   
 **International Opportunities in GLK**

International opportunities enable members to try new experiences, meet new friends from across the world, challenge themselves, be challenged and put their promise into action. It is a very important aspect of Guiding.

We run a selection event for participants each year and select groups of girls for a range of opportunities. This year we are considering the following for summer 2017:

* A UK based jamboree
* A Swedish jamboree
* A trip to Our Chalet to complete their Swiss Challenge

Though there are lots of exciting events happening around the world in summer 2017, so these are just ideas… If you have a suggestion – put it forward for discussion!

Please note that the details of all these trips are to be confirmed and will be made available when leaders have been selected and destinations confirmed. Leaders are appointed to trips based on skills, previous experience, current interests and to make well-balanced teams of leaders that will support each other and provide a high quality experience for all Girlguiding members involved.

Girl-led Guiding is at the heart of international trips and the participants will pay a full part in decision-making and helping to organise aspects of the trip. A Guiding trip is not like a school trip, in that you will not be presented with a full itinerary at the outset, as this will be developed with the input of the group.

**Costs**

Leaders are expected to contribute the same amount to a trip as the participants, so how much does an international trip cost?

It is impossible to say at this point. There are many factors which impact cost, including:

- Destination

- Flight availability

- ‘in country’ costs (which can vary considerably)

- Other activities the group may choose to do whilst abroad

- Type of project (e.g. service project, international camp etc.)

Please note:

- If selected for an international opportunity with GLK County, leaders are eligible to seek financial support from grant-giving bodies as well as County and other Guiding sources

- Fundraising is an important component of any international opportunity and leaders and participants will be given guidance on this. It is hard work, but support is available.

- Units may be willing to help with fundraising activities and there is always the possibility of group fundraising.

**Commitment / Expectation**

If a place is offered, it is expected that leaders will commit fully to the preparation phase of the project and to the project itself. This means:

- Responding promptly to all communications

- Taking responsibility for aspects of the planning and delivery of the trip.

- Organising and attending preparation events (likely to be three residential weekends for County trips) – dates of training events are coordinated by the leadership teams when they have been formed.

- Meeting the payment schedule (which will be issued in the preparation phase) – leaders are expected to pay the same costs as all other participants.

- Guidelines are available on the international page of the GLK website, and the International Advisor offers support in all aspects of planning and delivery of the trip.

**Where do I send completed application form?**

Either e-mail it to international.glk@gmail.com or sent by post to: Helen Candy, GLK International Advisor, 12 Forde Avenue, Bromley, BR1 3EX. Forms should be with me by **April 10th 2016.**

*Helen Candy*

*Girlguiding Greater London Kent County International Adviser*

*International.glk@gmail.com*