GOLDEN GATE BRIDGING
General Participant Information
Saturday, April 25, 2020 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
San Francisco, CA

Join 7,000 of your sisters and cross the divide into older girlhood on one of the most famous bridges in the world! Celebrate with girls from across the country in true Northern Californian style on the Golden Gate Bridge on a day just for you. On Crissy Field play games, do crafts, and partake in activities that reflect the adventures that lie ahead of you as an older Girl Scout!

This packet contains general event information and answers to frequently asked questions. When you register, your receipt will contain a Welcome Packet with information to help you plan. Then, a final Adventure Packet will be e-mailed a few weeks before the event with maps, detailed check-in information, and lots of other information you will need for the day of the event.

Golden Gate Bridging is a great opportunity for girl-led activities, even for troops from outside the Bay Area. Girls are able and should help with planning the trip including travel to and from the event, where to stay, and what to do. Have girls set a budget and use the internet to research and make a plan. While it is tempting to use a travel agency or have adults do all the planning, girls will get a lot more out of the experience if they are actively involved with making it happen.

Registration Information

Who
Bridging Juniors (5th-graders) and their troop leaders

Cost
In-Council: $50
Out-of-Council: $60

Payment
Full cost is due at time of registration and paid by credit card online.

Information Needed
- You may register your whole troop in one registration.
- Troop number, council name, and service unit number
- Names of those attending
- Any special accommodations or health restrictions

Cancellation & Refund Policy
Cancellation and refund requests must be made in writing by February 28, 2020 to receive 50% of registration fees per individual. There are no refunds if the refund request is made after February 28, 2020, except for medical reasons. Refunds for medical reasons will only be processed if notification is made before the event, and is followed within one week by a written refund request accompanied by a doctor's note. No refunds are issued for no-shows.
Keep up-to-date on the latest news and information on our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSNORCALGGB/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSNORCALGGB/)

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Participant Guidelines and Ratios**
- This event is for 5th grade bridging Juniors and their supervising adults only. Tagalongs may not participate. Any person at the event is considered a participant and must pay the full event fee.
- There is NO free “viewing area” for this event. Please do NOT have family or friends who are not registered participants meet your group at the event.
- This is a permitted event. And as Girls Scouts, we must abide by the number of guests we guarantee to all seven (7) of our permit holders. Do not bring more guests than are registered.
- The **maximum** ratio is 1 adult for every 3 girls. The minimum ratio is based on the Girl Scout travel ratios of 2 adults for up to 16 girls and 1 adult for every additional 8 girls. This is to ensure that we can accommodate as many girls as possible. Check the chart below to check how many adult may attend with your troop.

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<th>2-3</th>
<th>4-8</th>
<th>9-11</th>
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<th>15-16</th>
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<th>18-20</th>
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<th>25-27</th>
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<td>Max Adults</td>
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**Registering**
All participants who attend Golden Gate Bridging must be a registered participant. The registration link is released to the public on October 16th at 10am and can be found on [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSNORCALGGB/). To learn more about the tips and tricks for registering, please visit this helpful [webpage](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GSNORCALGGB/).

**Travel and Where to Stay**
San Francisco is an international tourist destination and there are many resources available online (start with 511.org) to assist you in planning your trip, including where to stay. We suggest that you do not book hotels or travel prior to registering for the event in case the event sells out and you are unable to get tickets. We have reserved a limited number of hotel rooms in a popular tourist area of San Francisco. We also offer a hostel like experience at one of our properties in the area. Information on these opportunities will be provided after registration in the Welcome Packet.

**Check-in**
Check-in happens the day of the event as well as several days prior to the event. All troops have the option to check-in ahead of time at their own convenience. This helps to save time the day of the event. We strongly encourage you to check-in early. Information on the dates, times and locations of early check-in will be in your Adventure Packet.

**Arrival and Parking**
Due to very limited parking, we highly encourage troops to carpool or take public transportation to the event. While we reserve as much parking as possible, we cannot guarantee a spot. Troops may arrive to the event in several different ways including by car, taxi, limo, public transportation, or charter bus. Shuttles to Marin Vista Point Shuttles depart every 15–25 minutes from the starting point at the Main Post in the Presidio to transport participants to the Marin Vista Point on the north end of the bridge. Shuttles also depart from near one of our reserved hotels for participants staying in any of our reserved hotels. Shuttles are free to all registered participants. Please do not park at Marin Vista Point.
The Walk
Upon arrival at the Marin Vista Point, participants walk south across the Golden Gate Bridge. On the San Francisco side of the bridge, girls are greeted by older Girl Scouts and receive their GGB pin. Participants continue down the hill towards the party on Crissy Field. After the party, participants walk back to the starting point for departure. Total walking distance will be at least 4 miles. Many people are surprised and overwhelmed by the distance so make sure to get out and get in shape by walking 2-3 miles several days a week prior to the event.

