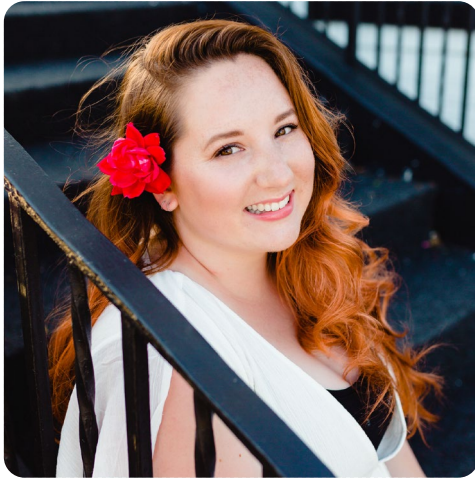


Info Meeting on
GSSI's Volunteer Trip to
Nuestra Cabaña
May 13, 2024





Hannah Minasian

Marketing & Communications
Specialist



About Hannah & her travels

- BA & MA in International Studies
- Studied Japanese for 4 years, Arabic for 3 years, and Italian for 2 months while interning in Rome, Italy
- First traveled abroad when she was 16 years old to Myanmar to volunteer at orphanages
- Has been to 23 states and 10 countries as of 2022, but will be adding South Korea and Mexico to her list by the end of 2024
- Helping local Girl Scouts travel internationally is Hannah's "passion project" at GSSI



Susan Huck

Former Girl Scout Staff,
Friend of the Cabaña



About Susan & her travels

- Worked for Girl Scouts of Raintree Council (now GSSI) in Programs and Girl Scouts in Michigan
- Susan visited the Cabaña with a volunteer in the 1970s while working for GSSI and fell in love with the Centre, so GSSI started sending girls & volunteers there
- After retiring, she became a member of Friends of the Cabaña
 - In February 2024, Susan attended the Grand Re-opening of the Cabaña



Rae Ann Dougherty

Girl Scouts of Colorado Volunteer,
Friend of the Cabaña,
Guest Services Volunteer for
Nuestra Cabaña



About Rae Ann & her travels

- Recent retiree from a long and successful career
- 62 years (& counting) as an active Girl Scout/volunteer, 30 years as a Friend of Nuestra Cabaña, past Chairperson of the Girl Scouts of Colorado Board of Directors, and a member of multiple WAGGGS World Board Committees
- Her FIRST visit to Nuestra Cabaña was for the “Day of the Dead” event in 1987
- Rae Ann has been a visitor, supporter, volunteer, and participant at all WAGGGS World Centres multiple times throughout the years

Agenda

1. WAGGGS and World Centres
2. Volunteer Trip Purpose & Goals
3. Real Mexico Program
4. Summary and Q&A

WAGGGS and World Centres

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

The **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)** is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to educating and empowering girls and young women in the world, representing 10.8 million girls and young women from 153 countries.

WAGGGS' strengths lie in innovative non-formal education programs, leadership development, advocacy, and community action, empowering girls and young women to develop the skills and confidence needed to make positive changes in their lives, in their communities and countries. They deliver these programs in five WAGGGS Regions: Africa, the Arab World, Asia Pacific, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere. They also hold advocacy and leadership events at five World Centres: Our Chalet in Switzerland, Sangam in India, Pax Lodge in the UK, Nuestra Cabaña in Mexico, and Kusafiri, the centre that moves around Africa.

Through WAGGGS' global programs, girls from all over the world come together to learn new skills, share their international experiences, and form lifelong friendships.



The Five WAGGGS World Centres



Our Chalet

In 1929, the World Committee of WAGGGS decided that a World Centre should be built for all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the world to share. This World Centre, located in the Swiss Alps, was the first world centre created, being founded in 1932.



Sangam

In the 1950s, it was decided to build a centre in the Asia Pacific region, with the first foundation stone laid in 1964 in Pune, India. The name Sangam was chosen for its meaning in the ancient language of Sanskrit: 'coming together.'



Pax Lodge

The WAGGGS World Centre in London, England, has grown over the years, starting with Our Ark in 1939, then Olave House in 1959, and now Pax Lodge (1991). The Centre has always had close ties to the WAGGGS World Bureau (HQ).



