



TOPAZ

Challenge

From a poem by Eleanor Bird, a member of the
TOPAZ action team 2017

They called it TOPAZ on a whim,
But I would change the acronym.

In future, use this one instead
TOPAZ is TOP- from A to Z.



What is Trefoil Overseas Partnership: Adventure with Zest (TOPAZ)?

TOPAZ is your chance to get involved in an international project working with another Association



It's never too late to learn new skills, experience different cultures and make a difference.

From working on community projects to leading trainings in topics such as recruitment, TOPAZ offers you the chance to work in partnership with other Guide and Girl Scout associations around the world. Each partnership is tailored to the host association. This ensures the project is sustainable and that the impacts of TOPAZ will continue even after everyone has waved goodbye.

"The entire experience was a wonderful challenge, where I discovered a lot about myself and I would love to repeat it." Wendy 2016

"We have returned home having made so many new friends." 2017 team

What is the TOPAZ challenge?

The challenge has been developed to raise money for the TOPAZ programme in order to support the development of future projects and teams

	Travel the world		Reach for the Stars
	Our Guiding life		Precious things



We hope there is something suitable for all ages and abilities but you are free to use your own ideas too!

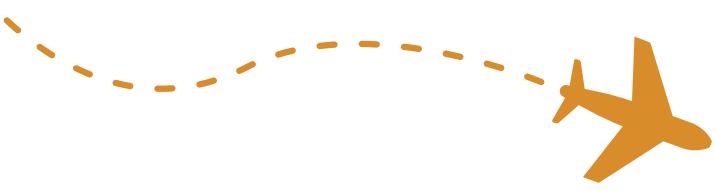
You can work for the challenge on your own, with a friend, with your unit, guild, patrol or any group you wish. Perhaps you could build some challenges into your unit or guild meetings, outings or holidays.

When completing any challenge it is important to consider the following key points:

- Do I need to complete a risk assessment?
- Do I need a consent form?
- Is the activity inclusive or do I need to adapt it?
- Am I providing a balanced programme?

Five essentials:

	Working together in small groups
	Encouraging self-government and decision making
	A balanced and varied programme which is girl-led
	Caring for the individual
	Sharing a commitment to a common standard

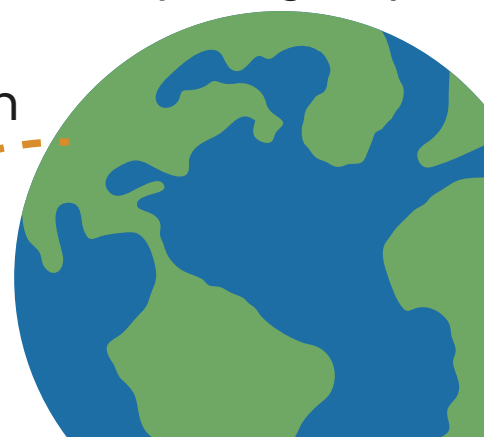




Travel the world

This section of the challenge encourages you to look wider, to explore and to learn about different cultures

- Invite someone to share their experiences of international travel. They could be a participant who has been on a project e.g. TOPAZ or GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development), or attended a Region/County or Unit trip abroad e.g. International Camp or World Centre.
- Learn how to say key phrases in another language e.g. Hello, Goodbye etc.
- Find out about how another country celebrates key festivals e.g. Diwali
- Raise money for the World Thinking Day Fund
- Find out where TOPAZ projects have visited (or will be visiting in the future) and hold a theme evening about that country e.g. food, drink & games/activities
- Find a pen pal from another WAGGGS member organisation
- Visit one of the guide World Centres
- Learn a new game or a song from a country and share it with your group
- Learn Taps in another language and teach it to your group
- Create your own passport
- Make a 3D globe or map out of salt dough

