

Field Trip Ideas

Outdoor fun!!!

LETTERBOXING

Letterboxing is an intriguing pastime combining artistic ability with "treasure-hunts" in parks, forests, and cities around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues. The prize: a miniature piece of art known as a rubber stamp—usually unique, hand-carved creations. Letterboxers stamp their discoveries in a personal journal, then use their own rubber stamp, called a *signature stamp*, by stamping it into the logbook found with the letterbox, perhaps writing a note about the weather or their adventures in finding the letterbox.

For more information, check out these letterboxing websites: www.letterboxing.org and www.atlasquest.com Here is a link to a letterboxing Junior Badge created by the Virginia Skyline council http://www.gsvsc.org/pdf/ourowncouncil/ooc_badge_discoverletterboxing.pdf

GEOCACHING

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for gps users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a gps unit. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they get something they should try to leave something for the cache. For more information, please visit the website at www.geocaching.com.

Also, check out these Geocaching Girl Scout programs offered from our own council for Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes/Seniors

http://www.girlscoutserieshores.org/uploaded_forms/0844.doc Brownies

http://www.girlscoutserieshores.org/uploaded_forms/0843.doc Juniors

http://www.girlscoutserieshores.org/uploaded_forms/0842.doc Cadettes/Seniors

LAKE ERIE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER

Lake Erie Nature and Science Center offers a variety of Girl Scout programs for Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts, including overnights. Click on the link for additional information:

<http://www.lensc.org/education/scouts/index.htm>

LORAIN COUNTY METROPARKS

The Lorain County Metroparks offers badge programs for Brownies and Juniors:

Brownie try-its: Animal, Eco-Explorer, Earth and Sky and Watching Wildlife

Junior Badges: Earth Connection, Your Outdoor Surroundings, and Wildlife

For additional information or to schedule a program, contact Mary at 458-5121 at extension 241

HOLDEN ARBORETUM

Offers several programs for scouts of all ages

<http://www.holdenarb.org/Education/scoutprograms.htm>

ROSCOE VILLAGE

Roscoe Village is about a 2 hour drive from Avon and offers a Girl Scout patch program designed to show girls the importance of the Ohio Canal system in our state history. The village has been restored into a historic "old village" and would be very educational and entertaining for the girls.

<http://www.roscoevillage.com>

RAMSEYER FARMS

Pumpkin patches, corn mazes and lots of fun!!

<http://www.ramseyerfarms.com/>

WILDWOOD MARINA

It's great fishing on Lake Erie, so cast your line for lake perch and award-winning walleye. Bait and tackle available. Also, boat tours of Cleveland's shorelines and the Flats. For a unique tour of Lake Erie's underwater shipwrecks, set up a scuba diving excursion.

<http://www.discoverydive.com/>

SENECA CAVERNS

Very cool field trip of an underground cavern in Bellevue

<http://www.senecacavernsohio.com/history.htm>

OVERNIGHTS!!!

HOSTELING INTERNATIONAL IN CHICAGO

The Hostelling International Hostel in Chicago offers programs for Girl Scouts from around the world to meet each other and explore the city of Chicago. It's a great way to earn the "Discover the World - Girl Scouts Go Hostelling" patch. Prices start at \$30 per person.

http://www.hichicago.org/groups_girlscouts.shtml

SANTA MARIA...COLUMBUS, OHIO

Have you ever wondered what it might have been like to sail with Christopher Columbus on his voyage over five hundred years ago? What must it have felt like to step aboard the Nina, Pinta, or Santa Maria and set off to the New World? Well, your waiting is over because in Columbus, Ohio, you can find out! Well, you can at least get a pretty good idea with the replica of the Santa Maria that is located on the river in downtown Columbus, Ohio.

