



TOURS
FOR GIRLS

Budgeting Guide

Ideas that help make your trip a reality



Making travel more accessible

Every girl should have the life-changing experience of traveling the world and exploring new cultures. Fundraising not only helps make this possible, it's also a great way to teach girls important life skills like goal-setting, budgeting, and team-building.

But who says it has to be all work? Helping to raise money for your tour also engages girls in the tour planning process, and promotes strong camaraderie. Fundraising can also be a great way for adults to support the girls' trip. By working together for a

common goal, you will all become truly invested in their tour. They can celebrate their success along the way, knowing that every dollar earned is helping take them somewhere incredible.

This book contains tried-and-true methods from our very own Group Leaders who've led trips of all sizes. Find ideas that work best for your group and discover just how effective—and fun—raising money for your tour can be.

5 questions to get you started

1. What is your fundraising goal? Is it the whole amount or just a portion of your tour?
2. How much time and resources are you willing to dedicate? Are you willing to invest any of your own money?
3. How many events or activities do you want to organize?
4. Who will lead the fundraising efforts? Will they lead every activity or event?
5. Which fundraising activities best suit your goals, your girls, and your time and resources? Should you be working as a group or setting individuals up for successful fundraising?



Planning and preparing

The best piece of advice we hear from experienced Group Leaders is to get started early. The ideas and suggestions you'll find on the following pages will be much more valuable if you have allowed yourself enough time to earn money effectively.

Manage the money

- Any money earned through group projects should be split equally among travelers. You may also want to consider setting up scholarships to put toward group members who may not otherwise be able to go. Or, you could raise money to pay for special on-tour activities. It's up to you.
- Set expectations with a fundraising contract and have both parents and girls sign it.
- Keep track of everything. This will help when you're ready to divide up the money. Many Group Leaders use spreadsheets to help them monitor everything.
- Put the money all together in an account. Remember, the final payment deadline is 110 days before tour. Check with your Tour Consultant for the exact date.
- If your group is using our Automatic Payment Plan, money earned from activities and events can be applied to the accounts, decreasing the monthly payment amount.

Choose a leader

Someone should be in charge of raising tour money—but that doesn't mean it has to be you. Ask a chaperone or parent to take the lead or even pick one of the girls to take responsibility. You can also form a committee and simply oversee it. You may want to check your organization's fundraising rules and guidelines.

Set goals

- Review our fundraising ideas and discuss any other ones you have with your girls.
- Determine how much you want to raise.
- Decide the types of events or activities you want to do, and how many.
- Consider which ones can help you reach your goal the fastest.
- Think about which ideas will be most practical for your group. Factor in your facilities, your community, and your group members' skills and interests.
- Set realistic goals. You can always set another goal if you reach the first one!

Benefits of fundraising

Besides the obvious benefit of easing the cost of travel and allowing more girls to experience this opportunity, fundraising can help girls develop a variety of life skills—all while bringing the group together.

Confidence

Fundraising often asks girls to tell their story and share why they want to travel. By asking the girls to really think about and share what's important to them and why they want to travel, you are helping them develop storytelling skills and confidence.

Group bonding

Group fundraisers are a great time to build stronger relationships among your group. Make sure everyone has met each other, and encourage the girls to work with people they don't know well.

Money management

Setting a fundraising goal will give girls real-world budgeting experience. Here are a few more money management tips to help your girls:



Break it down

Thinking about money on a large scale can be daunting and confusing. To help girls understand what a reasonable goal is, break it down to a weekly or monthly amount, and help plan which fundraisers they will need to participate in to reach that goal.

Help them save

Help girls understand the amounts by framing them in real-world terms. For example, if they need to save \$3 a week to reach their goal, ask them if they ever buy a coffee or snack on a weekly basis that costs that much. Sometimes, forgoing a weekly treat can be an easier way to save funds.



Spread the word

The more people who know about your trip, the more support you'll get. Try to get free publicity instead of spending money on radio or print ads. And don't forget one of the best forms of free publicity: word of mouth.

