

# Girl Scout World Centres & National Centers

Learn about the Girl Scout World Centres & National Centers. Answer the questions below and complete the tasks.

- How many Girl Scout World Centres are there and where are they located? Use the map to locate each one.
- What are the National Girl Scout Centers and where are they located?
- Interview someone who has visited a World Centre or National Center and record their experience.
- Choose one or more National Girl Scout Centers, visit it online, and discover what you can do while there.
- What is WAGGGS? What are the meanings of the flag?



## World Centres

Since 1932, the five World Centres have delivered programs, events, and activities for over 200,000 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from member organizations across the world. The World Centres are safe spaces provided by WAGGGS where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world connect, have adventures, and build agency. Their unique environment empowers young women with the knowledge, skills, and qualities to be powerful changemakers, able to lead change and create a better world together.



**Our Chalet, Switzerland**



**Kusafiri, Across Africa**



**Nuestra Cabaña, Mexico**



**Sangam, India**



**Pax Lodge, London U.K.**

## WAGGGS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the largest voluntary Movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world. Our diverse Movement represents 8.9 million girls and young women from 152 countries. For more than 100 years, Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting have transformed the lives of girls and young women worldwide, supporting and empowering them to achieve their fullest potential and become responsible citizens of the world.



## National Centers

Girl Scouts love making new friends, traveling to new places, and trying new things. So visit one of these historically important centers if you can!



**Savannah, GA**



**Briarcliff, NY**



**New York City, NY**

Learn more about World Centres by visiting their Youtube pages!



**OUR CHALET**  
ADELBODEN, SWITZERLAND



Located high up in the beautiful Swiss Alps, Our Chalet has been a centre of adventure, connection, and friendship since 1932.

[youtu.be/oDNHsyJrmZo](https://youtu.be/oDNHsyJrmZo)



**KUSAFIRI**  
ACROSS AFRICA



Kusafiri World Centre is part of the WAGGGS World Centre Family and offers virtual and face-to-face experiences that you can engage with. Kusafiri World Centre is all about culture and connection!

[youtu.be/KgC3i3ZHhto](https://youtu.be/KgC3i3ZHhto)

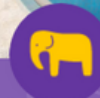


**NUESTRA CABAÑA**  
MEXICO



In Cuernavaca, the 'City of Eternal Spring,' guests can explore the environment and at the same time develop leadership skills.

[youtu.be/tTht88aU0sA](https://youtu.be/tTht88aU0sA)



**SANGAM**  
PUNE, INDIA



Sangam, meaning 'Coming Together' in Sanskrit, was founded with the intent to unite Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. Since 1966, our World Centre in Pune, India, has been a place to grow, connect, and have fun with one another.

[youtu.be/ljTTn9WdFhY](https://youtu.be/ljTTn9WdFhY)



**PAX LODGE**  
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM



Pax Lodge is located in the North West London suburb of Hampstead. Just a few short stops from the hustle and bustle of central London.

[youtu.be/8U9LjAKopGc](https://youtu.be/8U9LjAKopGc)

What things do you think you will discover when you visit a World Centre? These are some of the experiences you might have while you are there.



## ADVENTURE

Staying at a World Centre is to boldly venture into unexplored realms. The path that lies ahead is filled with challenges, triumphs and an opportunity to be brave and test your own limits. Whether hiking, learning a new dance or simply opening up, we bring out the adventurer in everyone.



## EMPOWERMENT

The World Centres are for the open-minded, curious and ever-evolving. In the true spirit of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, we cultivate fertile ground for personal growth. Through activities, lessons, workshops, talks, and honest dialogue, girls and young women are empowered to achieve their full potential.



## CULTURE

Become a global citizen by immersing yourself in the cultures of both where the World Centres are located and their guests from around the world. We encourage one and all to exchange ideas, experiences and traditions from their own cultures. Whether taking trips beyond the Centre or soaking in the immediate surroundings, it's a chance to broaden your horizons.



