

About Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Resident Camps

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

- Work in a democratic partnership with camp staff to help select, plan, and carry out environmentally sound program activities.
- Practice human-relation skills by living harmoniously with others in a culturally diverse environment.
- Grow in self-esteem through her interaction with others and by planning and participating in program activities.
- Have fun while learning new skills.

Benefits and anticipated outcomes from a camp experience include development in the following areas:

- Social Skills – leadership, communication, and participation.
- Self-Respect and Character Building – responsibility, resourcefulness, and resilience.
- Community Living/Service – caring, fairness, citizenship, and trustworthiness.

Step One: Considering Sending Your Daughter to Camp

Q: How do I know if my daughter is ready to go to camp?

A: Your daughter is ready to go to camp when:

- She wants to go to camp.
- She can spend more than one night away from home without becoming homesick.
- She can brush, wash, and care for her hair by herself.
- She makes friends easily and likes to participate in group activities.
- She likes to try new things.

Q: How do I know if I am ready for her to go to camp?

A: You are ready to let your daughter go to camp when:

- You can relax and go about your daily activities while your daughter is at camp.
- You are comfortable going 5 days with no phone contact with your daughter (letters only).
- You feel confident in your daughter's ability to go to camp and express this openly to her.
- You are ready for your daughter to participate in a challenging, outdoor experience that will help mold her into a well-rounded individual.

*If you determine that your daughter is not ready for a resident camp opportunity, please consider registering her for one of the many **day camp** opportunities offered by GSOH.*



Q: Who will be taking care of my daughter?

A: Your daughter will be cared for by a qualified team of staff. Camp staff members are usually hired for the entire summer, are at least 18 years old, and may be either female or male. All staff members receive a week of specific training and instruction on interaction with girls, are never alone with a camper, and sleep in separate facilities (male staff sleep in another area away from the girls). Staff members are also trained on emergency procedures, program development, First Aid and CPR. Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland does not discriminate hiring by sex, ethnic background, or any other criteria protected by law.

Many of our staff members are college students who are pursuing degrees in education, social work, or other areas related to working with children. We carefully screen every camp staff member, including background checks, and train them to help each camper gain the most from her camp experience. Waterfront staff and horseback riding staff (at Camp Molly Lauman) have additional training and experience in these program areas. A few girls who have completed two years of our Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program, but are still 17 years old, may be considered for hire.

A licensed nurse, EMT, or advanced certified first-aider is on duty around the clock. A registered nurse is on site daily to manage the health care of our campers. The camps have access to nearby facilities for urgent and emergency care.

When a program involves an out-of-camp trip, campers and staff travel by leased 12-passenger van(s). Van drivers are camp staff who are at least 21 years old and have demonstrated safe driving and handling of a 12-passenger van. The driving record of each camp van driver is checked by our insurance company.

Q: What if my daughter has special needs, allergies, or medications?

A: Our inclusive community environment helps girls of all abilities live, play, and learn in a non-competitive atmosphere. If your camper requires a special diet, special health care, or has a mental or physical disability or other condition, please contact the camp director prior to registering your camper for camp. At that time you can discuss the program and nature of your camper's needs. It will then be determined if camp can provide support, supervision, and necessary accommodations for your camper to have a safe and fulfilling experience. Handicapped accessible living areas are available.

Q: What if my daughter gets homesick?

A: Homesickness is often a part of the camp experience, so staff members are trained in how to assist campers in dealing with their feelings. Staff members will talk to your daughter about how she is feeling and try to get her actively involved in the fun things happening at camp. If the feelings persist, the camp director will contact you to get suggestions on how to help your



daughter deal with her feelings and have a positive experience. Parents can better prepare their daughter by reading the “Homesickness” document found on our website.

Q: Does my daughter need a physical exam to come to camp?

A: Each camper is required to have a physical examination by a licensed physician within 24 months prior to attending camp. This exam is the financial responsibility of the parent or guardian. Campers are required to have a parent or guardian complete a health history within the six months prior to camp attendance. The forms for the physical examination and health history can be downloaded from our website. A hard copy may also be requested by contacting the Columbus office or your camp director.

Q: What times are check-in and check-out?

A: At Camp Molly Lauman, check in is 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on the opening day (Sunday or Wednesday) of the session, except for CIT 2, RIT, and Family Camp. Check out is 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. on the closing day (Friday) of the session. If riding the bus, the drop-off and pick-up times will be included in the placement packet. Information specific to CIT 2 and RIT check-in and check-out will be provided in the confirmation packet. Family Camp check-in is 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Friday and check-out is 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

At Camp Wakatomika, check-in is 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on the opening day of the session, except for CIT 1 & 2 and Family Camp. Check-out is 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. on the closing day (Tuesday or Friday) of the session. CIT 1 & 2 will check in at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and check-out at 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Family camp check-in is 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Friday and check out is 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Q: What do they eat at camp?

A: The majority of the meals in the dining hall are served family-style. Menus are designed to incorporate nutrition and variety. Options are generally available for girls who are vegetarian, have allergies, or may dislike certain foods. All groups also cook-out during their camp experience, and girls help to plan those menus.

