



Georgia Getaway: Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Journey to Savannah, GA! June 23 - 27, 2027

Grab your Girl Scouts friends and let's explore all that Savannah, Georgia has to offer! Check out where Girl Scouts began in the United States, relax on the beaches of Tybee Island, experience a dolphin cruise, explore historic Savannah and much more. This is a trip that all Girl Scouts can appreciate!

This trip will also include a special Bridging Ceremony opportunity! What a great way to celebrate the end of the Girl Scout year with your Troop.

Price includes charter bus transportation, three nights hotel, eleven meals (dinner on June 23 – dinner on June 26), various bus snacks, all activities, ticketing fees, commemorative patch and T-shirt.

During our trip, participants can look forward to:

- Dolphin Tour on Tybee Island
- Marine Science Center Programming
- Girl Scout First Headquarters Tour
- Historic Savannah Trolley Tour Exploration
- Special Girl Scout Programming and Patch Opportunities
- A Bridging Ceremony in Historic Georgia

Group Information:

Please include Troop/Buddy information at the time of registration. Smaller groups will have opportunities to explore on their own.

Parents, Caregivers and Troop Leaders: All adult registrants must have a current Girl Scout membership and clear a criminal background check by the time of trip departure. Girl Scout Juniors must have a caregiver or Troop Leader register with them. Girl Scout Cadettes - Ambassadors may travel independently and will travel with an assigned group.

Sample Itinerary:

Day 1: June 23 – Travel Day: 5:30 a.m. departure. Bus pick up locations include Fairview Heights MetroLink Station and Mt. Vernon/Marion upon request. Estimated arrival to hotel, 9:30 p.m.

Day 2: June 24 – Explore Day – Tybee Island

Day 3: June 25 – Explore Day – Juliette Gordon Low Historic District and trolley tours

Day 4: June 26 – Explore Day – Activities and Bridging Ceremony. After dinner, travel home, sleep on bus

Day 5: June 27 – Travel Day: Arrive at drop off destinations between 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

itinerary subject to change

Payment Information & Schedule:

\$900 per Girl Scout and Adult Members

Participant Deposit: \$200 is due at the time of registration

Deadline to register: Monday, February 1, 2027

Extended Deadline: Participants can register up till final deadline of Monday, March 1, 2027 for an extra \$75/registrant

Final Payment Due: Monday, May 3, 2027

*after the registration deadline of Monday, February 1, 2027, you are locked in for our trip and agree to make the final payment.

Trip FAQ: Is this trip for me?

We want every participant to feel confident, ready, and excited about this adventure! Here are a few things to consider before registering:

- Will we be moving around a lot?
 - o YES! This is very much a fast paced, yet FUN experience. Savannah is a walking city. Throughout our trip, we will be out of the hotel after breakfast, be gone throughout the day, and then wind down in the evening at the hotel after dinner. We will be navigating historic

squares, cobblestone streets, and uneven sidewalks. Due to the historic nature of the trip, there are some locations where our bus will not be able to move through. Participants should feel comfortable walking 10-15 minutes at a time between stops throughout the day.

- What kind of terrain should I expect?
 - o Savannah's historic district includes brick paths, cobblestone roads, and some uneven surfaces. Participants should carry rain gear and supportive walking shoes throughout the trip.
- Will Girl Scouts be exploring independently?
 - o Yes. During parts of the trip, small groups will navigate assigned areas with their adults. Adults should encourage Girl Scouts to follow their map and "Lead the Way" to the next destination.
- What will the weather be like?
 - o June in coastal Georgia is warm and humid. Expect summer temperatures, sunshine, and possible afternoon showers. Hydration, sunscreen, weather appropriate clothing, and rain gear are essential.
- Tell me about the hotel accommodations?
 - o All hotel rooms will have access to two queen beds. Room assignments will be based on your Troop/Buddy request listed at checkout. Generally, families will share the same room (mothers/daughters, etc.) and Troops will be roomed together. Reminder, if adults are needed to stay in the room with girls, there will be two unrelated adult females in the room.
- Tell me about the overnight bus ride home?
 - o After our final days of activities, we will depart in the evening and sleep on the charter bus during the ride home. Our last restroom break will be around 10 p.m. that evening. Then, due to the length of our drive, our bus drivers will switch around 1-2 a.m. and then we will continue our drive home. Participants should be comfortable sleeping in a seated position. It is highly recommended to pack a neck pillow and a blanket for the ride.
- Is this a physically active trip?
 - o If you've travelled with Program Engagement Manager, Natalie, then you know you are in for an adventure! Get ready for full exploration days. While we build in rest breaks, this is not a sit-and-relax vacation. It's a Girl Scout ADVENTURE!
- I don't think we are ready for this trip in 2027. Will council be hosting another trip to Savannah in the future?
 - o YES! We plan to host council trips to Savannah, GA every two years. Save the dates for June 2029!
- What forms do I need to complete prior to the trip?
 - o All participants must complete a health history form and a physical that must be completed and signed by a medical professional. All participants must complete the Travel Behavior Agreement (all),

Shared Sleeping Space Agreement (youth), and Travel Confidential Form (youth).

- I'm an adult who plans to attend the trip. What do I need to have on file in order to travel?
 - o All adults on the trip are responsible for their group/troop. There will be times for troops to explore on their own. All adults on the trip must have: a current Girl Scout Adult membership at the time of the trip, must complete and pass a background check, and must complete Illinois Mandated Reporter (or equivalent). All adults must complete all health forms, travel behavior agreement, and the required health physical that must be completed by a medical professional.
- I'm out of council. Can I still attend?
 - o Yes! Out of council youth must have the proper girl:adult ratios to travel and must agree to complete all of the required forms listed above. This is a BUS travel trip. Please read over the sample itinerary carefully. Out of council participants MUST meet us at the bus locations that are offered OR meet at the hotel. We will not be at the hotel until late in the evening on June 23 and check out is the morning of June 26. Travel arrangements, meals, etc. outside of what is offered on this trip will be your responsibility.
- Is this trip right for me?
 - o This trip is perfect for a Girl Scout who: enjoys exploring new cities, can handle warm weather and full days of activities, is excited to learn about Girl Scout history, feels comfortable navigating independently in small, supervised groups, and is able to go with the flow when schedules change.
 - o Overall: If you're unsure, we encourage families to reach out and talk to our Program Engagement Manager, Natalie, to talk through questions before registering. We want every participant to feel prepared and confident! If special accommodations are needed for your Girl Scout or Troop, please let our Program Engagement Manager know as soon as possible.

Questions? Contact Natalie Bachmann at customercare@gsofsi.org.