

GUIDE TO THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Overview

This year's festival will be held on Sunday, March 23rd, at Pacific Union School, Janes Rd, Arcata. (Location will be confirmed at the beginning of the year)

The festival will officially open at 1:00pm with the parade of International Flags. The booths will then be open for girls to visit and have their passports stamped. At 3:00 pm we will close the booths temporarily and gather to watch performances by troops, after which the booths will reopen to allow girls to finish their visits by 4:00pm.

If space allows, there will be a table to show off old International Festival displays. If you have a display board from prior years, let us know if you wish set it up.

Troop Responsibilities

Each troop is responsible for their girls. The volunteer in charge of each troop must have with them a health history, an emergency contact phone number and permission slip or annual permission slip for each girl attending. Please provide a roster of girls attending when you check in.

Patches & Cost

The cost for the event including the patch is \$5.00 per girl. Please sign in at the event, indicate the number of attendees, turn in your roster and be prepared to pay for your girls so you can collect the right number of passports from registration. Customized patches will be ordered after the event, so we minimize expense and waste. *Also, patchworkdesigns.com offers "Historically Speaking" patches for most countries and can be something your troop purchases for girls that participate in building your display about your country. They are large and lovely patches, and the site also offers activity guides for each country that could save you time and help you in your preparations.*

Your Country

Each troop should select a country. After your country has been chosen **and confirmed back to you**, plan to prepare a booth/table to present your country. Try to be creative: games, crafts, SWAPS, or other hands-on activities will be more successful and generally promote more learning, especially with the younger girls. Also, please plan to serve a small sample of a food or drink that is typical of your country.

Your girls should wear something to show the country they represent. This could range from a costume to something as simple as a flag pin.

At a minimum each country should display:

- Map of the country.
- Map of the world showing where your country is located.
- Information on Girl Scouts/Girl Guides in the country. (The WAGGGS site <http://www.wagggsworld.org/en/our-world/> has links to other countries national Girl Scout/Guide websites or just try Google).

You should bring at least one 6' table. If you want a second one, let us know so we can allow adequate space. If you require electricity, please let us know in advance. We encourage you to come up with something different and exciting.

Your booth should be set up and ready for the opening ceremony at 1:00pm. Please plan to keep your booth open and operating until the festival ends at 4:00 pm. Please make provisions for your trash (bring a small trash can) for food waste. Pencils can be attached with yarn at your booth in case not all girls have them to complete their passports.

Performances

Participating troops are encouraged to create a short performance to showcase their country. Performances could include dance, singing, or a skit or game demonstration. Please let us know if you plan a performance and if you need any special set up. Performances will be held at approximately 3:00 pm. If a troop has contacts with an ethnic performer that would be willing to perform at the festival, please let us know.

Parade of International Flags

The festival will open with the traditional parade of flags. Each troop is invited to provide 2 girls to participate in the parade. These girls must arrive by 12:45pm just outside the entrance. If possible, let us know before the festival the names of the girls in your troop who will participate in the Parade.

Things not to forget

- If serving food, trash bags/can, paper towels, clean up materials.
- Extension cord if you need power.
- Pens/Pencils for your girls.
- Stamp and pad for your country's "passport stamp"

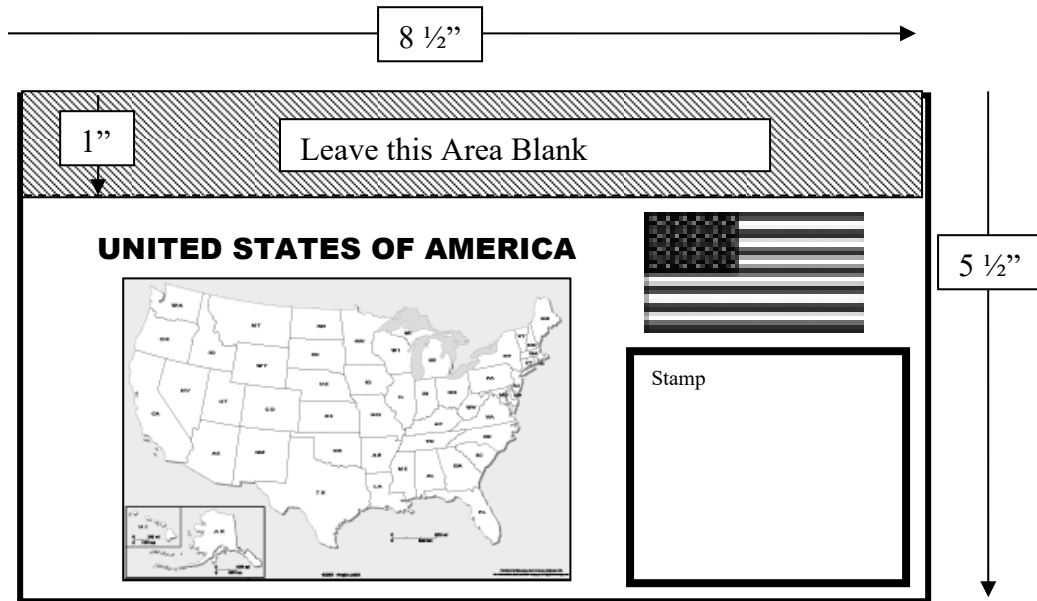
Preparing for the Festival

Preparing for the festival can be a great project for your troop. Have the girls do some of the research themselves. Let them create the displays. Use the opportunity to explain the worldwide nature of girl scouting.

Passports

Each girl attending the festival will be given a passport. The passport will have a page for each of the represented countries. Your troop gets to design and provide the page for your country. As the girls circulate from country to country, they will be able to complete questions on each page and get a country stamp. We ask each troop representing a country to provide **150** copies of their page. The host troop will assemble the individual pages into a passport and hand them out as the beginning of the festival. ***In order that we can make this work, it is important that everyone use the same basic format as shown on the next page. The format allows for 2 pages per sheet of paper printed on both sides.***

This is an example of a passport page and shows the minimum elements, please feel free to be creative. The paper must be 8 ½ by 5 ½ and we do need the 1” strip across the top to allow us to bind the pages into the finished passport.



On the Front have:

- Name of Country
- Flag of Country
- Outline map of Country
- Space for you to stamp the page as girls visit your country.

The back page should have information about the country with some questions for the girls who visit your display, for example:

- What is the name for Brownies in (*your country*)? _____.
- The game I played was? _____
- I tasted some _____.
- The craft project we did was _____.

Troops can color some part of their page in advance, (you can leave the flag to be colored at the booth) or maybe use some color copying if they want to add some splash to the passport page for their country.

PLEASE DO NOT PUNCH ANY HOLES IN THE PAPER

Please send Cheryl or Sarah Boyd a draft of it if possible so we can see if there might be problems with the design.

Passport pages are due to Kassity/Sarah/Cheryl by the March 14th please.