Kusafiri

This World Centre is the product of years of discussion to bring a Centre to the Africa Region, with the first step forward happening in 2010. This centre moves around the region rather than having one set location. Kusafiri means 'to journey' in Swahili.

Nuestra Cabaña



On February 22, 1956, in the presence of Lady Baden-Powell, the dedication for Nuestra Cabaña was celebrated. It was on that day, that Lady Baden-Powell donated the iconic blue door (The Chief's Door) that greets every Girl Guide and Girl Scout to Nuestra Cabaña and welcomes them to the start of a wonderful adventure. Behind this door lies a place with beautiful gardens, where friendships start and strengthen.

Nuestra Cabaña was officially opened in July 1957 in the “City of Eternal Spring”, Cuernavaca, Mexico. As time has gone by, more and more things have been added to this world centre: new dormitories, a conference room, a pool, a campfire circle, camping areas, volleyball and tennis courts, and even ramps to facilitate access to everyone. Right now, Nuestra Cabaña can hold up to 108 guests, which makes it the largest of the World Centres.

Nuestra Cabaña closed from 2020 to 2023 due to Covid, but on February 9, 2024, they officially re-opened! At their re-opening ceremony, they created a time capsule where the organizations that were present (Girl Guides of Mexico, the District of Cuernavaca, the Young Committee, the Friends of Nuestra Cabaña, the World Board Chair, the Hemisphere Committee Chair, and more) each left an important object. The capsule will be opened in 2032!



Volunteer Trip Purpose & Goals

Re-launch GSSI's
international travel for girls,
both Destinations/Getaways
and Council-only trips

Why is GSSI having this trip?

- GSSI is actively working to promote travel opportunities and get local Girl Scouts traveling again
 - Both domestic and international
 - Both Destinations/Getaways and GSSI-only trips
- This volunteer-only trip is the first step towards international travel for GSSI Girl Scouts
- With this trip, GSSI hopes to:
 - Build interest in travel among local Girl Scouts
 - Build a group of trusted and experienced volunteers to be chaperones in the future for trips like these
 - Build trust with parents and girls alike
 - Build rapport, connections, and a working relationship with those at Nuestra Cabaña

What are GSSI's
goals for volunteers
on this trip?



Education

Volunteers will learn WAGGGS programming and become familiar with Nuestra Cabaña.



Experience

Volunteers will become comfortable with international travel and become a trusted GSSI chaperone.



Promotion

Volunteers will talk about their experience at the World Centre and promote travel with Girl Scouts to local girls.

Nuestra Cabaña Program: Real Mexico

Real Mexico: Day of the Dead

Join Nuestra Cabaña in the small town of Ocoatepec (established in the 15th century as part of the Aztec Empire) and take part in a unique, local Day of the Dead celebration, also known as Dia De Los Muertos in Spanish.

From October 31 to November 2, each year, the streets come alive with colorful ofrendas (altars), marigolds, and flickering candles as Mexican families celebrate the return to Earth of deceased relatives and loved ones. This special holiday is recognized by the United Nations due to its cultural significance.

Engage in captivating traditions where people embrace death as a natural part of life, create a joyful atmosphere filled with laughter, music, and delicious culinary delights, and connect with the local community through a meaningful community action activity.

Date & Time:

From: October 27, 2024,
3 PM CST

To: November 3, 2024,
11 AM CST

Location:

Nuestra Cabaña World
Centre,
Cuernavaca, Mexico





7 Nights at
Nuestra Cabaña



All meals



2 trips to Ocotepc
for Day of the Dead
celebrations



Trip to Taxco



Trip to Downtown
Cuernavaca



Global Guiding &
Scouting Programming



Community Action
activity



Chances to make
new connections



Accommodations

There are two options for room accommodations at Nuestra Cabaña for this program:

- Option 1: 10 Bed Dorm with a shared bathroom
- Option 2: Twin Room with a shared bathroom (additional \$10 per person per night); includes 2 single/bunk beds



Accessibility

Nuestra Cabaña states the following about accessibility:

- For all ages.
- Accommodation suitable for manual wheelchair users is available by ramp access.
- This program may be adapted to meet many accessibility needs.



