# PUERTO RICO 2016

**GS Troop 66530's Travel Adventures** 

#### STEPS TO SUCCESS

Two years of planning for 5 days of glory

Step 1: Determining goals

Step 2: Establishing a budget and plan

Step 3: Fundraising

Step 4: Selecting our destination

Step 5: Detailed research and travel preparations

#### STEP ]

Determine Goals

- ➤ Adventure
- **▶** Bond as a Troop
- ▶ Learn about a new culture
- **▶** Language "immersion"

Budget and Plan

- **▶** 1/3 Paid by the Troop
- **▶** 1/3 Paid by the Family
- **▶** 1/3 Paid by the Girl



Fundraising (Lots and lots of fundraising...)







... and still more
fundraising!



Destination

Iceland?





Costa Rica?

Decision: Puerto Rico!

Final Planning

Activities

Paperwork

Packing List



### THE TRIP!

Thursday, August 11 to Monday, August 15







#### DAY 1



- >>> Flew from Boston to San Juan
- ▶ Arrived at Posada San Francisco
- ➤ Cafe Berlin for lunch
- **▶** Supermarket, settling in
- ▶ Castillo de San Cristobal, National Historic Site
- ➤ SoFo Festival

#### POSADA SAN FRANCISCO



#### OLD SAN JUAN







#### CASTILLO DE SAN CRISTOBAL, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE





# DAY 2



- **▶** El Yunque Rainforest Hike
- **▶** Waterfall Swimming
- ➡ Bioluminescent Bay Tour

# EL YUNQUE



- ▶ Only tropical rainforest in National Park system
- ➤ Visitor Center
- ➡ Hike to La Mina Falls for a swim
- ➤ Yocahu observation tower
- ➤ La Coca Falls photo op

#### EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST











#### REST OF TOUR



- ➤ Lunch/dinner at Asadura
- ➤ Swimming at beach in Loquillo
- → Bio Bay Kayak Tour
- ▶ Paddling through mangrove channels
- ▶ Laguna Grande bioluminescent bay

#### LOQUILLO BEACH





#### KAYAKING THE BIOLUMINESCENT BAY, LAGUNA GRANDE



#### DAY 3



Meet Tropa 159!

#### TROPA 159



- ▶ Drive to Krispy Kreme in Dorado to meet Tropa 159 leader
- ➤ Local park to rendezvous with Tropa 159
- ► Laguna Tortuguero Nature Reserve in Manati
- ▶ Nido di Aguila observation platform
- ➡ Photo at Luguna Tortuguero
- ➤ Mountain bike park



#### LAGUNA TORTUGUERO NATURE RESERVE, MANATI





#### TROPA 159



- ▶ Drive to beach in Manati
- ➤ Cueva de las Golondrinas (cave of the swallows)
- ▶ Poza del Mujeres (beach of the women)
- ➤ Tropa 159 leaders cook lunch on the beach

<u>Video</u>

#### POZA DEL MUJERES (BEACH OF THE WOMEN)



#### CUEVA DE LAS GOLONDRINAS (CAVE OF THE SWALLOWS)



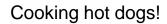
#### FUN AT THE BEACH

Our lifeguard, Orlando















#### TROPA 159



- ▶ Dariana's grandmother's house for fruit ices called "limbers"
- ➤ Laura's parents' house for showers and dinner (alcapurrias, avocadoes, roast pork, rice, beans, flan)
- → Olympic gold medal tennis match (Monica Puig)
- ➡ Gift giving
- → Old San Juan together, Paseo de la Princesa

#### MONICA PUIG WINS GOLD AT WOMEN'S SINGLES TENNIS!!





#### DAY 4



Catamaran Spread Eagle II day trip

# CATAMARAN AND SNORKELING





- ➤ Catamaran Spread Eagle II
  Day Sail
- → Off-shore island to snorkel and swim
- ▶ Buffet lunch on board
- ➤ Sail to coral reef off Palomino Island for more snorkeling
- ➤ Sail back to Fajardo

#### SAILING AND SNORKELING, CATAMARAN SPREAD EAGLE II







#### END OF DAY 4





➤ Souvenir shopping in Old San Juan

▶ Dinner at ChocoBar de Casa Cortes



#### DAY 5



- → 4 am pick up at Plaza Colon, outside hostel
- ➤ Flight home to Boston
- **▶** Back in Groton by noon!

#### REFLECTIONS