Local news coverage

Encourage your school or local newspaper to write an article about your fundraising activity or event. For community news, send a press release or pitch letter. You can also pitch your story to local TV or radio stations.

Use the web

Email and social media can help spread the word and generate interest. Each girl also has a Personalized Support Page where people can contribute to their tour. Encourage girls to share it with family and community members.

In school

Be sure your efforts are listed in school announcements and newsletters. Plus, have kids tap into the best ways to get news out around the school.



Local classified ads

Contact your local newspaper and ask them to donate a free classified ad for your fundraising activity.

Posters & flyers

An old-fashioned poster and flyer can go a long way in getting the news out. Ask EF for a poster to help promote your tour.



Frequently asked questions

If girls are on EF's Automatic Payment Plan, how will a check raised by fundraising activities affect their payments?

If the check is greater than \$20, then each of the remaining automatic payment amounts will be reduced. If the check is not greater than \$20, the difference will be subtracted from the final payment.

What if your group earns more money than you owe for the tour?

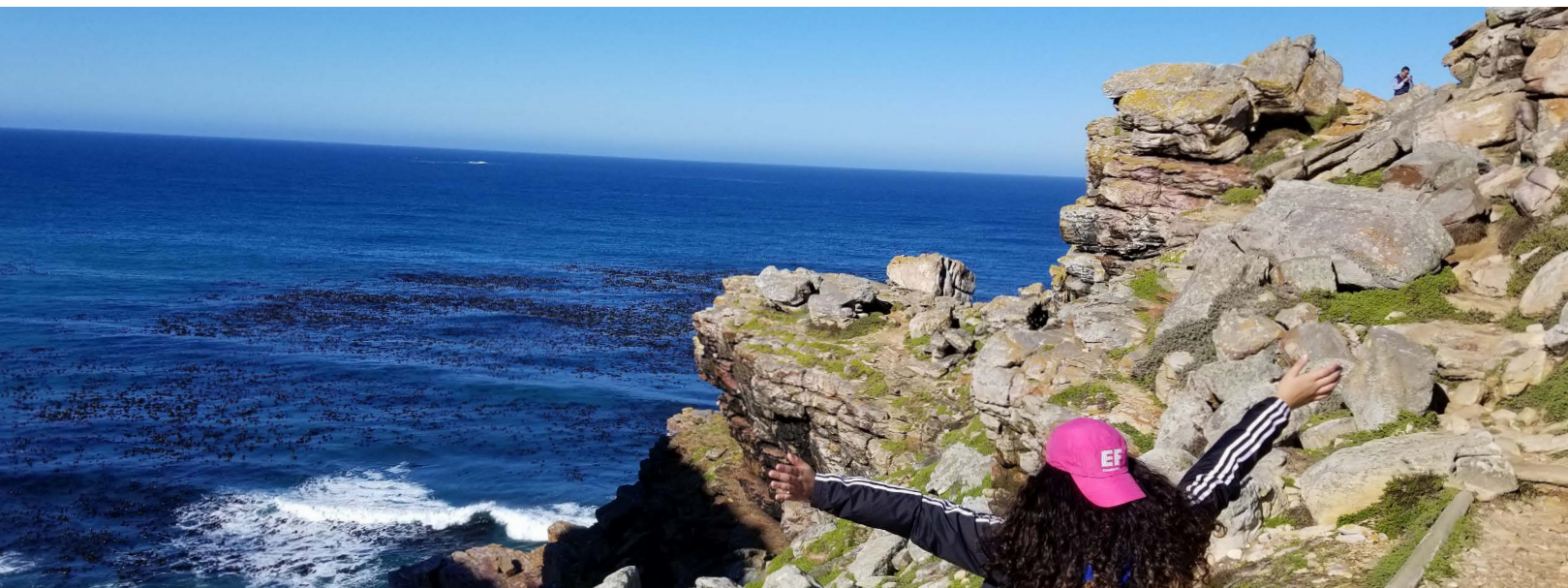
This is on a group-by-group basis. Your girls can ask for a refund through our Traveler Support Department for overpayment, or you can discuss with the group to determine if you would like to apply it to cultural excursions they can add to their itinerary.

