Guidelines for Troop Travel

When your state is in phase three of reopening, Girl Scouts – Diamonds will permit troop travel within council jurisdiction as well as to other states currently in phase 3 reopening. Troops must stay up-to-date on travel warnings and CDC guidance to avoid hotspot locations.

Please make sure you are following these three additional checkpoints for phase three travel:

1. Trip advisor agrees to enforce current CDC COVID-19 safety guidelines.
2. Trip is only within council jurisdiction or within other states currently in phase three reopening.
3. Trip avoids current CDC noted COVID-19 hotspots.

For groups impacted by the above guidance, please contact programs@girlscoutsdiamonds.org or call 800-632-6894 immediately if you have not already submitted a troop travel application.

Tips for Talking to your Girls

- Keep the decision girl led as much as possible! Bring them into the decision-making process.
- Hold a virtual meeting or conference call to come to a group consensus. See our Girl Scouts at Home page for some ways to do this.
- Having these conversations are not always easy. Here some ways to facilitate respectful conversations with your girls.
- Have the girls collect this information before the discussion and consider sharing before you meet so they have time to look over the facts:
  - What payments have you already made (flights, reservations, etc.)? Are they refundable?
  - If you were planning on traveling with a tour provider, double check that they have not already cancelled the trip and see what the rescheduling options would look like.
  - What is the current COVID-19 situation in the location to which you plan to travel?
  - Is there a specific date that a decision must be made to ensure a refund or rescheduling opportunity?

Things to Keep in Mind

- As of March 20, 2020, the US Department of State is not issuing new passports except in cases of life or death emergency and most countries are not processing new visas at this time.
- For girls graduating high school in May of 2020 who were planning on taking a trip Summer 2020, our council has decided based on this unique situation to allow Girl Scout funds to be used on a rescheduled trip for 2021.
  - Please notify your SU Treasurer and Senior Troop Finance Liaison, Dana Wolverton at dwolverton@girlscoutsdiamonds.org if you are planning on doing this. Staying in touch with us will ensure your troop gets the assistance they need!
  - All girls must be registered adult members if they choose to do this and would need to have a travel application approved.
  - They would then need to turn in a final financial report upon their return to the SU treasurer and work with their SU treasurer to close their troop account and move any remaining funds to the area SU.
- Troops can roll over funds earned in the previous membership year. Please remember to keep a clear accounting for all money earned and spent. A good rule of thumb is if the balance is greater than $100 per girl when they turn in their annual financial report, that the troop include their plans for rolling over these funds.