

GIRL SCOUTS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

# PEN PALS

## *How to Find and Cultivate Them*

If girls express an interest in pen pals, there are several alternatives from which the leader and girls might choose, depending upon the age level and special hobbies of the girls.

### Pen Pals in the United States

*For Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior Girl Scout Troops*

#### **Girl Scout Pen Pal Network:**

Girl Scouts of San Francisco Bay Area is a member of the Girl Scout Pen Pal Network. We are able to make links with troops in other Girl Scout councils in the United States, depending on availability.

Troops are matched by program level and troop size. We are occasionally able to make matches for Juliette girls as well. All troops matched through the Girl Scout Pen Pal Network are expected to maintain correspondence for at least one year (This doesn't mean that after a year, you stop corresponding; many Girl Scouts keep writing to their pen pals for as long as 25 years!)

If your troop would like to make a link through the Girl Scout Pen Pal network, fill out and return the form below. Please note that requests for troops in a specific area will take longer to match. Pen Pal troops are not currently available through the network in Hawaii or Alaska. Matches will be made as quickly as possible and are most commonly made during the fall through early spring months.

#### **Other Sources of Pen Pals:**

Within the parent group, troop committee, or sponsoring group there might be an adult who could provide a contact that would link the troop with a group of girls (Girl Scouts or non-Girl Scouts) with whom they could correspond. A member of the troop who has lived elsewhere might be able to provide a contact.

### Pen Pals Outside the United States

The International Pen Pal program conducted by GSUSA is under revision and they are not currently accepting requests. While the International Pen Pals program is under review, Girl Scout leaders and girls who have Internet access can visit the WAGGGS visitors' book Web site at [www.waggsworld.org](http://www.waggsworld.org)\*. Although staff from the WAGGGS World Bureau in London, England monitors the WAGGGS Web site regularly, GSUSA advises that girls *not* use their last names or share their e-mail addresses when signing the guest book. If continued correspondence is desired, Girl Scout leaders should contact other leaders using an e-mail address set up for that purpose so that replies can be screened.

Girl Scouts of San Francisco Bay Area  
**Request For A United States Pen Pal Troop**

Troop # \_\_\_\_\_ Brownie  Junior  Cadette  Senior

Number of girls who wish to participate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Location Preference:

No Preference

Preference: Indicate State(s), region(s), or area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** Pen Pals  
Girl Scouts of San Francisco Bay Area  
P.O. Box 2249  
Oakland, CA 94621

**Fax to:** (510) 633-7925

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