



Camp FAQ

How do I know if my daughter is ready for camp?

Although age is one factor in readiness for camp, a girl's maturity level and personality are more important indicators. Talk with your child about camp and see if she wants to go. If she's enthusiastic, she is likely to have a wonderful time at camp. The following questions can help parents make this important decision.

- Has she been away from home for more than a night without family?
- Can she take care of her personal belongings?
- Can she care for her own basic hygiene needs, like brushing her teeth?
- Does she like the outdoors?
- Can she cope with unfamiliar people, places, and schedules?
- Does she enjoy making new friends?
- Does she like group situations?

How old do you have to be to come to camp?

Any girl who has completed kindergarten through the twelfth grade is eligible to attend camp.

My child has a friend who wants to come to summer camp, but she's not a Girl Scout. Can she come?

A girl does NOT have to be a Girl Scout to attend camp. She can either join Girl Scouts before attending camp by paying the \$12 membership fee, or pay the non-Girl Scout fee.

Can my child be in a cabin with her friend?

Yes, if your child and her friend are close to the same age and registered for the same program, they can be camp buddies and stay in the same cabin/tent. Be sure to list the friend's name on your child's registration form where it asks for cabin-mate preference.

What will my child do at camp?

Program activities within the unit are designed to be age and skill appropriate. In addition to the specialized session activities, each girl will have opportunities to participate in swimming, arts and crafts, canoeing, and camp-wide programs. Each girl participates in activities, eats in the dining hall, and lives in the cabin/tent with girls her own age. This allows a girl to feel sure of her place in a group, to feel that wonderful sense of belonging. In the evenings, as the entire camp participates in the same program, girls share the thrill of being part of a large group.

I am a parent of a first-time camper, and I am a little concerned. Who will take care of my daughter, and what kind of training do they have?

Our camp directors have several years of camping experience and are well trained to assure a safe, quality program for your child. Our summer camp staff is carefully screened and selected for their honesty and integrity as well as their genuine concern for children. A background check is conducted on each staff member. All staff is CPR and First Aid certified and participates in a five-day intensive pre-camp training that covers topics such as child and adolescent development, camp skills, Girl Scout programs, healthcare, safety practices and procedures. Most counselors are college students or recent college graduates and/or Girl Scout volunteers.

Will there be an adult staying in my daughter's cabin?

Adult counselors live in the units, but not in the cabins. They help girls with activities and provide leadership and supervision at all times.

How are health and safety maintained?

Physical and emotional health and safety are our primary concerns. Activities are geared to each girl's abilities and are supervised by trained and certified staff. GSGMS camp properties follow the health and safety standards set by the Girl Scouts of the USA and each property is inspected annually by the Mississippi State Health Department. Health care staff follows health and first aid procedures, which are reviewed by licensed medical personnel. All camp staff are certified in American Red Cross First aid and CPR. Arrangements are made in advance with hospital and local emergency response personnel for complete emergency care.

What will I need to pack and bring to camp?

Once we receive your registration form and payment, you will receive a confirmation packet. A complete list of what to pack will be enclosed in the confirmation packet. Please make sure ALL equipment and personal belongings are plainly marked with your child's name. Remember, camp is a casual place. Please don't send your camper with "new" or "good" clothes and shoes. Old, comfortable shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts are normal everyday wear. Comfortable closed-toe shoes and socks that cover the ankle MUST be worn every day. No sandals or flip flops.

Is financial assistance available?

GSGMS is committed to ensuring that all girls have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts. All requests and allocations are confidential. Go to www.gsgms.org to download the *Financial Assistance Request* form.