For those people looking for a bit more of an adventure, if you can round up thirty of your nearest and dearest, you can sign up for the overnight program. Intended to really capture the feel of Columbus' maiden voyage, the overnight program offers you the opportunity to **play** sailor. Groups that take up this challenge will discover how the members of the crews of the Santa Maria, Nina, and Pinta had to rely on each other and **work** in harmony in order to survive such a long and arduous journey across the sea. http://www.santamaria.org/overnight_program.php

CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

The Cleveland Zoo offers overnight programs throughtout the year...girls must be at least 6 years old for this program. <http://www.clemetzoo.com/education/ovrnights/nghttrks.asp>

COSI COLUMBUS

Offers programs during the school year for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts

<http://www.cosi.org/educators/overnights/>

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

Overnight programs for Girl Scouts

http://www.glsc.org/educate/camp_ins.php

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HORSES/HORSEBACKRIDING

Ponytales Farm

www.ponytalesfarm.org would be a great trip for Daisies and Brownies. Ponytales Farm is a pony rescue sanctuary and they offer educational tours that include a pony ride for each of the girls! Brownies will be able to earn the Giddy Up and Go Try-it offered by the Wilderness Road Council. <http://www.gswrc.org/Council's%20Own/giddyuptryit.htm>

Rocky River Stables

offers a 2 hour program for Girl Scouts age 8 and up. Please see website for additional information: <http://www.valleyriding.org/Programs.htm>

CDI Farms

offers overnight programs for Juniors and Cadettes/Seniors. Please visit their website at <http://cdifarm.com/page/17niy/Programs.html> for additional information.

H.O.P.E. Organization, Inc.

H.O.P.E. takes in and cares for abused, neglected, unwanted and slaughter-bound horses; regardless of age, breed, sex, injury, illness or behavior. We provide these horses with appropriate medical care and emotional needs, proper nutrition, safe shelter and appropriate training through skilled or compassionate handlers. <http://www.hopehorserescue.org/scoutbadge.htm> Badge programs are available for Junior Girl Scouts.

R&R Dude Ranch

www.rrduderanch.com/GirlScouts.htm in Western New York, offers a 2 night/three day program for Juniors and Cadetter/Seniors interested in earning their equine badges.

TOURS!

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Different and unique tours to take in Sandusky County

http://www.sanduskycounty.org/group_tour_interesting_educational.htm

HARRY LONDON CHOCOLATES

Take a tour of their factory in Canton

<http://factorytoursusa.com/TourDetails.asp?TourID=21&State=OH&Search=&CategoryID=>

BACK TO THE WILD

Back to the Wild is a wildlife rehabilitation center in Castalia, Ohio that offers educational tours to groups to inform about the conservation of wildlife habitats.

<http://backtothewild.com/BTTWPages/programs.html>

MALLEY'S CHOCOLATES

<http://www.malleys.com/Tours.aspx>

COMPLETELY CLEVELAND

Completely Cleveland (formerly North Coast Tours) offers professionally guided walking tours of downtown Cleveland. Tours aim to make history and the city come alive, as students experience Moses Cleaveland and Western Reserve stories, learn about Cleveland's "Group Plan," and absorb the beauty and history of many landmark buildings. In a "hands on" visit to the **Cleveland City Council chambers** in City Hall (when available), the magnificent Court of Appeals in the Cuyahoga County Courthouse, and the contemporary Justice Center, students can witness government in action.

<http://www.completelycleveland.com/>

HAUNTED CLEVELAND GHOST TOURS!!!

Haunted Cleveland Ghost Tours are scary enough to for grownups, and probably too scary (and too long) for little kids. Many of the tours feature (rather grisly) chapters of Cleveland's history, so if you do take the kids, you can say it's educational.

The company offers a neat variety of tours including Ghost Tours, Murder Tours, Cemetery Tours, and a Christmas tour; *Haunted Cleveland, In Search of the Christmas Spirit*.

We don't want to scare you too bad, but tickets often do sell out well in advance - book ahead.