How long does it take to apply the money you've earned toward your account?

Once we receive your payment, it usually takes 3–5 business days to process and have it reflected in your account.

What is the deadline for applying money the girls have raised toward your tour?

The deadline to apply money earned toward your tour is 110 days before departure if you're not signed up for our Automatic Payment Plan. If you are on the Automatic Payment Plan, the deadline is 35 days before departure. Take into consideration the 3–5 business days it takes to process any money earned for the tour.



Group activities

The next few pages include suggestions for group fundraising activities that you can run. As you’re looking through them, keep in mind the goals that you set, and the types of commitments you’re able to make.



How to read this guide

Each activity idea has an estimated time commitment, estimated money up front, more details about the activity, and a variety of tags to help you narrow down your ideas.

- **Time commitment:** The estimated set-up time that the activity requires.
- **Money up front:** The estimated amount that you or your group will have to spend in order to run the event.



- **How it works:** Details about executing the event, as well as tips and things to look out for.
- **Tags:** Designed to help you quickly narrow down the types of activities you want to do.

IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
While many activities can be done either in or out of school, this indicates the best or most successful place to carry out the activity.

LOW EFFORT / HIGH EFFORT
We’ve classified low-effort as less than a week to set the event up.

ONE TIME / CONTINUOUS
While you can turn a one-time event into a continuous one and vice-versa, this shows our suggestion. For a continuous event, the time commitment is still the set-up time, and you can run a continuous event for as long or short as makes sense.

GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN / GIRL-DRIVEN
While every event will need both Group Leader and traveler involvement, certain events will be more labor-intensive for you as the Group Leader, while others will give even more responsibility to your girls.



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
CONTINUOUS
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Cookbook

Time commitment:
2–3 months

Money up front:
\$0–\$200. Try to get design and production work donated or discounted.

- How it works:**
Create a cookbook with family recipes to sell.
- Request a certain number of recipes per traveler.
 - Organize the recipes into categories.
 - Try to find a local copy center to donate costs for the book in exchange for a free ad.
 - Consider selling ad space in the book as well.
 - Sell the books at school and community events for \$5–\$10.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Voting day with coffee

Time commitment:
1 day

Money up front:
Minimal. Could include stickers, signage, and advertising.

- How it works:**
Turn your group into traveling baristas and sell coffee outside of your town voting locations on election day.
- Pick a variety of roasts to sell.
 - Determine if you will offer frozen, iced, or flavored coffee besides regular.
 - Try to get cups, sugar, and cream donated.
 - Charge \$2–\$5 for a cup depending on ingredients.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Touch-a-truck event

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
None.

- How it works:**
Secure a parking lot for the day and invite local families to bring their kids to explore and climb on trucks (fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, etc.).
- Ask community firemen, bus drivers, police, and EMTs to donate a few hours so kids can climb inside their cars.
 - Charge admission for the event.
 - For a true family event, see if girls will dress up as characters, rent a bouncy house, and/or sell food.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Silent/live auction night

Time commitment:
1–2 months

Money up front:
\$0–\$200 if you need to rent a sound system or lighting equipment. Try to get items donated and refreshments to sell at the event.

How it works:
Invite the community to a night of bidding on merchandise and services.

- Ask a venue to donate their space for the event.
- Send a letter and call businesses to secure items.
- Mention each business will be advertised at the event and listed as a sponsor for their donation.

Live auction:

- Ask a store to donate food and drinks for the event.
- Find someone to run the show.
- Make paddles to hand out and to help keep track of who purchases which item.
- Pick one person to record bidder information and settle all money transactions after the event is over.

