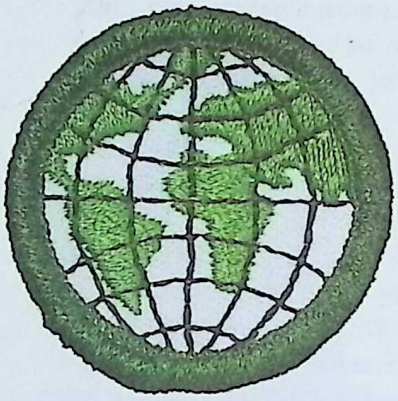
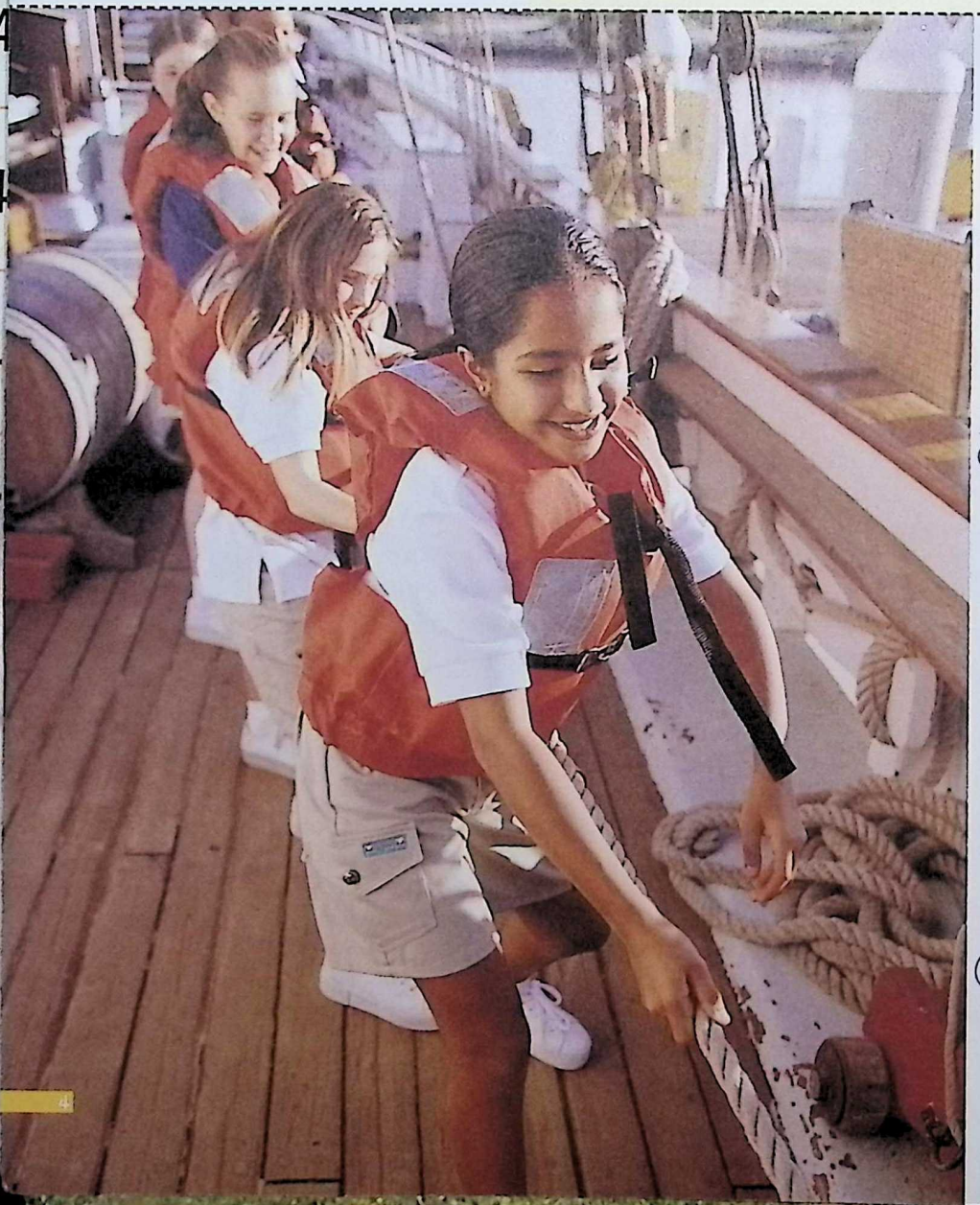
Girl Scouting in My Future



It's great to be a Junior Girl Scout, but it's also exciting to wonder what it will be like to be a Cadette or Senior Girl Scout. What kinds of activities do they do? What trips do they take? Find out with this badge as you look ahead to "Girl Scouting in My Future."



