

## Girl Scouts Destinations Program Takes Girls To London

“While in London, I learned so much about the international world of Girl Scouts,” Lauren K. says about her Destinations trip. Last summer, Lauren and Stephanie W. from Troop 6659 had the incredible opportunity to travel to London, England through the Girl Scouts Destinations program. This unique program offers the ultimate adventures for individual girls ages 11 and older. During these unforgettable trips to different parts of the world, girls make friends from all over the country as they travel with Girl Scouts from different states.

When Lauren heard about the Destinations program three years ago, she knew it was an opportunity she couldn't pass up. After consulting with her mother, Wanda, they agreed that Lauren could participate in this program, but only if she completed her Gold Award first. After years of hard work and dedication, Lauren has not only earned her Gold Award, but experienced the trip of a lifetime. During their trip to London, Lauren and Stephanie traveled with 12 other Girl Scouts from across the country, ranging from 13 to 18 years of age. Along with meeting girls from different states, Lauren and Stephanie had the chance to meet Girl Scouts from around the world. “I spoke with a group merged with Girl and Boy Guides from Kenya, Germany, Czech Republic, and other countries. I learned about their home countries, their favorite foods and formed relationships with people who are different, yet share a common goal as me,” says Lauren. Along with making new friends, the girls thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Girl Guiding Headquarters, the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Bridge and Tower Bridge, seeing Aladdin on Broadway and eating good food. Stephanie summed up their trip, adding, “It was full of great sights, great people and even better shopping.”



Stephanie and Lauren pose for a photo in London

# Girl Scouts Destinations Program, continued

As a parent and troop leader, Wanda is thankful that Girl Scouts provided Lauren and Stephanie this incredible opportunity. “After witnessing Lauren mature and learn new things during her time in London, I would encourage other parents and girls to look into Destinations for the leadership and growth opportunities,” says Wanda. She is currently teaching girls in her service unit about Destinations and would love to see them experience the next trip to Costa Rica. Lauren and Stephanie have since graduated from high school and moved away to college, but they agree this was an experience they will never forget.



Lauren in front of the London Bridge



Stephanie is excited about seeing Stonehenge