Silent auction:

- Secure an area and set up times for “open bidding.”
- Display items with bidding sheets for each item. Community members place bids (and can place more than one to outbid one another!) to win the auctioned items.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Adult Easter egg hunt

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
Minimal. Could include candy, plastic eggs, and signage.

How it works:
Invite adults to search for hidden eggs filled with candy and donated gift certificates.

- Secure a venue to hold the hunt, such as a school or local park.
- Sell tickets at school and in your community.
- Get businesses to donate gift certificates. Then, fill the plastic eggs with the gift certificates and/or candy.
- An hour or two before the event, hide the eggs around your chosen venue.



IN SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
CONTINUOUS
GIRL-DRIVEN

Singing telegrams

Time commitment:
A few hours per week for 1–3 months

Money up front:
Minimal. Just the cost of flyers or any promotional materials.

How it works:
Sing for donations.

- Advertise a singing telegram service for holidays like Valentine’s Day, or do it year-round for birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
- Create flyers and advertise in the local newspaper.
- Charge \$5 per singing telegram.
- For an extra incentive, invest in a funny costume!



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME / CONTINUOUS
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Concession stand

Time commitment:
1 day

Money up front:
\$0–\$200 depending on donations from local stores/restaurants.

How it works:
Sell concessions outside local shops or events in town.

- Check with your town and local sports teams, universities, and community colleges about setting up concessions.
- Consider setting up outside a local grocery store.
- Adults can also work at concessions at sporting events.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT / HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Chow down on culture

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
\$0–\$50. Try to get the event space for free as well as the tickets and posters.

How it works:
Get a variety of restaurants to donate food and have each traveler prepare food that’s native to a specific country for a community buffet.

- Ask local restaurants to donate food items. Create various countries’ national dishes.
- Sell tickets for \$5–\$10 for a buffet-style dinner.
- Work the event as hosts and hostesses to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- Use the school cafeteria or a community center.



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

An evening at Hogwarts

Time commitment:
2–3 months

Money up front:
Minimal. Could include snacks, signage, and decorations.

How it works:
Hold your own end-of-term feast, complete with Hogwarts acceptance letters.

- On flyers and social media, explain that your group will be holding an end-of-term feast.
- Ask a local store to donate food and drinks for the event.
- Secure a venue and sell tickets at school, in your community, and through social media. Make sure to reach out to parents who have younger children.
- In addition to the tickets, give parents the option to buy their

child personalized, handmade Hogwarts acceptance letters. Send the letters via snail mail or (if possible) deliver them in person.

- At the event, all attendees should sit under a “sorting hat.” Then, your girls can sort them into different houses.
- Make and serve themed foods, such as pumpkin pasties and butterbeer.
- Plan and lead activities such as Harry Potter trivia, Quidditch trials, and potions class.



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GIRL-DRIVEN

Science fair

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
Minimal. Try to borrow materials from school or get them donated.

How it works:
Hold a day of fun science experiments for younger children.

- Secure a venue and sell tickets at school, in your community, and through social media.
- Each traveler picks one or two fun scientific experiments—such as making slime or rock candy—and demonstrates the experiments to the younger attendees.
- Where appropriate, let the attendees participate in the experiments.
- Consider selling snacks or candy for an extra profit.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
CONTINUOUS
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Gift wrapping

Time commitment:
3–5 hours

Money up front:
\$0–\$50 depending on whether or not materials are donated.

How it works:
Set up a gift-wrapping station during the holidays and offer to wrap shoppers’ purchases for a small donation or tips.

- Gift-wrapping can be done or tips and donations from companies.
- It can be done at local stores, shopping malls, etc.
- Pro-rate the money raised so that girls don’t have an advantage depending on the shift they work.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Stadium clean up

Time commitment:
2–4 days

Money up front:
None. The stadium will most likely provide trash bags and other supplies.

How it works:
Clean up a stadium after an event.

- Contact a local stadium or arena and see if you can clean up after an event for a specified donation.
- If possible, advertise during the event and put out a donation jar.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Talent show

Time commitment:
2–3 months

Money up front:
\$0–\$200, maybe more if you need to rent a sound system or lighting equipment.