1. Your Own Wider Op

Any event or trip that takes you beyond your normal meeting time and place is a wider opportunity (or "wider op," for short). Plan with the Girl Scouts in your troop or group—or with family or friends—to take your own wider op. Use the Travel Action Plan in the "Adventures in Girl Scouting" chapter of your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* as a guide.

2. Check Out the Silver and the Gold

Find out about the Girl Scout Silver Award for Cadette Girl Scouts and the Girl Scout Gold Award for Senior Girl Scouts. [See the "Just for Girls" section of the Girl Scout Web site www.girlscouts.org/girls.] Compare the requirements for earning each of those awards to the requirements for the Girl Scout Bronze Award, which you can read about in the same section and in your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*.

3. Find Out About Wider Ops

In a few years, you will be old enough to go on a national wider op (wider opportunity). Each year,

thousands of Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts attend these special events. Learn about wider ops offered by councils to Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts across the country. Ask your Girl Scout leader to show you a copy of *Wider Ops*, a catalog that describes the events to be held during the coming year. Look through the catalog and decide on three wider ops that you think you might like. Find out the location, age requirements, cost, dates, focus of the program, and the availability of travel scholarships (called "travelships").



4. Make a Travel Ad

Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts can travel outside of the United States. Choose a country you would like to visit and find out as much as you can about that country through books, magazines, travel agents, and Web sites. If possible, gather photos, posters, and souvenirs. Share this information by creating an imaginary television or radio commercial in which you tell everyone why your travel spot is "hot" in one minute or less. Perform your commercial before other Girl Scouts, friends, or family members. If possible, record your commercial on video- or audiotape.



5. Make Your Own Model Passport

If you become a Cadette Girl Scout or Senior Girl Scout and are accepted to go on an international wider op, you'll need a passport. Look at a passport application. If possible, look at a real passport to see how it is designed. Then, with the information you have gathered, draw a passport OR apply for a real passport with the help of an adult.

6. Plan Your Trip to a Wider Op

If you are selected to attend a wider op, what will it take to get there? Select an event from the wider ops catalog that you would like to attend. Then, figure out how to travel there by plane, train, or car. Collect road maps or train schedules, or call a travel agent to ask about plane schedules. You can also find out plane, train, and map information on the Web. Estimate the number of miles you will travel, how much it will cost in gas prices or ticket fares, and how long it will take you to get there.

7. Silver and Gold Go Global

Find out what Girl Scouts are doing to benefit our world. Invite a Cadette or Senior Girl Scout who has earned her Girl Scout Silver Award or Girl Scout Gold Award and whose project was about a global or environmental problem to come to your troop meeting. Ask her to share with your troop what she did to earn her award. Prepare questions for her ahead of time.

OR Interview the recipient of a Girl Scout Cadette Silver Award or Girl Scout Gold Award in person, by e-mail, or on the phone. Take notes and share what you learned about her and her project with your troop, group, or family.

8. Brainstorm a Service Project

The Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards all require a service project. With other Girl Scouts, brainstorm ideas for service projects involving sports, safety, health, nutrition, fitness, or other subject areas that interest you. List at least ten ideas. Select one and discuss how you would go about carrying it out. What kinds of help will you need? What kinds of supplies and equipment? How much time will you need? What about donations? Save your list and plans for your Girl Scout future.

9. Attend a Wider Opportunity

Camping trips, cookie events, badge workshops, and bridging events are often sponsored by or partially run by Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. You may be running such an event someday! Attend one and see how an event is put together. Ask the Cadette or Senior Girl Scouts about the preparations they made for the event. Did they coordinate their event with adults? How did they divide the work? Discuss what you learned with your troop, group, or other Girl Scouts.

10. Plan Your Own

Design a wider opportunity for a group of younger Girl Scouts. Work with other Junior Girl Scouts and with Girl Scout leaders to plan the kinds of events or activities that younger girls can do. Once you have a design, carry out your wider opportunity for Daisy or Brownie Girl Scouts. Make sure that Girl Scout leaders are involved and that you have the permissions you need.