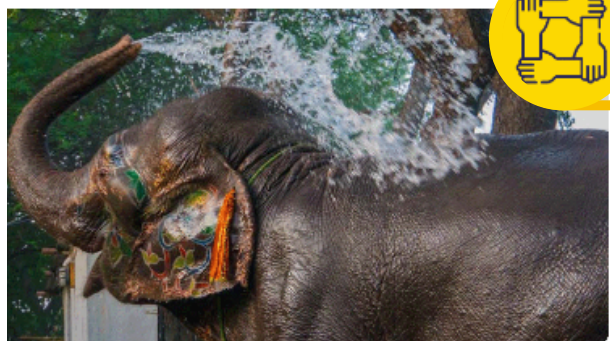
## IMPACT

For almost a century, the World Centres have transformed girls and young women into leaders. We believe that everyone has the ability to make a difference. By engaging in open discussions and taking part in local initiatives, girls and young are equipped with the confidence to become future changemakers.



## MOMENTS

Memories formed at the World Centres live on in our hearts forever. We immortalize them through the stories we tell. From first-time achievements and inspiring performances to cross-cultural connections and campfire bonds, add new chapters to your story as a Girl Guide and Girl Scout.



## IDENTITY

A famous song, a symbolic mascot or a compelling history – every World Centre is surrounded by its own folklore. This creates a feeling of belonging for everyone who visits. A feeling passed down for generations. We encourage you to visit all five Centres for the complete WAGGGS experience.



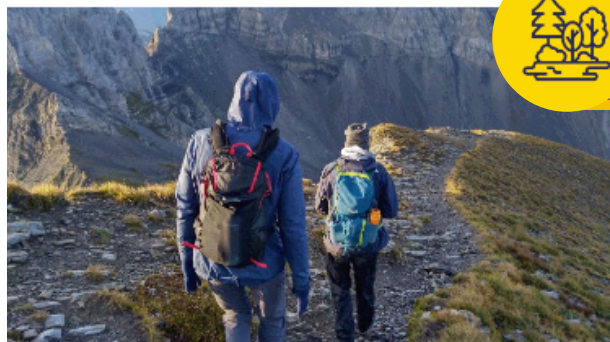
## FRIENDSHIP

The World Centres are made special by the people that visit them. They travel from far and wide with the aim to strengthen a Guiding and Scouting connection that transcends borders. Join thousands of visitors from across the globe to build a global network of friends and support system for life.



## WELLNESS

Since their origin, WAGGGS and the World Centres have been associated with activities that promote lifelong healthy habits. Whether hiking, skiing, swimming, yoga, dance or meditation, every World Centre has a range of exciting wellness activities. Regardless of age, everyone can get involved.



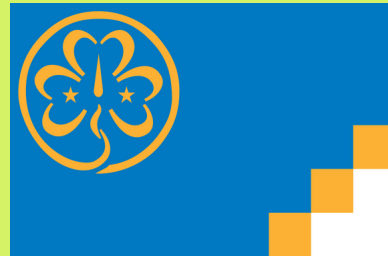
## NATURE

Each of the Centres are surrounded by their own unique ecosystem. The programs help to build environmental awareness and inspire positive change. Whether building a snow shelter in the Alps or protecting monarch butterflies in Mexico, there are endless opportunities to take action.

## World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

1. The focal point is the golden Trefoil, on a bright blue background, representing the sun shining over all the children of the world.
2. The three leaves represent the three-fold Promise.
3. The base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity.
4. The vein pointing upwards through the center of the Trefoil is the compass needle pointing the way.
5. The two stars represent the Promise and Law.
6. A white blaze in the lower right-hand corner represents WAGGGS' commitment to peace.
7. Three gold blocks also symbolize the three-fold Promise.

This flag is used at the World Centres, the World Bureau, WAGGGS gatherings, and by all Member Organizations, often as a unit flag. [waggs.org/en/](http://waggs.org/en/)



The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is dedicated to educating and empowering girls and young women in the world. Just as Juliette Low brought our Movement to this country, it also rapidly spread to other countries. In 1919, the concept of an International Council of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts began. Juliette Low attended the First International Conference held at St. Hughes College, Oxford, England. It was here that the U.S. introduced "Taps" to the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement. A second conference was held in 1922, and a third conference was held in 1924, along with the first World Camp. Girls from the U.S. attended this worldwide encampment, along with representatives from 40 countries.

