



Forest Messages

A Newsletter for Camp Directors

G I R L S C O U T S O F V I R G I N I A S K Y L I N E C O U N C I L

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Spring is in the air and summer is fast approaching!



So as we prepare for camp, I'd like to thank you all for the great work you do on behalf of our girls. Summer camp offers girls the opportunity to learn new skills and gain a lifelong appreciation of the outdoors. And thanks to your hard work, we are able to offer girls, council-wide, a great variety of outdoor and camp opportunities.

I'm looking forward to getting around to all our camps this summer and seeing your staff in action. Membership services managers and I will be contacting you about visiting. Please remember that we have lots of programs and territory to cover, so we can't always give much notice on visits.

Happy Camping!
Sarah
 Sarah Baughman



Welcome to New Programs and Volunteers

Welcome to several new programs and volunteers! Stacy Anderson is directing **PowerGirls** at Camp Sac this summer. Clifington (Alleghany/Bath) has turned into **Douthat Days**, an exciting collaboration with Douthat State Park. Billie Cope, of Buggs Island, is directing a twilight camp at **Occoneechee State Park**, and the Friendship Service Unit is offering another twilight camp at **Claytor Lake State Park**.





Announcements

Pre-Camp Meetings

If you have not already scheduled your pre-camp meeting, please be sure to do so as soon as possible! I'm still getting to know your programs and would like to get a good feel for your camp.



Flags

We have a number of flags that need to be retired appropriately. If you are interested in a burning ceremony for camp this summer, please contact [Sarah Baughman](#).



Staff Needed

Staff are still needed for Camp Graham and Pioneers, Pastimes & Pals this summer! Please help get the word out to interested camp staff and parents. Mothers who volunteer get half-price for their daughter's tuition!



Camp Photos

Don't forget to take lots of pictures at camp this summer. And, most importantly, send them in to Jen Ward and Sarah Baughman so your girls can be featured on your camp promotions.





Staff Training Tips

- Training sets the tone for your summer camp, so be sure to have all your staff attend and get to know each other!
- Include your CPA's and CA's in staff training so that they can get to know the adults they will be working with and can get a feeling for their responsibilities.
- Delegate, Delegate, Delegate! Be sure to use your experienced staff to lead sessions and teach from their experiences. This not only decreases your workload but also gives all staff more "buy-in" to your program.
- Plan your sessions so that the mornings are used for the more sedentary, detailed trainings and the afternoons are used for more active sessions. People generally pay attention and learn better in the mornings.
- Schedule time for your staff to develop their own "bag of tricks" for those times when the weather doesn't cooperate or things just don't go as planned. Their bag of tricks should include games and songs that don't need lots of equipment.

Program Planning

- Consider adding something new to your camp program this year. It keeps the returning girls interested and your staff "fresh"!
- Recent trends in camping show that youth are looking for non-traditional summer programs. This indicates that we should be incorporating new ideas and programs into our programs every summer.
- Letterboxing! A fun program that has taken off in some areas is letterboxing, a high-tech combination of orienteering, stamping, and treasure hunting. GSUSA recently released a letterboxing Interest Project. Letterboxing can also be adapted to younger age levels. For more information, check out www.letterboxing.org. There is also a letterboxing patch program from Girl Scouts of Connecticut Trails.
- Make it "real." Another trend in camps is to use popular television programs as guidelines for programs. Have an *Amazing Race* or even a *Survivor* night using the girls' outdoor skills!
- Leave the electronics at home. Consider adding a Luddite policy to your parent packet! If you haven't already done so, ask parents to have girls leave cell phones, ipods, walkmen, etc. at home. It's hard to enjoy the outdoors with so many gadgets distracting from the experience.

Camp Consignment Orders

Please remember to follow the procedures below when placing your camp consignment orders. Refer to page 43 in the Camp Director's Manual for information about the sales rebate program available to GSVSC summer camps.

1. Each camp designates one contact person responsible for consignment.
2. Orders must be placed using the three-part NCR form (#1064C). Please note that columns marked with a star (*) are to be filled in by shop personnel only. Use dark ink and press down firmly. Send the top two copies of the form, retaining the bottom copy for your camp records, to: GSVSC Shop, 3663 Peters Creek Road, NW, Roanoke, VA 24019-2809.
3. Orders must be received by May 1 for June camps, by June 1 for July camps, and by July 1 for August camps. Orders will be filled with available stock, and substitutions will be made as much as possible to fully supply your camp shop with an assortment of age-appropriate and price level merchandise.
4. When you submit your order, please specify your merchandise pick-up or delivery preferences and the date when the merchandise is needed. UPS or mail charges, if any, will be added to your consignment balance due. A copy of your order will accompany the merchandise you receive. Please retain that list for return with any remaining items issued on consignment. Inventory and verify the amounts received upon receipt of your delivery and immediately notify the shop of any discrepancies.
5. At the end of your event, pack remaining merchandise for return to the Roanoke shop. Note return deadlines for rebate validity. Every attempt will be made to reconcile the order within 10 to 15 days of return. Your camp will be notified (by phone or email) of the total due. The check must be submitted immediately and no later than September 15.



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