

# Dispatches from a Girl Scout Abroad

By Nicole Popp

Dispatch #1 Switzerland at Our Chalet



Hi everyone,

I'm one of your fellow Girl Scouts from Hawaii. I just finished volunteering for the summer in Switzerland at Our Chalet, one of the five World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Centers world-wide. While interacting with Guides and Scouts from around the world, I realized I knew very little about the international opportunities that are out there for us. My plan is to write a number of posts about what is available to my fellow Hawaii Girl Scouts and also to tell you about the other things I'm doing on my Gap Year.

I'm on a Gap Year between High School (Mid Pacific Institute) and University. I had hoped to visit all the WAGGGS Centers but looks like I'll only get to two – Our Chalet in Switzerland and Pax Lodge in London. I received offers to volunteer at the Sangam Center in India and also Our Cabana in Mexico, but the dates wouldn't work for me. I'll write later about what I learned about those WAGGGS Centers.

Our Chalet is set in the Swiss Alps. Yes, it is gorgeous and the cows wear bells. I did a lot of cooking – sometimes for 90 people. We rotated the meals and my favorite was the Chicken and Leek Pie. I learned how to cook puddings (in Europe that is all kinds of desserts) such as apple strudel and bread and butter pudding (on this recipe it had a note saying this dessert will confuse Americans).

## **Bread and Butter Pudding**

1/2 a loaf of bread

3 eggs

1 cup milk

1 cup cream

1.5 cups of sugar

1 1/4 cup butter

1 cup chocolate chips (or more if you LOVE chocolate)

Cut bread into small bite size pieces and place in casserole pan. Melt butter and mix with half of the milk and cream. Mix well with the bread in the pan and let sit for five minutes.

Beat the eggs, rest of the milk and cream with the sugar.

Combine all ingredients in casserole pan and mash the bread with a fork.

Bake at 350 for 30 to 40 minutes.



I was able to go climbing, visited some adorable small towns, rode a funicular (like a vertical train), hiked, and we all ate lots of chocolate (some of the other girls used their chocolate wrappers to wallpaper their bedrooms). We had 9 days off each month. I used some of my days to visit Milan in Italy and, on my way to my next destination, stayed in Geneva and toured around.

I was a volunteer there but Scouts can also go for an event or do formal internships. This was an amazing opportunity for me – a summer in the Swiss Alps with a bunch of wonderful young women from all over the world.