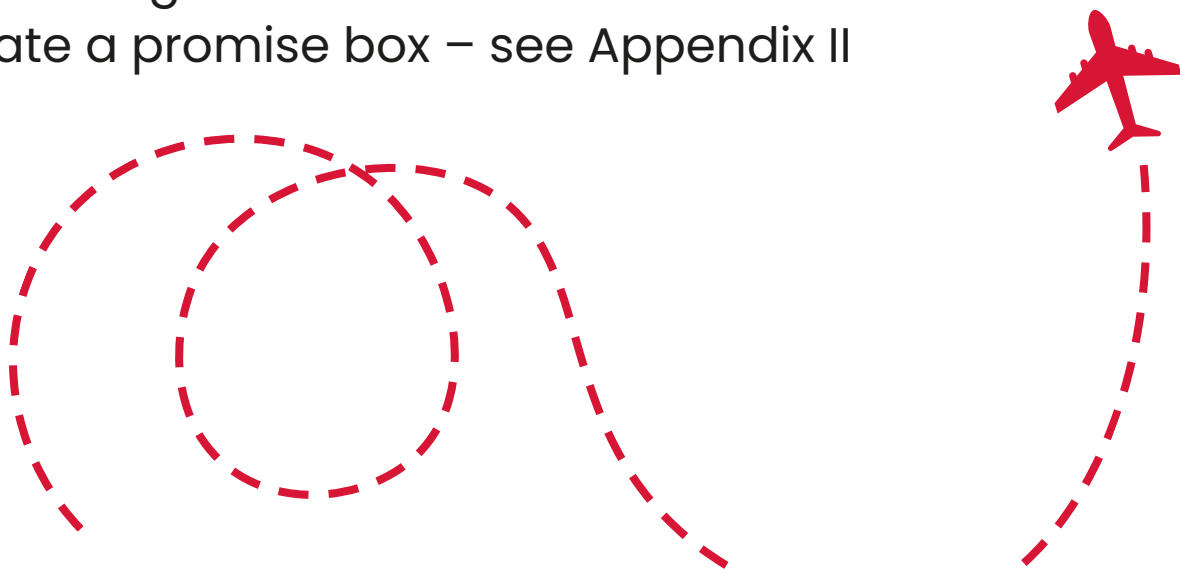




Our guiding life

This section helps you to reflect on our values and behaviours as well as putting the promise into action

- Run an evening about team work– see Appendix I for suggested activities
- Invite a member of Trefoil Guild to visit your unit and share an activity
- Join up with another Unit or Trefoil Guild and share an activity
- Find out about the promise in another WAGGGS member organisation. How does it compare to the Girlguiding Promise? Can you say it in the language of the country
- Create a game of “Trefoil Beetle”
- Draw around somebody’s body on a large sheet of paper and to fill the body with ideas about how you could help change things locally and/or around the world. Use this to guide you/your unit towards making a difference through raising awareness, taking part in community action or fundraising
- Create a promise box – see Appendix II





Reach for the stars

This section challenges you to learn new skills and to recognise individuals who are guiding stars!

- Visit an observatory or planetarium
- Go star gazing
- Plan and complete two experiments
- Build a rocket out of recycled materials
- Design a uniform for the first Guides (or any other section) on Mars Hold a talent show.
- Do you have stars in your eyes?
- Organise an Awards Show for your local guiding stars
- Share your skill and teach it someone else e.g. Knitting, dancing, playing guitar
- Learn a new skill and showcase it at your Unit

Precious things

This sections inspires you to share guiding memories and to be creative

- Hold a jewellery design and make evening
- Create friendship bracelets and share them with new friends
- Bring a “precious item” and hold a show and tell evening
- Visit a jewellery shop to see behind the scenes
- Make a keepsake box
- Visit a museum and/or find out about gems, where they come from and what they can be used for
- Create a trefoil made out of mosaic



- Hold a Guiding Memories evening and ask everyone to tell an amusing memory, a challenging memory and an inspiring memory, if they can
- Invite a member of a TOPAZ action team to talk about their experiences

Appendix

Appendix I – Team Building Activities

- Create the tallest tower out of marshmallows
- Have team races e.g. relay, egg and spoon etc.
- Using a single sheet of newspaper move your entire team from one side of the room to other
- As a team instruct a blindfolded person how to wrap a present or complete a jigsaw
- Play team games such as: Shepherds & Sheep, Human Knot, Balloon Bop, Broom Balance

You can find the instructions on the internet.

Appendix II – Promise box instructions

- Using the template (Appendix III – Promise Box Template) write one of the parts of the promise on each section (4)
- Draw a picture connected to each part of the promise that will remind you to keep your promise every day.
- Cut out the shape, and fold along the dotted lines.
- Attached a piece of string or ribbon inside the top of the pyramid where all the points meet.
- Glue all the flaps and sides together



Appendix III – Promise box template

