



Pen Pal Network for Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana

Searching for a pen pal can be a rewarding, enriching activity. Many girls make friendships with pen pals that will last a lifetime. This resource is available to help leaders link their troops with troops in other areas in the United States for the purpose of corresponding by postal mail.

Here's What to Do

Links are made as troop requests are available. It may take several months to receive a link, as arranging pen pals through other councils takes time. It is possible that a link cannot be made at all, and reapplying might be necessary, or alternative ideas may be used (see "Alternatives" section on the next page.)

There are no provisions for individual links, only troop to troop. Our council cannot guarantee an equal number of girls in each troop. The request should be completed by a troop leader and submitted to Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana at the address below. Our council will only link to non-Kentuckiana troops.

Do not plan to use a pen pal link just to complete a badge, bridging or Thinking Day activity, because pen pals should only be requested for girls interested in long-term correspondence. At this time, troops may only request links to other troops in the United States.

All girls in your troop should be mature enough to be able to write on their own. The Pen Pal Network program is recommended for Girl Scout Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador troops.

When the link is made, you will receive notification from the council pen pal coordinator with the information for corresponding with your new friends. Troop leaders need to work out the details of the correspondence (i.e. frequency, content, etc.)

It is not recommended that pen pal correspondence be made online (via facebook, email, etc.) Using postal mail is a much safer method of correspondence.

Questions? Call (502) 636-0900 (local Louisville) or (888) 771-5170 (toll free). Requests sent via email should be complete with all needed information, and the registration form attached.

All information on Pen Pal Network participants is verified to ensure safety of the girls.

Please mail completed form to Pen Friends, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, PO Box 32335, Louisville, KY 40232-2335. Fax to (502) 634-0837. Email to webmaster@kyanags.org



Alternatives to the Pen Pal Network

The Pen Pal Network program may not work for your troop. It may take a long time to find a compatible troop, or your girls may be too young. Whatever the reason, you might consider one of these alternative projects:



Girl Scouts can send letters or drawings to children who must be hospitalized or are home-bound for long periods of time.



Girl Scouts might correspond as a troop with a senior citizen pen pal. Remember that writing is a chore for some young girls, and they may not have the maturity to commit to long term correspondence. Be creative! Use photos, scrapbooks, drawings and tape recordings.



Leaders may choose to explore non-Girl Scout pen pal resources available online, but please exercise caution. Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana does not endorse or monitor any of these sites.



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana
www.kyanags.org
Girl Scout Pen Pal Network

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Pen Pal Network Sign-Up Sheet

Girl Scout Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador troop links only.
(Form to be completed by the G.S. Leader)

G.S. Leader's Name: _____ Date _____

Leader's Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Daytime Telephone: (____) _____ Evening Telephone: (____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Troop #: _____ Service Unit: _____

Form with two columns of checkboxes for age levels (Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors) and questions about age range and willingness to write to other age levels.

U.S. State preference to correspond with (Mark 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices):

- List of U.S. states with checkboxes for selection: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

If we cannot connect your troop to the state you have selected, would you be willing to write to a troop in a different state?
Yes No

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