

Success Stories:

Building on the themes highlighted in the Patch guidelines, Girl Scout Troops have discovered many ways to get the patch. Here are a few examples to get your own creative juices flowing:

- A troop from Maine used the Boston Hostel as a base to study American History and helped to establish the Discover The World Patch.
- A troop in California went to the historic Sacramento Hostel, incorporating budget preparations, meal planning and travel research into their stay.
- A senior Girl Scout troop earned their council-based award "Hands on History Patch" by visiting a variety of museums while staying at Washington, DC Hostel.
- In Conway, NH a community recycling program was an important part of a troop's experience at the HI-White Mountains Hostel.
- A troop from Seattle, WA participated in a scavenger hunt and a passport game while visiting with international guests at HI-Seattle.
- A troop from Galena, OH visited the hostel in Chicago, IL in preparation for a future hostelling trip to Europe!

For more information on the patch program and to get your free HI-AYH Group Membership, visit our web site at www.hiayh.org/programs.

Discover the world, its people and its cultures.

Go Hostelling.

Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels
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Disclosure:

GSUSA is cooperating with HI-AYH to make this information and offer available to GS Councils. While doing so, GSUSA makes it clear that in no way does it endorse any specific HI facility, and does not certify that any HI facility meets GSUSA's published safety recommendations, nor any applicable laws or regulations which apply any HI facility. GS Councils should follow GSUSA published safety guidelines in deciding whether or not to use an HI facility on a case-by-case basis.

Get your free group membership online: www.hiayh.org/programs

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DISCOVER THE WORLD



Girl
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Discover The World

Remember how you felt the first time you traveled somewhere new? Were you excited? Energized? Amazed? Help the Girl Scouts in your life share those same feelings! Take advantage of the collaboration between Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels (HI-AYH): enjoy discount memberships, a new patch program, and experiences that can help girls earn Girl Scout age-level awards while discovering the world!

GSUSA and HI-AYH are American traditions that go hand in hand. Since the 1930's, HI-AYH has provided Girl Scouts with opportunities for travel through educational and recreational programs that build life skills and promote global understanding. Together, GSUSA and HI-AYH continue to help girls enjoy the wonders of the world through travel in a safe and fun atmosphere.



Discover The World Patch

The Discover The World patch is focused on intercultural exploration and budget travel. To complete the patch, girls choose between activities ranging from trip planning and interviewing international travelers, to participating in local volunteer projects. The patch helps girls become more engaged, caring world citizens.

Girl Scouts ages 11-17 can complete this participatory patch by working with any HI-AYH hostel or council. Designed by girls for girls, the patch was created by a troop from Maine who went on an adventure to the Boston Hostel. There are also opportunities to be part of hostelling and earn a patch right from your own home.



Completing the Patch is Easy

Figuring out how to create a travel budget, learning how to say hello and good-bye in different languages, and even taking part in local volunteer projects are all possible ways to complete the patch. Suggested activities can be done at a local hostel, through the Internet, or as part of a hostelling adventure to a new place. To view the Hostelling International "Discover The World" patch guidelines, visit our Web site at www.hiayh.org/programs. Download a copy of the patch tool kit and get started! Order your "Discover The World" patch through any HI-AYH hostel, council, or the national programs office. To locate a hostel near you and get help planning your hostel visit, go to the Web site at www.hiayh.org/hostels.

What is Hostelling?

Hostelling is a special kind of travel. Hostelling opens doors to self-discovery, intercultural exchange, and exciting new people and places. Hostels are safe, clean, inexpensive travel accommodations that provide a base for exploration and learning. Unlike hotels that can be isolating, hostels are welcoming, inviting places that encourage meaningful interactions. Equipped with dormitory style rooms, common rooms, and hosteller kitchens, hostels offer a place for making new friends and learning about new ways of thinking.

It's the mission of HI-AYH "to help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling." Through its hostels and programs, HI-AYH gives people the chance to have life-changing experiences that can forever broaden their horizons.

In 1934, Isabel and Monroe Smith opened the first youth hostel in Northfield, Massachusetts. Within a year, more than 30 hostels were operating throughout New England. Today there are over 100 HI-AYH hostels throughout the United States, and over 4,000 hostels in more than 60 countries throughout the world! Facilities range from urban high-rises to small rural sites like lighthouses, farmhouses and 19th Century mansions.

