

HOSTELLING CHALLENGE PATHFINDERS



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE



The Discover Hostelling Challenge is fun to earn and can start you on the path to traveling around the world! This challenge can help your unit become global citizens who are connected to people and places near and far. Guiders are responsible for completion of the challenge requirements for each girl receiving a crest. Get connected by completing 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 Canada website at www.hihostels.ca. How did HI-Canada get started and what is its mission? Where are the hostels in Canada? What are the costs involved? Why do so many people love to go hostelling? Share your findings with your unit.

If you don't have time to complete your research before your trip, you can learn about hostelling at one of the hostels! Complete the "Hostel Scavenger Hunt" worksheet during your stay!

- 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) 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 an HI 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 guiding, 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 the HI newsletter called “Backpackerz Buzz” at <http://www.hihostels.ca/region/bc/newsletter/index.htm>.
- 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!

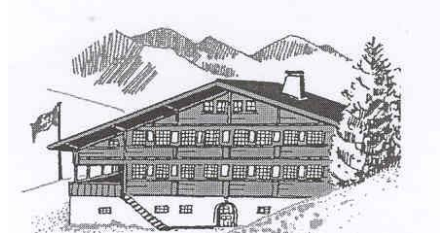
Worksheets to help you with this challenge can be found on the provincial website and from your area international adviser.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Celebrate Our Chalet's 75th Anniversary Swiss Experience - Our Chalet, Switzerland

Who: Girls ages 15 to 17 years of age by the start of the actual event
2 Guiders

When: Approx. August 11 – 25, 2007
Session Dates: August 15 – 24, 2007



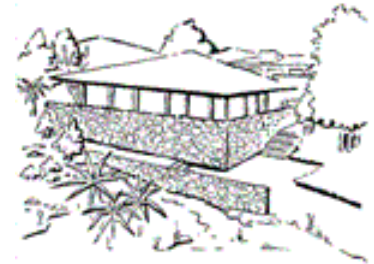
Cost: Approximately \$2,490 to participant after national assistance

Program and Activities: Over a week of fun and International friendship, hiking and exploring in the mountains and areas near Our Chalet. The group will also have a few days to explore in and around a Swiss city and/or village.

Celebrate Our Cabana's 50th Anniversary Friendship Session - Our Cabana, Mexico

Who: Girls, 13 to 15 years of age by the start of the actual event
2 Guiders

When: Approx. July 29 – August 11, 2007
Session Dates: August 2 - 10, 2007



Cost: Approximately \$2,000 to participant after national assistance

Program and Activities: Experience International Friendship, games, arts and crafts, swimming, singing, and dancing, a Mexican Fiesta, shopping trips, sightseeing, a visit to a rural village, and an opportunity to participate in a service project. The group will also have a few days to explore Mexico City.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Completed applications with all supporting references, applicant's letter, tape or CD must reach your Area International Adviser by **December 15, 2006**.
- **No late applications will be considered.**
- **If completing application forms electronically your application may not exceed the total number of pages of the application form and may not be typed in anything smaller than # 10 font.**

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- Ages are as of the start date of the event.
- Costs are based on figures available at the time of circulation and may change slightly because of a change in airfares and currency fluctuations.
- Provincial financial assistance will be \$300 from Provincial International Committee and up to 25% of transportation costs from Provincial Travel Support
- One girl and one alternate will be selected from Alberta for each Nationally Sponsored Event.
- The names of two adults for each event will be forwarded to National for further selection for each Nationally Sponsored Event.
- A Briefing Session will be held for all selected participants and alternates in April 2007.
- If applying for more than one event only one Application Form and one Recommendation Form from each reference needs to be filled in. A separate letter, tape, or CD is needed for each event.
- Fact Sheets are available from your Area International Adviser and on the National and Provincial websites.
- Application Forms are available from your Area International Adviser and on the National website.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION FORMS TO BE COMPLETED BY GIRLS AND LEADERS:

<http://www.girlguides.ca/default.asp?id=143>

- NT.1 International Events Application form
- NT.4 Confidential Recommendation form to be completed by applicant's Guider or Commissioner
- NT.5 Two International Events Confidential Recommendation forms to be completed by at least one person outside of the Guiding Organization
- NT.6
- **Girls:** Applicant's Letter
 - **Guider:** Submit a two- to three-minute message on a standard size cassette tape or CD, meeting all same requirements as for NT.6 "Applicant's Letter" stating what you expect to contribute to the event and the country you will be visiting.
- H.1 **Girls:** Personal Health form
- H.2 **Adults:** Personal Health form For Adults
- NT.7 Refer to General Qualification Guidelines for International Events