How it works:
Hold a talent show and charge admission.

- Get travelers who are interested in performing.
- Have a variety of acts but keep it under two hours.
- Secure a venue and make sure they have all the proper equipment with someone to operate it.
- Choose a traveler or parent to emcee the event. Start spreading the word.
- Sell tickets in advance and at the door.
- We recommend \$6/adult and \$5/child at the door; \$5/adult and \$4/child in advance.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Spaghetti dinner

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
\$0–\$75. Try to get as much donated as possible.

How it works:

- Host a meal to support your tour. Secure a venue and sell tickets at school and in your community.
- Get donations from grocers for supplies.
 - Make sure you have enough group members to cook and serve based on the number of tickets you sold.
 - Think about some entertainment to go along with your meal.
 - Hold a silent auction with the dinner. Ask local businesses to donate gift cards, products, and services and then hold a silent auction for all of the items.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Yard sale

Time commitment:
5 hours leading up to the event

Money up front:
Minimal. Could include stickers and advertising.

How it works:

- Have a sale with donated goods.
- Get friends, families, and businesses to donate items. Your group can also go to other yard sales in your area and ask for any unsold items at the end of the day. This will help you have more items for your sale!
 - Collect the items a week before the event.
 - Pick a location to hold the event.
 - Publicize the event throughout your area.
 - Sort and price the items.
 - Set up a station to collect payments.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Murder mystery party

Time commitment:
3–5 weeks

Money up front:
Minimal. Could include signage or a murder mystery kit.

How it works:

- Host a themed, ticketed party. Secure a venue and sell tickets at school or in your community.
- Purchase or download a free murder mystery kit. These usually include a fabricated story about a murder, character descriptions for your attendees, and instructions to help you run the party.
 - Send attendees an email or printed invitation with information about their character.
 - Encourage them to dress up, use props, or adopt an accent to really get into the theme.
 - Staff the event, making sure each traveler takes on the role of a different character. They can also provide additional clues and hints for your attendees if needed.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Car wash

Time commitment:
1–2 Weeks

Money up front:
\$0–\$75. Try to get as much donated and brought from home as possible.

How it works:

- Host a car wash at a local gas station or parking lot.
- Reach out to a local gas station or institution with a large parking lot that would be willing to host your car wash.
 - Ask girls to bring buckets, rags, sponges, and soap from home, or purchase them.
 - Make signs.
 - Advertise the event in school and on social media, and have the girls hold signs along the road during the event.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Art party

Time commitment:
1–2 Weeks

Money up front:
Minimal. Try to work with your school to donate or offset costs of supplies.

How it works:

- Host an art party at your school with the help of your art teacher.
- Come up with an activity (painting, drawing, etc.) that the art teacher can help your guests accomplish.
 - Try to make it connected to the theme of your trip.
 - Gather all the supplies necessary, and borrow or use as many from the school art room as possible.
 - Advertise with travelers and their families.
 - Host the party after school or on a weekend.



OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Summer language camp

Time commitment:
2 months

Money up front:
\$100–\$200 for snacks and other supplies.

How it works:

- Hold a week-long language camp for local elementary school students.
- Invite students from local elementary schools to participate in your language-learning camp.
 - Have your girls participate as counselors.
 - Plan engaging activities to practice vocabulary and learn about the cultures of the places you're traveling to.
 - Ask to use space at your school or the elementary school.
 - Note: Half-day camps can be easier to plan.



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GIRL-DRIVEN

Photo booth

Time commitment:
1 week

Money up front:
Minimal. Try to bring things from home.

How it works:
Create a fun and festive photo booth during school or at a school or community event.

- Find a high-quality camera or Polaroid camera.
- Bring silly props from home, and a sheet or large poster to hang for the backdrop.
- Charge \$1–\$3 per photo, and collect email addresses if you don't have a Polaroid camera.



IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL
HIGH-EFFORT
CONTINUOUS
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

T-shirt sale

Time commitment:
2–3 weeks

Money up front:
None

How it works:
Design T-shirts and sell them to your school and community.

- Have an artistic traveler, parent or leader create a T-shirt design, either about your home community or your destination.
- Use a platform like CustomInk's fundraising tool to design your T-shirts and send out the link so people can order them.
- Have your girls show off the shirts around school.



IN SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
CONTINUOUS
GIRL-DRIVEN

Sales

Time commitment:
From 1 week to several months

Money up front:
Depends on the sale. Some fundraising sites will let you order without paying immediately.

How it works:
Organize a sale for your girls to individually fundraise.

- Check your school rules to see if you are allowed to sell items in school.
- Set a time frame for the sale so the girls can set realistic goals for how much they want to sell.



OUT OF SCHOOL
LOW-EFFORT
ONE-TIME
GROUP LEADER-DRIVEN

Restaurant fundraiser

Time commitment:
1 week

Money up front:
None

How it works:
Partner with a local restaurant to host a fundraiser.

- Many restaurants offer fundraising partnerships where they will donate a specific percentage of their profits for that night to your organization.
- Advertise the night around the school and the community. Ask the restaurant if they have any promotional materials you can use.

Need help finding a restaurant in your community to partner with? Check out our list of suggestions at blog.eftours.com/restaurants



Individual activities



Odd jobs

Time commitment:
Timing is up to you

Money up front:
None.

How it works:
Everyone needs an extra set of hands, so encourage your girls to offer theirs!

- Advertise what types of jobs you’re available for.
- Reach out to friends and neighbors.
- Let people know what you’re raising money for and see if they are willing to pay you a more favorable wage.
- Work with your group to think about what skills you have.

Babysitting

Time commitment:
Timing is up to you

Money up front:
None.

How it works:
Have girls ask parents in their neighborhood if they can babysit their children.

- Girls can get certified for babysitting and then check with local hotels/events to learn if they need babysitting for upcoming events.

Personalized Support Page

Time commitment:
2–3 months

Money up front:
None.

How it works:
Travelers email their personal URL to friends and family asking for their support in paying for their tour.

- Each traveler’s Personalized Support Page allows them to easily and securely collect funds through online credit card payments.
- Encourage the girls’ parents to send an email to friends and family to ask for payments for their tour. (See example on the next page.)
- Share your Personalized Support Page on Facebook, link it to your blog, or use other social networking sites.
- Send a public thank you. Not only does it give proper recognition, but it serves as a reminder to those who have not yet sent money that they should take action.

Community outreach



In addition to outreach around the individual donation page, you as a Group Leader may also want to reach out to local businesses, organization alumni, and others asking for direct support for your trip. You can use this template as an example for how to connect with those community members who may want to support your travels.

Dear (First name),

I am a (role) at (organization or group), and I am going with my (group) on an educational tour to (destination)! We are so excited to have the opportunity to go abroad, experience new cultures, and learn important skills for the future.

Our (name of tour) tour is planned for (date). We are traveling with EF Educational Tours, a respected and trusted organization in educational travel.

I am traveling with my girls because (insert reasons for traveling here).

In order to achieve these goals, my girls and I are working on several fundraising projects to help pay for this experience. As an engaged community member, I wanted to connect with you about various ways that you can support our trip: (Insert any that apply)

- We have a group donation page, where you can donate to support our overall group costs, as well as learn more about our trip: (URL).
- We would love to partner with your business to host a fundraising event or sale.
- We are having an upcoming (fundraising event), and would love for you to attend and spread the word!

I’d be happy to tell you more about this tour and answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering to help make this once-in-a-lifetime experience come true for my group.

Sincerely, (your name)

Looking for more?

Your Tour Consultant is always available to offer more support and resources. Just give them a call! You can also check out our blog for fundraising ideas and stories from other experienced Group Leaders: blog.girltrips.eftours.com