Crissy Field
There are a variety of ways to celebrate on Crissy Field. Enjoy lunch in the grassy picnic area, do a craft project, dance along with great music, and explore dozens of activity booths, all designed to introduce girls to older girl opportunities. We also have lunch available for pre-purchase. You can find the link for this when you register. We end with a giant friendship circle before saying goodbye to new friends. You are welcome to leave whenever you’d like.

Departure
All participants must walk to the start/end point for departure. Troops being picked up may arrange to be picked up or meet people at the Main Post of the Presidio. Troops may not be picked up from Crissy Field and a shuttle will not be available to transport participants from Crissy Field back to the Presidio. Shuttles will be provided from the Presidio to Fisherman’s Wharf.

Merchandise and Apparel
T-shirts, hat and hoodies will be available to order on our online shop in advance of the event. Items may be ordered in advance to guarantee sizing and will ship in March. These and additional items will also be available for purchase at the event.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my bridging Daisy, Brownie, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador troop participate?
Unfortunately, we are unable to allow Daisy, Brownie, Cadette, Senior or Ambassador Troops to bridge at this event. Due to restrictions on the number of participants at this event, exceptions cannot be made. We invite Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops to participate as volunteers. Check out our website for more information and how to register to volunteer.

Why is there different pricing for in-council and out-of-council participants?
Golden Gate Bridging is a wonderful but labor intensive and costly event. Buses, permits and staffing alone cost over $100,000. GSNorCal is excited that we are able to offer this event to girls nationwide. Girls who are registered with GSNorCal participate in product sales (Fall & Cookies) which help support the event. But, girls from outside of GSNorCal are not, therefore, we have added a $10 overhead cost to the pricing to ensure we are able to continue to offer this event nationally.

Is this a family event or a Mother/Daughter event? Can my younger child or infant attend?
GGB is a troop/troop leader event. In order to accommodate as many girls as possible to this girl focused event we limit the number of adults that may attend so not every girl will be able to have a parent or guardian attend with them. Additionally, the event is not designed, nor appropriate for younger
children or infants. Please make other arrangements for younger children and infants while attending GGB.

**Is there a free “viewing area” for the event? Can I attend without paying?**
There is no “viewing area” for the event. All participants must register and pay in order to attend. Participants must wear an event badge visibly at all times. People attending without paying is a violation of the permits we must obtain to hold this event. **Violations such as this put the future of GGB in jeopardy.**

**Will there be security at the event?**
Yes, Golden Gate Bridge, National Park Service, and Presidio police will all be monitoring the event. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol and San Francisco Emergency Services are notified in advance and ready to respond if needed.

**Is the bridge shut down to cars on the day of the event?**
No, the east side of the bridge has a 10-foot sidewalk with a fence to keep the pedestrians safe from the traffic and is open 24 hours a day. For this event, we are required to get a special permit for the number of pedestrians crossing the bridge.

**What if we rent a charter bus?**
If you are driving instead of flying, renting a charter bus may be a cheaper alternative for your group. Charter Buses can be used to transport your group around San Francisco for the weekend. There is no bus parking in the Presidio during the event and charter buses will need to arrange their own parking location during the event. Charter buses are not required to participate in the event. Additionally, privately rented charter buses are not at the Marin Vista Point, where the actual walking begins. The Marin Vista Point is a small area and the additional buses will cause a sever traffic jam. We recommend having your privately rented charter bus drop you off at the Presidio and find and alternative place to park.

**Is there a place to buy food at the event?**
Due to the location of the event and nature of our permits, food availability is limited. GSNorCal with a local catering company to provide sandwiches lunches to participants who order them through our registration in advance of the event. There are some booths that sell snacks and bottled water, but there is no immediate place at Crissy Field to buy full meals. Please pack a reusable water bottle, a bagged lunch and plenty of snacks.

**Where can I find helpful tourist info? How can we get around San Francisco? Where should we stay? Where can we buy food in SF?**
San Francisco is a popular international tourist destination and has great tourism sites online. While we would love to assist with planning your trip to San Francisco, we are busy planning an amazing event for you and don't have the resources to provide individual assistance with travel plans. We do encourage you and your girls to use the experts and resources readily available to all travelers to the Bay Area.

Here are some great sites to start with:
http://www.visitsfbayarea.com/
http://www.sanfrancisco.travel
http://www.511.org