

# Dispatches from a Girl Scout Abroad

By Nicole Popp  
Dispatch # 2 Scotland



Hi,  
This is Nicole Popp again, one of your fellow Hawaii Scouts on a Gap Year after graduating from High school. In this post I plan to tell you about Pax Lodge, a World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Center in London, and the HelpX opportunity I am on right now in Scotland. So let's start with where I am right now (which has nothing to do with Girl Scouting)-sitting in the living room of a house in Scotland near Inverness. There are 11 Newfoundland dogs here, a Scottish family and several 'helpers' from around the world. The Scottish family advertised on a website called 'HelpX' and it looked like something I'd like to do during my Gap Year. I Skyped with the family and we agreed I'd come for 6 weeks to help with the Newfoundlands in return for room and board. For about 5 hours each day we walk the dogs, feed them, groom and pick up their poop. I get 2 days off each week to explore Scotland.



I'm not endorsing HelpX; I just picked this opportunity from the site as something I thought I'd be interested in. More well-known is WWOOFing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) and there is also WorkAway. I know a German girl who was into horses who spent a year traveling in Canada working at ranches; someone else who built barns in Iceland.



There are so many options – you get real experiences in different cultures without spending tons of money. You're usually asked to work about 5 hours a day and then receive free room and board.

OK, now Pax Lodge. Pax Lodge is one of the WAGGGS Centers and is in the heart of London. I stayed there several nights before heading off to Our Chalet in Switzerland. There are many room options – hostel type shared rooms, en suite rooms, whatever works for your group. The

Lodge is near many of the attractions in London and it is very easy to stay there. Pax Lodge doesn't have as many programs as Our Chalet but it is a great place to stay to explore London. Maybe your troop could visit London together?

