##### **COUNTY INT**ERNATIONAL **OP**PORTUNITIE**S** (INTOPS)

**INFORMATION SHEET for Parents, Carers, Rangers, Young Leaders, and Guides**

Thank you for your interest in Girlguiding Buckinghamshire’s INTOPS day for international trips in 2026 and 2027. Below are some information and should be read before completing the application form.

* Girlguiding Buckinghamshire have been running international trips for over 20 years for our members.
* We do try to offer County trips which include meeting up with other members of worldwide Girlguiding or Scouting.
* Most of our trips are arranged during school holidays usually in the summer but could be at another half term. They can vary in length and cost.
* INTOPS is an international experience that can take place in the UK or abroad.
* Every trip is different and may be a camp or residential. Travel may be by boat, coach, bus, train, or plane. Activities may include sightseeing, swimming, walking and adventurous activities. We try to have a range to suit everyone.
* Obviously, the cost of these trips is a major consideration, and we have tried to include a range of options. Suggestions for fundraising and grants available will be given after selection has taken place.
* All trips are dependent on getting the minimum number of leaders and young members to take part.
* Why so long before the trip? We usually allow about 9 – 18 months from selection to the trip – (dependent on the cost and location) this lets everyone have time for fundraising, planning, saving etc.
* The trips on offer are County trips and the group selected will come from all over Buckinghamshire and young members selected might not know anyone. Never fear! We hope that by the end of selection day, everyone will have made new friends.
* We cannot guarantee places on any particular trip.
* Our aim for these trips is for everyone involved to make new friends, build confidence, travel to different places – and have fun!

After completing the application form, you will need to get this counter-signed by your leader and parent/carer. Along with the application, an Information and Consent form is available, and page 2 should be completed, signed and emailed with this application form to international@girlguidingbucks.org.uk or posted to Margaret Lorton, 79 Milford Avenue, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1EZ TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN **11 April 2025.** Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications after this date.

You will then receive an email and confirmation of your place on selection day.

There will be only one County selection day - on **Sunday 18 May 2025** at Ellesborough Guide Centre, Missenden Road, Butlers Cross, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 0UP from 9.30am till 3pm. **We cannot accept applications on the day.** Any applicants will need to attend selection day.

**OUTLINE OF THE DAY:**

This will begin at 9.30am with registration for everyone, followed by various indoor activities, which will enable you to meet and join in with others who share your interests in guiding and travel. You will be able to hear about past County international trips and ones for 2026 and 2027.

You will need to be in uniform and bring:

-A packed lunch. Drinks will be provided.

- Pens, paper, etc

- An item or object you think illustrates something about the UK or your area - and which you will be prepared to talk about

- An activity, game, or song which you might be able to share with non-English speaking Brownies, or Guides

The event will conclude at 3pm.

We will make contact to either offer a place on a trip or to decline as soon as we can after selection day. We cannot guarantee places on trips, but we will try to accommodate everyone who applies. We will provide feedback if necessary.