<http://www.hauntedcleveland.net/>

LOLLY THE TROLLEY

Trolley Tours of Cleveland offers tours year round; in the winter, the trolleys are enclosed and heated - especially appreciated during the popular **Holiday Lights** tours!

When cheery, bright red *Lolly* is rolling (May through October) it's hard to beat the **one-hour sightseeing** tour for families. (*Children under 5 are not permitted on the two-hour tour.*)

Sights frequented by *Lolly* include the Flats, the historic Warehouse District and happening Gateway and Theatre districts, plus the Rock Hall, University Circle, and the Lake Erie Shoreline.

Reservations should be made in advance by calling 800.848.0173 or 216.771.4484 (press "0" for a live person). <http://www.lollytrolley.com/>

ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame offers programs for Girl Scouts

<http://www.rockhall.com/visit/group-tours/>

PROGRESSIVE FIELD:

Take a tour of the Cleveland Indians stadium

<http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com/cle/ballpark/tours.jsp>

COOKING/FOOD FUN!!

YOUNG CHEF'S ACADEMY

Special program for Girl Scouts http://www.youngchefsacademy.com/special_events.php

BUEHLER'S

Cooking classes for Daisies, Brownies and Juniors www.buehlers.com

CICI'S PIZZA

Groups are given a tour and allowed to make their own pizza! 934-3855

VINTAGE HOUSE CAFÉ

Vintage House Café in Avon has a tea room that seats up to 15 girls. They offer tea parties for younger girls and provide traditional old-fashioned tea party costumes for the girls to wear. They discuss tea party etiquette and manners-very, very cute!! <http://www.vintagehousecafe.com/>

RECREATIONAL/SPORTS

Playground World, Avon

Offers play time for groups <http://www.pgworld.com/playzone.jsp>

DICKS'S SPORTING GOODS, NORTH OLMSTED

From Tina Moreno: We took our troop to Dick's in North Olmsted to tackle their rock climbing wall. It was very affordable and our girls absolutely loved it. It was a fantastic team building activity because our girls were at various levels. It was exceedingly difficult for some and easier for others. Everyone made it to the top and it was a huge self esteem booster.

Avon High School football game

From Tina Moreno: We had our monthly meeting beforehand and learned some cheers from a cheerleader. We made purple and yellow hair scrunchies and painted our nails purple and gold. In the evening, we met at the middle school for the game and brought along snacks and hot chocolate. It was a fun evening.

HAMILTON ICE ARENA ROCKY RIVER

From Larissa Bungo: Our troop took a 45 minute ice skating lesson with 2 instructors followed by snack at the Hamilton Ice Arena in Rocky River. (Contact Ice Skating Rink Manager for GS specials, it was \$20 for the instructors - who were GS ice skaters themselves which we split amongst the attendees and \$4.50 for skate rental and snack afterwards. Came up to about \$7 per girl)

CRAFTS/SEWING

JO-ANN FABRICS

The superstore, located in North Olmsted, has many craft/sewing programs for youth

<http://joann.know-where.com/joann/cgi/site?site=1923&address>

MICHAELS

Offers many programs, from arts/crafts to cake decorating-also has Girl Scout badge programs available. 937-2200 for more information

SEWING LESSONS WITH MRS. E.

Contact the number below for additional information.

Sewing Lessons with Mrs. E. 641 Brownstone Circle, Avon Lake, OH 44012 440-933-3539

SUGAR AND SPICE OCCASIONS

Offers Daisy, Brownie and Junior badge programs...also offers "stuff your own teddy bear" service projects for groups. <http://www.sugarandspiceoccasions.com/girlscouts.htm>

OTHER/MISC:

FIRESTONE AUTOMOTIVE

Firestone has partnered with Girl Scouts to offer a program called "On the Road" for Girl Scouts ages 14 and older to encourage girls to be safe, competent drivers. For more information:

http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/our_partners/convention_sponsors/firestone.asp