

How to Run International Night

Overview:

In the past, each troop who attended:
chose a country (ensure no duplicates), hosting troop is usually U.S.A.
made a display board,
brought traditional food to give out,
brought a stamper or stickers to "stamp" Passports,
gave out SWAPS, anything they wanted to make,
performed a 2-3 minute song or dance from that country,
and wore the colors or traditional clothing of their country.
The event is open to all grades.

There is no admission cost for this event. The hosting troop will be reimbursed for Passport copying & paper bag swapholders.

Girls visited each table to taste, SWAP and get Passport stamped. If older girls do not want to do a country, they could instead earn service hours by helping a younger troop with their display boards, SWAPS, etc.

Tasks: *Feel free to modify/enhance if you'd like...maybe even include an option to earn Global Action Award or World Thinking Day patch.*

- 1) reserve a very large room. Have 2 tables per troop setup. Event is usually held on a Friday night.
- 2) create an email announcement and have SUM distribute it early enough to allow several weeks for SWAPmaking.
- 3) Leaders need to reply to you to request a country and give you a count of girls participating.
- 4) make enough **black & white** copies of the front & back PASSPORT (on our website) for each participant. Fold it in quarters. Please ask for discount or donated printing fees. If you can get color copies made for free, please do. There is \$10 in the budget for this event.
- 5) Provide any type of small paper bag so each girl can carry around her SWAPs.

At the event,

- 6) hand each girl a Passport & a paper bag swapholder (participants can decorate them at the event)
- 7) Submit Reimbursement Form to get
for Passports & swap bags (found on our website under FORMS)

Sample Email Announcement, feel free to enhance:

Leaders,

Troops 4706/4466/4479 are hosting Girl Scout International Night on **Friday, <date>**
from 6:30-8:00pm in the <location>. We invite all troops to participate by representing a country and joining us in celebrating World Thinking Day.

The following guidelines are designed to help your troop prepare for the event. If you have any questions, please contact XXXXXXXXXX

1. Start by picking a country, other than the USA, that your troop would like to represent. Before moving forward with the project, please contact XXXXX at <email address> to make sure that country is not already being represented.
2. Start researching your country and preparing a visual display on a tri-fold board. There are no hard and fast rules to what your display has to look like. Have fun and let the girls lead the way.
3. You will need a flag to participate in the opening ceremonies. Please do not go out and spend a ton of money on a flag. If one is not easily obtained, you can make one using

poster board.

4. Make S.W.A.P.s that represent your country. These will be handed out to the girls attending the event so you want to have about 80 on hand. If you are unfamiliar with what a S.W.A.P. is, you can do a google search and you will be bombarded with ideas.

5. Prepare a food dish that represents your country that can be given out in bite-sized pieces. Sternos are not allowed so we ask that you bring food that does not need to be kept hot.

6. Have the girls prepare a song or dance or a short skit that represents their country. Each troop will be given a chance to get up and perform for the other troops. Some troops choose to dress up to represent their country but this is not mandatory.

7. You will need a rubber stamp or a sticker to use on passports of girls visiting your booth. The stamp can be anything that represents your country. For example, a shamrock for Ireland. Again, do not go crazy. Be creative and have fun.

Please contact the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX with any questions and reserve your country now!