

# Summer Camp FAQ

## **What can girls do at camp?**

Girl Scout camp is an outdoor program designed to give girls a positive and fun experience in the great outdoors. Under the guidance of a trained and enthusiastic adult leader, each camp provides age-appropriate activities allowing girls to experience a variety of Girl Scout programs in an outdoor setting. Activities include crafts, games, nature study, outdoor-cooking skills and overnight camp-outs. Most camps offer girls the opportunity to earn a patch for skills learned. Some camps offer swimming or boating, and high-adventure activities for teen girls. Summer Camp Leadership Training is also offered for girls currently in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above who wish to learn more about becoming a camp staff member. Read the activity information offered at each specific camp.

## **Can my daughter bring a friend to camp?**

Yes, girls can invite their friends to camp. Even if the friend is not currently a Girl Scout, she can sign up for camp as long as she registers as a Girl Scout member.

## **What about health and safety?**

Each camp has one or more currently certified first aid staff on duty whenever girls are in camp. An up-to-date health history form must be completed for every camper (printed on the reverse of the registration) and mailed with the registration. Please help us provide adequate care for your daughter by giving information about her health that will make her stay at camp happy and healthy. The safety of campers and staff is a top priority at Girl Scout camp. Directors and staff receive annual training, review safety and emergency procedures, and provide the recommended ratio of adults to girls.

## **What clean-up chores will girls do?**

We call the daily clean-up chores “kapers.” Sharing the kapers helps to keep the camp program site tidy and safe. Kapers are rotated among the girls and could include picking up litter, collecting firewood, preparing meals and cleaning up, and cleaning bathrooms. Camp staff supervises each of these activities.

## **Is financial assistance available?**

Help with camp fees is available to registered Girl Scouts. Complete a financial assistance application, and mail with your daughter’s camp registration to the registrar of the camp she is attending. Financial assistance applications can be found online at [www.gsvsc.org/summer-camps](http://www.gsvsc.org/summer-camps).

## **What does the camp fee cover?**

**Day Camp:** The camp fee covers the daily program at each camp, including the overnight camp-out if offered; girls bring their own lunch each day. If special activities such as horseback riding or adventure programs are offered, there may be additional fees.

**Weekend Camp:** The camp fee covers the weekend program, including meals, overnight lodging and program activities.

## **What about transportation?**

Some camps have chartered transportation at an additional cost. If there is no transportation provided, it is the responsibility of parents to provide it.

## **How can parents help at camp?**

All our camps rely on volunteer adults to ensure the success of the camp programs. If you are interested in volunteering, follow the instructions on the next page, and contact the camp director. If you are selected as a volunteer to work at camp, your daughter will be guaranteed a place in camp.

# Summer Camp Leadership Program

## Counselor-in-Training Course

Counselor-in-Training is the second course in the camp leadership program. It includes outdoor skills, teaching techniques, and methods for working with campers. The course is for girls who want to work at day, twilight, weekend, and resident troop camps. It also meets the requirements for a Specialization course for those working on the Cadette or Senior Program Aide pin and patch.

We recommend that girls complete Camp Program Assistant Training before attending the Counselor-in-Training course. If a girl has not completed Camp Program Assistant Training, then she must have had prior camping experience. Counselor-in-Training courses will be offered this spring at Camp Sacajawea and Icimani Adventure Center. Please check the council event calendar, [www.gsvsc.org/calendar](http://www.gsvsc.org/calendar), for dates, times and fees, or contact council headquarters at **1 (800) 542-5905**. To register, contact Debra Giles at **(540) 777-5108**, **1 (800) 542-5905** or [dgiles@gsvsc.org](mailto:dgiles@gsvsc.org).

## Camp Program Assistant (CPA)

For girls currently in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above.\* A CPA comes to camp to assist staff with all activities and to help campers with songs, games, crafts, knots, flag ceremonies and cookouts. To apply, girls should request an application from the camp director listed or GSVSC headquarters (**#2652**), register to attend camp as a CPA, and attend a one-day training offered by the camp.

## Counselor-in-Training (CIT)

(Formerly Counselor Apprentice) For girls currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above.\* A CIT comes to camp to develop leadership skills by working with staff and teaching skills to campers. Under the supervision of adult staff, a CIT will teach girls knots, fire-building, use of tools and knives, cooking skills, compass skills, songs and games. To apply, girls should request an application packet from GSVSC headquarters (**#2630**) or the camp director listed, register to attend camp as a CIT, attend a council-wide weekend training session, attend the training required by the camp, and work at camp for one session.

## Counselor-in-Training II (CIT II)

(Formerly Junior Counselor) For girls (minimum age 16 and finished the 10<sup>th</sup> grade\*). The Counselor-in-Training II usually has several years of camp experience and leadership training. Counselors-in-Training II work in partnership with adult staff to provide a safe and memorable camp experience for girls. The Counselors-in-Training II attend the camp training session scheduled by the director. Request a **Counselor-in-Training II application packet (#2666)** from council headquarters. Complete the **Girl Scout Volunteer Position Application** and Understanding of Inclusiveness, and give the reference forms to two people who know you well. When completed, submit all of the forms in the application packet to the camp director. Girls who have turned 18 years of age before the start of camp may apply for an adult staff position.

**\*Some camps may require girls to be older than the ages listed above based on activities performed in those roles. Please see individual camp listings or contact the camp director for more information.**

# Camp Needs Volunteers Just like You!

Adults, just like you, are needed to make all our summer camp programs a success! Our day, weekend and twilight camps and resident troop camp at Icimani depend upon hundreds of volunteers to provide program and leadership. Many adults use vacation or leave time to volunteer.

## What are the rewards?

- Providing positive influence in the lives of girls;
- Making new adult friends;
- Carrying on a 100-year tradition of Girl Scout camp;
- Reaching out to every girl, everywhere.

## What is provided?

- Training and orientation for the camp you will attend;
- A memorable camp experience;
- A possible discount on your daughter's attendance at camp.

## What can you do to help at camp?

- Be a unit assistant, counselor or leader;
- Be a driver for a field trip or an adult on the bus;
- Assist the director by running errands, picking up supplies or handling paperwork;
- If you are a currently certified lifeguard or a currently certified first-aider, you are also needed.

## What qualifications are needed to work at camp?

- Minimum age is 18;
- The ability to work well with children;
- An interest or experience in the out-of-doors;
- Serve as a role model for girls;
- Complete the Girl Scout Volunteer Application and background check process.

## Can teenagers work at camp?

Girls who are at least 16 and have finished the 10<sup>th</sup> grade may apply to be a Counselor-in-Training II at day, weekend or twilight camps. These girls must have previous camping and leadership experience. Girls who are younger may apply to participate in the Summer Camp Leadership Training Program.

## How to apply to work at camp

1. Contact the director to tell her of your interest in working at camp;
2. Obtain a **Volunteer Application (#4249)** by visiting the GSVSC website at [www.gsvsc.org/forms](http://www.gsvsc.org/forms) or by calling the headquarters office at **(540) 777-5100**;
3. Complete the Girl Scout Volunteer Application and mail it to the director of the camp at which you are interested in working.