Q: How much does it cost and is there assistance available?

A: The fee for a camp program varies depending on the length of the session and the contents of the program. The 3-day programs range in cost from \$130 for general programs to \$175 for horseback riding sessions. The 6-day events range from \$250 for general sessions to \$375 for specialty programs. The 10-day high adventure program is \$750 and the 13-day backpacking trip is \$450.

All registered Girl Scouts are eligible to apply for financial assistance to help offset the cost for resident camp. The Financial Assistance Application can be found in the Camp Guide or downloaded from the Resident Camp Forms section of the website.



There are also a limited number of camp scholarships available (please see the Camp Guide for specific information) and Product Program Reward Cards can also be used for resident camp.

Q: Are there leadership opportunities for older girls?

A: Building leadership skills is an integral part of the Girl Scout program. Girls who have completed grades 6-11 have an opportunity to choose a session that focuses on developing leadership skills. The Future Leaders in Camp (FLIC) program at Camp Wakatomika provides a fun camp experience, while also develops the skills needed to begin leading activities for younger girls. The Counselor-In-Training (CIT) 1, CIT 2, and Riding Instructor-In-Training (RIT) programs provide leadership training for older girls along with the hands-on experience of utilizing those skills to assist younger girls in their learning process.

Information on all of these leadership opportunities can be found in the Camp Guide.

Step Two: Registration Process

Q: When, where, and how do I register?

A: The registration process is outlined in the Camp Guide. Registration for all resident camp programs begins on **February 15, 2012**. The online registration option will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the 15th. The link will be available on the home page of the GSOH website. If you choose the online registration process, you will be immediately confirmed into the program if space is available.

You may choose to submit a paper registration. Please note that any paper registrations received prior to the 15th will be held and treated as equal on that day. Your registration will not be confirmed until you receive your confirmation email sent in early April.

If space is available, registrations will be accepted up until two weeks prior to the beginning date of the program. If the required minimum of six (6) girls per program is not reached, you will be rescheduled or issued a full refund.

Q: Where can I find the forms that I will need?

A: The Registration Form and Financial Assistance Form can be found in the Camp Guide or downloaded online. All other forms can be downloaded from the Resident Camp Forms section of the website or from the links sent with your confirmation email.

Q: How much do I have to pay when I register?

A: A \$40 non-refundable deposit is required for each registration. Financial assistance and the



Product Program Rewards Card cannot be used to cover the deposit. Payment may be made by credit card or check. E-checks may be utilized for online payments.

Q: Can I register my daughter for more than one program?

A: You may register your daughter for multiple programs at either or both of the camps. A \$40 deposit is required for each registration. If utilizing a paper registration, a separate form is required for each program.

Q: How do I register for the bus to Camp Molly Lauman?

A: A charter bus (or 12-passenger van) will be available for the transportation of campers from stops in Columbus, Circleville, and Chillicothe to Camp Molly Lauman on the opening and closing days of each session. Please note: there will **not** be transportation for session #6318 Short and Sweet. There is an additional fee of \$40 to ride the bus round trip from any bus stops.

Q: Can my daughter come with a friend?

A: Girls may request **one** person to be their tent or cabin mate at the time of registration. This information must be indicated on the registration form or submitted online. Each "buddy" must designate the other girl as her tent mate. "Buddy rings" of three or more people are not allowed and girls will not be placed together in the same tent/cabin. We reserve the right to choose one buddy for your camper if you list multiple names.

Many girls do choose to come to camp without knowing any of the other girls. Remember – camp is a time to meet new people and make new friends!

Q: When will I know that my daughter is in the program she wants?

A: If you choose to utilize the online registration process, you will immediately know that your daughter has been accepted into the program. Your registration will not be accepted if space is not available or if your daughter does not meet the age requirements for the program.

If registering by mail, you will not receive official notification of placement until the confirmation placement packets are sent beginning April 1st.

Q: How do I get my placement packet?

A: All individuals who provide an email address will be mailed a placement packet during that same time period. As Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland is trying to "Go Green," we do appreciate being able to provide materials by email. The Parent Handbook is a lengthy publication, but it can easily be read online. It is not necessary to print most of it.

Those utilizing the online registration process also have the option of sending emails to the camp directors through that system.



Step Three: Packing Up and Heading to Camp

Parent Handbook

Now that you have registered your daughter for camp, you will probably have additional questions. We have tried to answer those questions in the Parent Handbook for each camp. It addresses health care and screening, required forms, packing, directions to camp, check-in and check-out procedures, trading post, communications, swim tests, out-of-camp trips, safety, camper behavior, and much more. Please set aside some time to read over the Parent Handbook so that you and your camper are prepared for this exciting experience.

Driving to Camp

We strongly encourage you to look at the directions provided for each camp. In the case of Camp Wakatomika, there are actually two camps in Ohio with that name. If you are utilizing other resources for directions, please be sure to include the camp address in your search or you might end up in the wrong place!

Camp Open Houses

Resident camp open houses are a great opportunity to visit the camp, meet some of the staff members, and have your questions answered prior to your daughter's camp session. Please see the Camp Guide for information about when these open houses will take place.