

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

Italy



Living in Europe gives girls and adults a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures, languages, food and fun. They build an appreciation for their own culture as well. Through supportive and world thinking leadership, communities can collaborate with their host nation Girl Guide programs to build understanding, friendship and respect. Now more than ever we are ambassadors for our country and the role we play will influence generations to come. Let's make our impression be one of giving, respect, helpfulness and understanding. Now is your opportunity to reach out to your local host country Girl Guides and invite them to help create a historic event between our two countries.

IDEAS:

- Plan to invite Girl Guides to an authentic Thanksgiving Dinner and then attend one of their uniquely cultural activities with them.
- Work together to plan, organize and work on a service project together. Whether you decide to plant trees, collect food and clothes for your local shelter or support orphanages in another country, you'll be working together for a good cause.
- Plan a Thinking Day event together.
- Work on earning the International Friendship Pin (IFP) or Lady Baden Powell International Friendship Award (LBPIFA) and plan activities together. Details for these awards are in your USA Girl Scouts Overseas - North Atlantic Program & Training Calendar and also in your Overseas Committee Chair's Administrative Manual.
- There may be parents that are Italian or have other helpful contacts, so put them to good use. Ask them to serve as the International Relations Coordinator (IRC) to make contact with Girl Guides in your area. They can set up meetings so your girls can earn their (IFP) or (LBPIFA).
- Check out the latest addition of the Trefoil Around the World book for more information on Girl Guides, available for purchase at the USAGSO-NA shop.

The possibilities are endless so use your imagination.

USA Girl Scouts Overseas - North Atlantic will be looking forward to your stories and pictures of international collaboration projects to send to Leader Magazine and other publications. Many of the Girl Guides have community projects that they work on so maybe you can assist them in accomplishing their goals. So get planning and make connections with your host country.

If there are no Girl Guides locally, then try reaching out to girls in school for international cooperation. Check to see where many of your Girl Scouts go to school. Perhaps you can even talk to their English teacher for ideas and activities.

Look at the handout on "Suggestions for making contact with German kids" for more ideas. These are tried and true methods of making contact with local Germans for working on the IFP. IR coordinators (Debbie Osborne and Monica Smith) in Heidelberg, Germany sponsored the IFP for their whole community and created this idea sheet. Use it, add to it and share it so more girls can enjoy their international experience. Even though you are not in Germany, you can still use this handout as a guide to help you in your endeavors to build international friendship with your host country Girl Guides.

Darmstadt Girl Scouts have worked with Girl guides that meet in a castle in a southern German town in a black forest. Linda Terjung, the OCC from Darmstadt, will tell you that the Girl Guides are an outdoor group. They know all of their knots, how to make fires and do hiking and biking. They are all good at lashing too. Linda's committee has camped together with Girl Guides, attended each other's events, participated in parades, cleaned up a campground and sold baked spiced apples at a Christmas market together. Linda says, "We have exchanged a lot of ideas, pizza in box ovens were a bigger hit than s'mores!"

If you need more information on Girl Guides in your area please contact Margaret Renwand, CEO USA Girl Scouts Overseas - North Atlantic , at 0621-487-7025 for assistance.

**For insurance purposes please note the following: If your registered Girl Scouts are participating in a Girl Guide event they do not need extra insurance. If you have invited Girl Guides to participate in your event then you need extra insurance to cover the non-registered members.

Here are a few sites you can check out to contact your local Girl Guide organizations.

www.agesci.org

<http://www.wagggsworld.org>

HAVE FUN!