



Hostelling International USA Golden Gate Council

Discover the World: Girl Scouts Go Hostelling

Participatory Patch for Girl Scouts Ages 11 to 17

Discover the World is a patch that prepares you to be a global citizen who travels the world to meet new people and to learn about their culture.

Hostelling International USA (HI-USA) wants you to have fun while you earn the **Discover the World** patch! Make sure you connect with other people who like to travel as you complete one activity in each of the three criteria areas:

1. [Trip Planning](#)
2. [Catch the Hostelling Spirit](#)
3. [Spread the Word and Stay Connected](#)

Not only will you earn the **Discover the World** patch, you will have new friends who you met along the way.

Just like the Girl Scouts, HI-USA has local councils all over the United States that provide information and opportunities for involvement. Whenever you need find information about HI-USA or need to talk to one of our staff members, refer to this list of contact information:

- Council Web site (for Northern California): www.NorCalHostels.org
- Council phone number (for Northern California): 415/863-1444
- HI-USA Web site (national office): www.HIUSA.org

Criteria #1

[Trip Planning](#)

1. Learn about HI-USA hostels

Learn more about U.S. hostels and why they exist. If you answer the following questions, you will have a better understanding of HI-USA:

- How did HI-USA get started?
- What is its mission?
- Where are hostels in the United States?
- How much do hostels cost?
- Why are hostels a popular way to travel?

When you are done with your research, share your discoveries about hostelling with your troop.

2. Find out what you should to pack

Get advice about what to pack for a trip to a hostel — and what to leave at home! Find out if they have any other tips for a successful trip. Interview someone who has stayed at a hostel or contact your local HI-USA hostel. Also, ask for their opinion about why travelers would choose to stay in a hostel instead of a hotel.

3. Create a travel budget

Any good traveler knows that the only way to travel smart is by preparing a travel budget. A budget will include the cost for food, accommodations and travel expenses. Then you can determine what is left over for souvenirs or other fun activities.

Keep track of your expenses during the trip and then compare it to your budget when you get home. Were you close or did you spend too much money? Think about what you learned and how you can share your experience as travel tips. Share your tips with family and friends.

Criteria #2:

Catch the Hostelling Spirit

1. Say hello and goodbye

Part of hostelling is getting to know other guests at the hostel. You should know how to say hello and goodbye in at least four different languages because it shows that you are an engaged world citizen.

2. Start a conversation

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 name on their home country. You can use this as an opportunity to start a conversation about the city or town you are visiting, the food you prepared or anything else you want to know.

3. Give back to the community

Volunteering has always been an important part of Girl Scouts and HI-USA hostels. 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, etc.). Outside the hostel, you can choose from a variety of community service projects.

Criteria #3: Spread the Word and Stay Connected

1. Spread the word

Did you have fun? Spread the news about your experience by writing an article or making a presentation for your school, council or local newspaper. You can also write to Web sites that focus on scouting, hostelling, cultural exchange, etc. and share your experience with an online community.

2. Stay connected

When your trip is over and you are back at home, write a letter or e-mail the hostel staff to share your thoughts about the experience. Tell them where you would like to go on your next trip and why you are so interested in that destination.

You can also stay connected with the latest hostelling news from around the world. Simply sign up for HI-USA's Travel Bytes e-newsletter online at www.HIUSA.org/TravelResources/Newsletter.cfm.

3. Help other travelers

Now that you had the chance to travel, let others know more about what life is like in your community. Create a binder of activities to do in your area, including information about museums, parks, local foods, fun places to hang out and tips for getting around and places to stay.

Send your binder to your local HI-USA hostel so future hostellers can get the travel scoop from a native!

Do You Have an Idea?

The activities you just read are only guidelines. HI-USA encourages you to be creative and think of other ideas for earning a **Discover the World** patch.

All you have to do is contact your local HI-USA hostel or council to discuss your ideas with a staff member. Also, troops and individual Girl Scouts are eligible to earn patches either from home or as part of a trip to a hostel.