or do a presentation for others to enjoy (e.g., Girl Scout customs, American traditions, skits). Outside the hostel, you can choose from a variety of community service projects in the city you are visiting or in your own city.

- 4) Staying at a hostel is an exciting way to meet people from around the world! Learn about the backgrounds, talents, and interests of hostellers by completing the “Who Did You Meet?” worksheet during your stay at the hostel.

### **III. When You Return: Spreading the Word and Keeping Connected**

- 1) Did you have fun? Spread the news about your hostelling experience by writing an article or making a presentation for your school, council, or local newspaper. You can also write into websites that focus on scouting, hostelling, cultural exchange, etc.
- 2) Want to keep connected to the hostel you visited? Write a follow up letter or e-mail to the hostel staff and let them know what you thought of your trip and what other travel plans you’re making. To keep up to date on hostelling news around the world, you can also sign up for HI-USA’s e-newsletter called “Travel Bytes” ([www.hiusa.org/travelresources/newsletter.cfm](http://www.hiusa.org/travelresources/newsletter.cfm))
- 3) Now that you had the chance to travel, let others know more about what life is like in your neck of the woods. Make a binder of things to do in your home area. Include information on museums, parks, local food specialties, fun places to hang out, and suggestions about how to get around and where to stay. Send the binder to the hostel nearest to you so that future hostellers can get the travel scoop from a native!

Do you have other ideas for earning a hostelling patch? The activities above are guidelines, but HI-USA is always open to hearing new and exciting ideas. It’s also important to know that troops and individual Girl Scouts are eligible to earn patches both from home or as part of a trip to a hostel.

Questions about the patch?

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DISCOVER THE WORLD: GIRL SCOUTS GO HOSTELLING Patches are \$2.00 each. Purchase the patches for your troop before your visit to a hostel or through HI-USA’s national office.

# Discover the World Girl Scouts Go Hostelling!



## Before You Go Worksheet: Section One, Option 2

This worksheet explores the experiences of travel while staying at a hostel. Use this worksheet to learn about hostelling and to complete Section One: Before You Go. You will be on your way to earning your Girl Scouts Go Hostelling! patch.

### A Story About Hostelling

There are thousands of hostels in over 70 countries in the world! Millions of travelers around the world stay at hostels. What is a hostel? Why do people like staying at hostels? One hosteller wrote a story about her experience staying at hostels. Read the story, and then answer the questions on this worksheet.

**Name of Storyteller: Karin      From: Portland, Oregon**

I have been hostelling for 18 years, since I was 21. I've stayed in hostels in England, Scotland, Wales, South Africa, United States and, most recently, Ireland. As a parent, I have always made it a priority to provide travel as an important part of my child's education. For several years, I have been traveling with my daughter Tori, who is now 11 years old.

During our most recent trip to Ireland, I had a wonderful and "world-broadening" experience that I will try to relate here. We checked into our hostel on our first night in Ireland. Almost immediately, Tori began interviewing fellow hostellers, introducing herself, and asking where they were from.

Seeing her inquisitive nature and her notepad, Shaheb - a young man from Sudan - asked for the notepad and drew out a game for her to play. Then a Riddle for her to guess. This led to a 2-day-long riddle-fest between the two, which was wonderful to see.

During that time, I watched each of their eyes light up as they thought of a new riddle to share. I also watched Tori as she recognized that some of her "old standby" jokes had no meaning for someone whose first language isn't English (Shaheb's was Arabic, though he spoke several others). I could see the recognition in her eyes as it occurred to her that our language is ethnocentric, and that she had to adapt her communication style to communicate better with her new friend. (How would I have taught THAT at home???)

As I watched the two of them, in my eyes, the puzzles became larger than themselves. As I stepped back to watch, I was able to see with some awe how wonderful an experience this was. A young, Arabic-speaking, Muslim man from Sudan sharing time, stories and friendship with a young, English-speaking American girl. Both far away from home - and ALL of our lives richer for the experience.

In the hostel kitchen, over our last shared breakfast, Shaheb, a man from Japan, and a woman from the U.S., all told me how amazing they thought Tori was. It made me proud of her, but also proud of myself for making travel an important part of her education. As

a single parent, it has not ever been easy to make this happen, but this experience reminds me why I make it a priority.

A last word on this subject: I do not think this kind of experience would have occurred if we had been staying in a traditional-type hotel. I firmly believe that the international network of hostels encourage this kind of connection. For that reason, I will always prefer hostels to any other kind of accommodation as my daughter and I explore the world together.

### **Questions about the Hostelling Story**

Use clues from the story to answer these questions. After your stay at the hostel, you can look at your answers and decide if any of them changed!

1. What is a hostel?
2. Who can stay at a hostel?
3. How do you think Tori's stay at the hostel would have been different if she had not introduced herself to the other people staying at the hostel?
4. What did Tori and Shaheb have in common?
5. What do you think Tori learned from her stay at the hostel?

### **Are You Ready to Visit a Hostel?**

Just like Tori, you can meet many people from different parts of the world while you stay at a hostel. Be brave, have an open mind, and introduce yourself to other hostellers. You never know what you might learn!

### **Learn More about Hostelling**

You can learn more about hostelling at the  
Hostelling International USA website:  
[www.hiusa.org](http://www.hiusa.org)

Read more stories written by hostellers  
in the Call for Stories section:  
[www.hiusa.org/programs/callstories.cfm](http://www.hiusa.org/programs/callstories.cfm)

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## Catch the Hostelling Spirit! Worksheet: Section Two, Option 1

This worksheet completes Section Two: Catch the Hostelling Spirit! At the hostel you can use this worksheet to meet people from around the world and around the country.

### Who Did You Meet?

Go to the hostel kitchen, dining room, and common rooms and introduce yourself to hostellers from around the world. For each of the following questions, write the names of the people you met, and the country they are from. Use the back of this paper to write any other interesting facts that you learn about the guests at the hostel!

1. Someone who was born outside the United States...
2. Someone who speaks a different language than you speak at home...
3. Someone who has traveled outside the United States (and where?)...
4. Someone who can eat with chopsticks...
5. Someone who can play a musical instrument...
6. Someone who can sing the National Anthem of his or her home country...
7. Someone who speaks more than one language (which languages, and how many?)...
8. Someone who has visited 10 or more countries...

9. Someone who has climbed a mountain...

10. Someone who lives in the town you are visiting, but was not born there...

11. Someone who was born in the town you are visiting...

12. Someone who has a collection of something...