A Movement of Ideas for Growth Results

London, November 2015
Working Together to Serve
Expatriate Girls Around the World

Stefanie Ortiz-Cidlik
Chief USA Girl Scouts Overseas Executive
Girl Scouts of the USA

&

Lesley Knighton
Chief Commissioner
British Guides in Foreign Countries
Session Objectives

- Determine a standard practice and guidelines for ensuring that all girls who want a Girl Scout/Girl Guide experience get one.

- Establish actions to build and strengthen partnerships between USAGSO/BGIFC locations and host nation MOs to create a more enriching experience for our girls.

- Explore ways WAGGGS can best support and encourage these partnerships.
Our Core Purpose

USA Girl Scouts Overseas exists to bring Girl Scouts to the daughters of military, foreign service and American expats around the world and to all girls in American or International schools.
How We Started

First overseas troop in Shanghai, China

Opened North Atlantic office in Mannheim, Germany

1951

West Pacific office was created

1953

Our name was changed to USA Girl Scouts Overseas

1980

North Atlantic office moved to Pisa, Italy

2009

Supporting over 220 locations in 97 countries

2015

North Atlantic moves to Vicenza, Italy

2016
**Western Hemisphere**
- Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada *, Columbia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala,, U.S. Virgin Haiti, Honduras, Mexico,
- Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru,
- Venezuela

**Europe**
- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia Czech Republic, Denmark, France Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary Iceland, Italy, Netherland, Norway Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

**Africa**
- Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Maldives, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Djibouti, Maldives Islands, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, South Korea, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Tanzania, Uganda

**Arab**
- Bahrain, Bangladesh, Israel Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar
- Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
Who We Serve

Civilian 59%

Military Europe 28%

Military Asia 13%

USA Girl Scouts Overseas
10,600 girls
5,500 adults
97 countries
Demographics of Our Girls

84% of USAGSO girl members are in K-5

**Girls by Age Level**
- Brownies: 32%
- Juniors: 30%
- Cadettes: 6%
- Ambassadors: 2%
- Daisies: 22%
- Unknown: 5%
- Seniors: 3%

**Girls by Nationality**
- American: 75%
- 3rd Country: 20%
- Host Nation: 5%
Our Structure

- Girls
- Troops
- Overseas Committees
- Overseas Committee Management Team
- Staff
How We Support Our Troops

- Resources
- Real Time Communication
  - Social Media
  - E-newsletter
  - Website
- Volunteer Training
- 1:1 check ins and support
- Camp & Travel opportunities
- Awards & Recognition
Partnering with Our Host Nations

• Shared Events & Camps
• Special Awards
  – Lady Baden Powell Award
  – World Friendship Pin
• Take Action Projects
British Guides
In Foreign Countries
BGIFC.......  

- Began in Portugal in 1911
- Is for girls and young women whose parents work or live abroad
  - Provides continuity in a transient society
- Follows the same programme as members in the UK
  - Wears the same uniform as UK members
- Operates as a ‘Region’ within Girlguiding with its own Commissioner and support team mainly based in the UK
BENELUX and FRANCE

France
Belgium
Netherlands
Luxembourg
EUROPE

Sweden                         Italy
Switzerland                  Greece
Norway                      Canary Islands
Spain                        Slovakia
Hungary                      Cyprus
ASIA

- Malaysia
- Brunei
- Singapore
- Indonesia
- India
- Nepal
- Japan
- China
MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA

Abu Dhabi  Dubai  Sharjah
Bahrain  Kuwait
Qatar  Oman  Saudi Arabia

Angola  Baku  Egypt
Ethiopia  Tanzania
BGIFC Supports its units through......

BGIFC Executive Committee
Newsletters
Skype
Team of Advisers
Leadership Coordinators
BGIFC and Girlguiding Websites
Local Commissioners
UK Girlguiding
and.......
TRAINING
The Big Brownie Birthday 2014

1st Al-Khobar Brownies, Saudi Arabia

“Virtual” Celebrations!
UK based Biennial Camp and Leader Training
Visits!
863 Adult Volunteers
43 Commissioners
3,655 Young Members
251 Units
BGIFC Total 4,561 Members

Small but perfectly formed!
# Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USAGSO</th>
<th>BGIFC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Quality control and program consistency</td>
<td>• Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Connectedness</td>
<td>• Support &amp; Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family Mobility</td>
<td>• Transient Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Volunteer Recruitment</td>
<td>• Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Costs</td>
<td>• Money Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increasing requests from outside defined market</td>
<td>• Police Checks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BGIFC’s Guidelines for Opening New Units

- 50% of girls must be British or 75% from the Commonwealth
- Girls and Leaders must be English speaking
- Only under exceptional circumstances do we accept girls from the host country and then only with the permission of the host country’s Chief Commissioner
- All adults must be reference checked
- We will not open a unit if there are GSUSA there already
- Units wanting to open in a new country need the approval of the Chief Guide and the host country’s Chief Commissioner
USAGSO’s Guidelines for Opening New Locations

- Americans must live in the community or attend the school
- Host country Chief Commissioner approval
- Membership is limited to…
  - American girls
  - Girls in an International or American school in which a USAGSO program exists
Small Group Activity

- Assign one note taker and someone to report out
- Read the case study on your table
- Using the discussion questions as a guide, discuss at your table
Large Group Discussion

How can we support and expand connections between your troops and USAGSO/BGIFC troops?

What support can WAGGGS provide to help build these connections?