

Dispatches from a Girl Scout Abroad

By Nicole Popp
Dispatch #3 - London



Hello there,

Nicole Popp back again. I'm a fellow Hawaii Girl Scout on a Gap Year between High School and College. This is my third post sharing travel opportunities abroad. I'm now in Costa Rica where I'm be volunteering at a wildlife conservation center and studying up on my Spanish.

For the last two months, I've been working at a limestone quarry a few hours north of London. My main job was in the quality control lab. The limestone is very pure and is used for many things, mainly agricultural, but also glass making, dry wall and construction. I shared a flat with some geologists and assisted them in the field. My parents are geologists and a family friend offered me this opportunity.

On weekends in London I was able to catch up with one of my former troop members, Mia, who is there studying musical theater. I also made a weekend trip to Oxford to see one of the girls I met at Our Chalet.

For this dispatch, I'd like to tell you about the other international WAGGGS Centers – Our Cabana, Sangam Center and Kusafiri in Africa. Both Our Cabana and Sangam Center offered me volunteer positions – Our Cabana even came with a travel stipend – but they let me know very late and their dates then didn't fit into my schedule.

Sangam Center is in Pune, India and offers several different opportunities. I was interested in their program where you stayed at the center and then volunteered in the community. They also have cultural, leadership, celebration, and wellness events that a Scout from Hawaii can participate in.

Kusafiri World Centre was established in 2010 to bring a World Centre to the Africa Region. The events are held in different locations in Africa. This year, Kusafiri was in Uganda where there were two programs – one to prepare facilitators for this year's Juliette Low Seminar and a cultural program to explore the heritage and diversity of Uganda.



Our Cabana is near Mexico City in Cuernavaca. There are activities you or your troop can join and volunteer opportunities. I hope to get there sometime to help work on my Spanish.

So if you want to travel internationally, consider a WAGGGS Center. You'll be with Scouts and Guides from all over the world, make new friends and stay in a great facility. Troops often travel together but there are also opportunities to go as an individual. I loved my summer in Switzerland at Our Chalet exploring the Alps and can't wait to go back again.