



5 Minute Global Enrichment

January 2025

Learning Opportunity for
Volunteers & Girls

Five World Centers



What is a '5 Minute Global Enrichment'?

This is a short learning opportunity concentrating on global.

Each is unique, and will add a global aspect to your Girl Scout programming.

So be sure to share with other Girl Scout volunteers and girls.



Where can we celebrate global sisterhood? Where can we create memories, forge bonds and make an impact with our global sisters?

WAGGGS World Centers (or World Centres!)

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) welcomes members at 5 world centers: Pax Lodge (London, UK), Sangam (Pune, India), Our Chalet (Adelboden, Switzerland), Kusafiri, and Nuestra Cabaña (Mexico). Events and amenities offer WAGGGS members, like all Girl Scouts of the USA, to explore a world of possibilities.

Checking out the WAGGGS website is a great place to get started:

<https://worldcentres.wagggs.org/>

But what can I do at a World Center?

World Centers offer events in which troops, groups, or individuals of various ages levels from around the world can participate. These range through a whole host of different themes including service projects, travel and tourism, cultural discovery, and winter fun in the Swiss Alps. Longer volunteer stints of 1-5 months are also available, giving young women a chance to grow skills in connecting internationally. You can even visit each for a day, take a tour, and get a special pin that is only available to those who visit the World Centers!

Really? There's more?

Beyond participating in a recreation-based program, the World Centers host leadership events for girls and young women across the globe. These utilize the WAGGGS Leadership mindsets and also include patch programs such as Stop the Violence! and YUNGA Disaster Preparation.

It's about the Connections!

Visiting a World Center is a great way to connect with girls and women from around the world through the sisterhood of scouting and guiding. Participants have the opportunity to grow personally in leadership skills and resourcefulness, in addition to having fun! It really helps connect participants to the wider world and gain perspectives on Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, through a mission-based perspective. It is a great way to think about “making the world a better place” and “being a sister to every girl scout.”

What can Leaders and Volunteers do?

As Service Units and Troops, Leaders and Volunteers, introduce the girls to the World Centers – yes, even the youngest Girl Scouts, Daisies and Brownies! Share the attached one page information sheet on World Centers with girls. Inspire girls to:

- Plan a visit to a World Center
- Apply for a program or GSUSA destination at a World Center
- Apply to be an intern or volunteer at a World Center after graduation

For more information visit:

- GSUSA Information on World Centers:
www.girlscouts.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/ways-to-participate/global-girl-scouts/world-centers.html
- World Centers Websites:
worldcentres.waggs.org/
worldcentres.waggs.org/about/
worldcentres.waggs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WAGGGS-ProgrammeCommsLeaflet-Digital.pdf
www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/content/dam/girlscoutsofmaine-redesign/documents/program/World-Centres.pdf
- WAGGGS World Centres International Adventure Activity Pack: (A set of activities designed for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, age 14+, to learn about the World Centers and prepare for travel)
<https://www.waggs.org/en/resources/world-centres-international-adventure-activity-pack/>
- Check out the Facebook pages for each World Center:
Our Chalet: www.facebook.com/OurChalet
Pax Lodge: www.facebook.com/PaxLodge
Sangam: www.facebook.com/sangamworldcentre
Nuestra Cabaña: www.facebook.com/nuestracabanamx
Kusafiri: www.facebook.com/kusafiriworldcentre

Looking Ahead

February's 5 Minute Global Enrichment will be about the WAGGGS World Trefoil Pin.

Questions or to connect with someone who has visited a World

Have questions about World Centers? Or need additional resources? Reach out to GSME Customer Care at 888-922-4763 or customer care@gsmaine.org and they can put you in touch with a member of GSME's Global Action Team.



WORLD CENTRES

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts runs five World Centres; Our Cabaña, Mexico; Our Chalet, Switzerland; Pax Lodge, UK; Sangam, India; and Kusafiri which pops up around the Africa Region. These World Centres offer Girl Guides and Girl Scouts the opportunity of a lifetime - an international adventure where they can make new friends and go on their own journey of personal discovery. By meeting new friends from a diverse range of countries, cultures, and backgrounds, the World Centres also give girls and women the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the global community and an appreciation of the challenges and issues faced in different parts of the World.



Our Chalet, the first World Centre, was opened in Adelboden, Switzerland, on July 31, 1932. An American Girl Scout leader, Mrs. Helen Storrow, donated the money to build the first World Centre on the condition that it was built in Switzerland, a country that she loved. Activities include visits to waterfalls, lakes, a chocolate factory, and the local woodcarver; try climbing, hiking, and high adventure activities in summer, and sledding, snow-shoeing, winter hiking, and skiing in winter, all the while experiencing the Swiss culture.



Our Cabaña was opened in Cuernavaca (City of Eternal Spring), Mexico, on July 24, 1957. Known as where 'dreams come true', Our Cabaña offers a range of activities and programs focused on international friendship, challenge, adventure, self-development and most of all fun!! During a visit to Our Cabaña, you can visit colorful markets and the "silver town" of Taxco and take part in service projects, such as organizing activities days for local children.



Sangam is located in Pune, India and opened on October 16, 1966. Sangam provides visitors with outstanding international opportunities for lifelong learning, community action, and personal transformation. The word Sangam means 'coming together' in the ancient language of Sanskrit. Visitors to Sangam have opportunities to learn about Indian culture, to take part in community action projects with local organizations, and even to buy their very own sari to wear to a traditional Maharashtrian dinner.



Pax Lodge, originally known as Our Ark, was opened in London in 1939 after girls worldwide had raised money for it through the "Pennies Appeal." It was later replaced by Olave House, which closed in 1988. On March 15, 1991, Pax Lodge was officially opened. A visit to Pax Lodge provides opportunities to explore London, experience the Crystal Palace maze, and perhaps even visit Brownsea Island, where Lord Baden-Powell held the very first Scout camp.



Kusafiri was established on July 15, 2011 to bring the World Centre experiences to the Africa Region. Kusafiri means 'to journey' in Swahili. With no fixed site, Kusafiri changes locations across the Africa Region for every event it hosts. Using existing facilities, this innovative approach enables girls across the continent to take part in the life changing international experiences that WAGGGS programs have to offer. Kusafiri focuses on leadership and community by exploring global culture, participating in events and programs which develop key skills, and working with local partners to experience community change in action.