

About Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Day Camps

It is our goal that a girl at day camp will:

- Practice democratic girl/adult partnerships by expressing ideas and helping to plan and carry out fun, challenging and appropriate outdoor activities.
- Gain knowledge by learning and practicing basic outdoor-living skills.
- Improve self-confidence through positive encouragement in program participation.
- Learn to be comfortable meeting new people and being part of a new group.

Girls Coming to Day Camp Should Expect:

- To join in activities and to share chores with a new group of friends.
- To make decisions and plans with the other girls and adults in the unit.
- To see spiders, swat mosquitoes, do lots of walking and learn to spot poison ivy.
- To rough it. Day camp sites are rustic. Some sites have pit latrines (no flushing) and at some we have to put up our own shelters.
- To have a good time! Adult volunteers, with the help of teenage Girl Scouts, ensure activities are fun, safe and appropriate.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is day camp?

A: Day camp is an outdoor program where girls are at camp during the day and go home at the end of each day.

Q: How long does day camp last?

A: Day camp sessions run Monday through Friday. Most hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but this varies by location. Some camps offer a late night during the week.

Q: Who can go to day camp?

A: Day camp is for girls who have completed grades K-11. Girls completing grades seven and up can participate in a special program (PAL/APL) to learn and practice leadership skills.

Q: Do only Girl Scouts attend day camp?

A: Camp is open to all girls and is one of the many pathways for being involved in Girl Scouting. Non-Girl Scouts who wish to attend camp pay an additional fee to be registered as members for the current year.

Q: My daughter wants to go, but the other girls in her troop don't. How does this work?

A: Attending day camp is an individual's decision. Girls register independently of their troop. If there is a group of girls from a troop or service unit who would like to attend camp, we ask that the troop or

service unit try to provide some adult leadership at that session. The number of girls who can be placed is determined by the number of spaces remaining in a session.

Q: What do girls do at day camp?

A: Day camp is a good start to learning and practicing outdoor-living skills. Crafts, singing, hiking, nature studies and outdoor games are part of every day. Girls will also participate in outdoor cooking from planning a menu to tending the cooking fire and sharing kitchen duties with others.

Q: What clean-up chores will girls do?

A: All girls attending day camp participate in daily clean-up chores called “kapers.” Sharing the kapers helps to keep the site tidy and safe. Kapers are rotated among the girls and may include picking up litter, collecting firewood and attending to the latrine (the Girl Scout version of an outhouse). To keep everyone healthy, the latrine kaper includes restocking the toilet paper, replenishing the hand-washing supplies and sanitizing the seat while wearing protective gloves.

Q: What is a unit?

A: At day camp, girls are in small, troop-sized groups called “units.” A unit has about 16 girls, two adult volunteers and one or two teenage girls we call “PALs.” The girls in the unit are from different troops, but are all the same age or grade in school. One of the purposes of Girl Scout day camp is to meet new girls. We do not purposefully place a group of girls from a troop together.

Q: What about health and safety?

A: Our day camp directors are experienced in Girl Scout outdoor programs and are familiar with the Girl Scout health and safety standards. At their annual training, they review prevention and emergency procedures for weather, lost persons, fire and serious injury or fatality. We ensure we have the recommended number of adult to girl ratios. We encourage parents to contact the Council Headquarters if they have concerns of which the council staff should be aware.

Q: What is the day camp fee?

A: The base fee for day camp is \$50 for the five-day session. This fee covers camp housekeeping supplies, craft supplies, day camp patch, daily lunch beverage, food for one lunch cookout, insurance and some staff expenses. There might be additional charges for a session that has swimming or other special programs.

Q: Wow! \$50 for five days! How do you do it?

A: Our day camps are staffed solely by adult volunteers. These are people who are committed to providing quality outdoor programs for girls and choose to take a week of time from their busy lives to volunteer at day camp. The fee takes care of the supplies the girls receive and use. The council covers the cost for site rental, equipment and rental of portable toilets, where needed.

Q: Is there a possibility a girl may be closed out of a day camp session?

A: Because of the low fee and high quality of our day camp programs, there are often more registrations received than can be fulfilled. The number of girls accepted into a day camp session is often limited

because of a lack of volunteers. We want to ensure that your child will have a safe and fun time at camp; therefore, we maintain strict guidelines of camper supervision by adults.

Q: What about a waitlist?

A: Should you be closed-out of your desired camp session, you have the option to have your registration transferred to an open session or be placed on a waitlist. If a girl cancels, the next girl on the waitlist for that session will be placed.

Q: What do day camp volunteers do at camp?

A: Along with at least one other adult, volunteers supervise a unit of about 16 girls. They lead the girls to have fun and be safe at camp by being actively involved in what the girls are doing. An adult can choose whether or not to have her daughter or girls from her troop in the unit.

Q: How do I register my daughter for day camp?

A: **Registration opens on April 2, 2012.** First, select the day camp session you wish to attend. Any girl from any area may attend any session of camp. Traditionally, girls from selected service units were placed first in certain sessions of camp. Now, all sessions are open to all girls on the day that registration opens. You may wish to contact the Council office or your service unit representative to find out which camp session is likely to serve adults and girls from your service unit. Next, register online using the CORA system OR complete the Day Camp Registration Form and mail it to Council Headquarters. Make sure the form is signed by the custodial parent or guardian. Register only one person per form. Be sure to submit the complete fee with the registration form.

Q: Can I fax the registration form?

A: If you choose to use the paper registration form, please mail it, as original signatures are required.

Q: When does registration close?

A: The registration deadline is identified by each individual camp and is identified in the session description. Registration remains open until that deadline, or until the capacity is reached.

Q: What if a girl cannot be placed at day camp? Will the fee be returned?

A: If a girl cannot be placed due to lack of space, the fee, including any Cookie Dough or Nutty Money, will be returned in full.

Q: What if I have already registered and need to cancel?

A: To qualify for a refund of a camp fee paid, you must submit a written request to the Council Headquarters no less than 10 days prior to the first day of the session or program and state why the girl will be unable to attend. A refund request based on last minute cancellation because of sudden illness, death of a family member, or other family emergency must be submitted to the Council Headquarters within two weeks after the first day of the camp session the girl was to attend. In the event of any cancellation, 10% of the fee paid will be retained for handling charges. For non-Girl Scouts, the \$15 additional fee is not refundable. Refunds are made by council check and mailed. Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

Q: What if I want to switch my daughter to a different session?

Please check your session dates carefully! A \$20 transfer fee will be applied if you choose to switch to a different session after your registration has been processed.

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: Some day camps offer chartered transportation at an additional cost. This option is outlined in the session description. If there is no transportation option, the parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the camp site.