 **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 are offering members born between July 28th 1998 and July 27th 2002 the opportunity to attend the International Selection event on Saturday 12th July, from 10am-4pm, in Chislehurst. At the event, applicants will take part in a series of challenges to enable to the leadership team to see how they interact with each other, work as part of a team, use their range of skills etc. After this event, some participants may be offered the chance to take part in an international opportunity.

Opportunities currently being considered include:

* A trip to a UK based international camp – Summer 2015
* A trip to an overseas international camp – destination not yet decided as we are considering a few different options; it may be within Europe – Summer 2015
* An opportunity to represent Greater London Kent County on a Region trip (July/Aug 2015) – any girl put forward for this must be available to attend the London and South East England Region International Opportunities weekend in October 2014

Please note that the details of all these trips are to be confirmed and will be made available when leaders have been selected and trip destinations confirmed.

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.

**Process**

The process is as follows:

* Participant requests application pack from Helen Candy
* Participant receives application pack
* Participant reads pack, completes application form and returns it to GLK.International@gmail.com OR to Helen Candy, GLK International Advisor, 12 Forde Avenue, Bromley, BR1 3EX, by ***June 20th 2014***
* Applicants invited to attend International Selection event which will take place in Chislehurst on ***July 12th 2014, 10am-4pm*** (full details we be distributed after the closing date)
* Some applicants may then be offered places on various trips, subject to references
* Full details of next steps will then be given.

***Please note: applicants are applying for an ‘international opportunity’ and opportunities will be offered after careful consideration***

**Costs**

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.)

Region trips tend to be up to three weeks long, with a service element, and cost approximately £2500.

Please note:

- If selected for an international opportunity with GLK County, girls will be 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 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 with others going on the trip.

**Commitment / Expectation**

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

- Responding promptly to all communications

- Attending preparation events (likely to be three residential weekends for County and Region trips, and significantly more for the World Scout Jamboree) – dates of training events will be given out ASAP when the leadership teams have been formed

- Meeting the payment schedule (which will be issued in the preparation phase).

**Preparation events**

These are extremely important and will involve:

- Team building

- Fundraising preparation

- Skill development

- Practical details

- Designing logo, making decisions about kit, clothing, activities etc.

**Please note**

The Region opportunities will be for participants from across a wider geographical area (London and South East England Region), therefore the preparation events will not necessarily be local. Our County is Greater London Kent, which covers the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley.

**Will I definitely be offered a trip?**

No. I and my team will carefully consider whether each applicant should be offered an international opportunity. Further details about all of the trips will be given at the July event.

If applicants are not offered a place, this does not preclude them from applying for future international opportunities.

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

Either e-mail it to GLK.International@gmail.com or sent by post to: Helen Candy, GLK International Advisor, 12 Forde Avenue, Bromley, BR1 3EX. Forms should be with me by June 28th 2014.

*Helen Candy*

*Girlguiding Greater London Kent County International Adviser*

*GLK.International@gmail.com*