In 1928, International Council was replaced by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, now known as WAGGGS. World Conferences occur every three years. They rotate among the continents and hemispheres, and at the same time a World Camp takes place. Girls and adults team up to share meals, camping skills, and international friendship. In 1948, the World Conference returned to New York state at Cooperstown.

Since 1932, Juliette Low Seminars have been held to provide international leadership training for young women, from any member organization, and provide a platform for young women to:

- Share their views and experiences
- Develop a sense of universal citizenship
- Enhance their leadership skills
- Appreciate cultural differences
- Broaden their international understanding and prepare for national and International leadership

### SWAPS Denote Friendship

Girl Scouts began exchanging "swaps" as a token of friendship at the First National Girl Scout Roundup in 1956. The intent of a "swap" is to share yourself, your interests, and/or your locale with your new friend.

Originally "swaps" were handmade by the girls themselves. Today, they are more commercial. Handmade baskets, corn husk dolls, and local stitching or weavings are meaningful examples of "swaps." Many of the handmade international items serve as a way of raising money for local villages, communities, or national endeavors for girls. Patches and pins are examples of commercial "swaps." They indicate a program activity or location.

## Learn More About National Centers!

### Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace



The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, a historic site in Savannah, Georgia, owned and operated by Girl Scouts of the USA for more than 60 years, is filled with rich stories, special collections, and opportunities for unique experiences reflecting the arc of Juliette Gordon Low's life. The Birthplace celebrates Juliette's belief in the potential of every girl, and the remarkable, global Girl Scout Movement she founded—a Movement that changed, and continues to change, the world. The house and its two outbuildings were passed down to various Gordon family members through the generations. GSUSA purchased the property in 1953, responsibly stewarding its preservation for decades and earning an award in 2014 for exemplary exterior restoration work. Today the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its contribution to the social, cultural, and philanthropic history of the United States.

Girl Scout troops from around the world visit the Birthplace year-round, participating in fun, innovative, and relevant twenty-first-century programming that leverages the site's unique stories and collections. The Birthplace also opens its doors to the general public for special tours and programming that connects all visitors to the stories of Girl Scouts' Juliette Gordon Low and the incredible organization she founded—and why those stories and our organization matter today more than ever.

[juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/](http://juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org/)





## Edith Macy Center



Edith Macy Center

Edith Macy Center is a conference and training facility owned by Girl Scouts of the USA and is located in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The facility lies just outside Briarcliff Manor's boundaries, in the town of Mount Pleasant, and is situated on over 400 acres of woodland. The site has had four names: Camp Edith Macy (C.E.M.) - University In The Woods, Edith Macy Training School, Edith Macy Girl Scout National Center, and since 1982, Edith Macy Conference Center.

The center is named after Edith Carpenter Macy, chair of the Girl Scout National Board of Directors from 1919 to 1925. Land and capital were donated in 1926 as a memorial tribute by her husband, V. Everit Macy, and it honors Mrs. Macy's dream of a permanent Girl Scout instructional facility, staffed and equipped to offer high-quality training and guidance to Girl Scout leaders.

The John J. Creedon Education Center and Camp Andrée Clark are part of the complex. In 1926, it hosted the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Fourth International Conference.

[edithmacy.com](http://edithmacy.com)







## Girl Scout Central/ Girl Scout Headquarters



Girl Scouts of the USA's central headquarters in New York, NY, is headed by a Chief Executive Officer and a 40-member National Board of Directors. Bonnie Barczykowski currently serves as CEO and was officially appointed in February 2023. The President of the National Board of Directors, the highest volunteer position, is Noorain Khan.

Below the national organization are 112 councils, which cover a large portion of a state or geographic region. Some councils own and run camps for the troops within their area of responsibility. Councils are usually subdivided into areas, called neighborhoods, Service Units, or associations (terms vary), which are program delivery areas that consist of troops at all age levels in a smaller area, such as a town. The basic unit is the troop which may or may not be sponsored.

[girlscouts.org/en/footer/visit-us/girl-scout-central.html](https://girlscouts.org/en/footer/visit-us/girl-scout-central.html)