Program Cost

Prices start around \$1350 per person (USD)*

*The price depends on room selection and conversion rates (MXN to USD)

This is the cost of the PROGRAM-ONLY, not personal spending or flights



Financial Aid

GSSI will offer financial aid to all who attend the trip with additional aid available to those who qualify.

For everyone attending, \$250 will be provided to go towards their program cost.

Please speak to Aimee if you need additional financial assistance.



Payment Timeline

The timeline is tight with most of the program cost being due soon.

1. 10% deposit automatically
2. 40% due at the end of June
3. Final 50% is due in September 2024



Flight costs are always changing, but as of DATE, these are some options for flying into Mexico City (MEX):

Carpooling to an airport is always an option for cheaper flights!

Evansville, IN (EVV)

The least expensive flights for similar trips to Mexico City usually cost between \$540–780.

As of May 13, the cheapest possible flight is \$679 with Delta

As of May 13, the earliest arrival possible is \$965 with Delta

Louisville, KY (SDF)

The least expensive flights for similar trips to Mexico City usually cost between \$570–810.

As of May 13, the cheapest possible flight is \$599 with Delta

As of May 13, the earliest arrival possible is \$719 with Delta

Nashville, TN (BNA)

The least expensive flights for similar trips to Mexico City usually cost between \$520–760.

As of May 13, the cheapest possible flight is \$900 with American

As of May 13, the earliest arrival possible is \$1,328 with United

Indianapolis, IN (IND)

The least expensive flights for similar trips to Mexico City usually cost between \$570–810.

As of May 13, the cheapest possible flight is \$742 with Delta

As of May 13, the earliest arrival possible is \$897 with Delta

St. Louis, MO (STL)

The least expensive flights for similar trips to Mexico City usually cost between \$395–700.

As of May 13, the cheapest possible flight is \$779 with Delta

As of May 13, the earliest arrival possible is \$980 with Delta

Cost: Program + Flight

Baseline Cost of the Program: \$1350

Flight Cost: usually between \$400-800

Travel Insurance: TBD

Program + Flight
Price:

estimated to be
\$1750 - \$2150

Other expenses, not included, to consider:

- Souvenirs & gifts
- Other transportation
- Meals in airports and any food you buy outside of provided meals by Nuestra Cabaña

How to Pay:

- Payments for the program go directly through Nuestra Cabaña
 - Hannah will be booking for our group, so she will inform everyone about how to pay once we have our reservation
- Pay for the flight through the airline
 - Each person will book their tickets, but a specific flight will be chosen that works for all so we can travel as a group

Cancellation Policy:

If you register and then cancel after accepting and using the financial aid provided by GSSI, you will be required to pay back the financial aid. Volunteers will sign a contract agreeing to this.



Nuestra Cabaña Program: Real Mexico

Commitment

Volunteers who want to participate in this trip and are ready to commit to it must sign up via a new form on GSSI's website. That form will be posted in the coming days.

Deadline to Commit: June 1, 2024, at 11:59 PM CDT

Volunteers who commit to this trip will be asked to sign a contract that will include:

- A Code of Conduct
- A Financial Responsibilities Agreement, including the Cancellation Policy
- And more

Re-Cap and Q&A



Trip Purpose

GSSI's first step towards international travel for local Girl Scouts

The goal is to:

- build local girls' interest in travel
- build a group of trusted chaperones
- build trust with both parents & girls
- build a relationship with Nuestra Cabaña



Trip Program

Real Mexico: Day of the Dead at Nuestra Cabaña

Deadline: June 1, 11:59 PM CT

When? October 27 to November 3, 2024

Where? Nuestra Cabaña World Centre in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Who? Volunteers who want to chaperone GSSI trips in the future to show girls the world



Trip Cost & Aid

Program + Flight Cost:
\$1750 - \$2150

Financial Aid is available

GSSI will give \$250 to all who attend the trip towards the cost of the program. Additional aid is available to those who qualify.

50% of the program cost is due by the end of June, with the other 50% due at the end of September.



Questions?
Ask now!

Have questions later? Contact...

For info on financial aid: Aimee Stachura, astachura@girlscouts-gssi.org

For info on this trip & future GSSI travel: Hannah Minasian, hminasian@girlscouts-gssi.org

Thank You!
Travel with
Girl Scouts soon!



