

Resident & Troop Camp FAQ's

Does my camper need to be a Girl Scout?

Yes, all girls and adults participating in resident and troop camp need to be registered. If you aren't currently a Girl Scout, it is easy to register. You will need to fill out the 2013 Membership registration and send it along with the your resident camp or troop Camp paperwork.

Do adults participating in camp need a background check?

Yes, adults participating in camp programs need a background check. Background checks are required by the American Camping Association and The Girl Scout Safety Wise Activity Check Points. Adults participating in the Mommies & Daisies Camp are required to have a background check.

How can I register for camp?

Girl Scouts can register for resident camp on the GSMISTS website. A hard copy must be filled out for troop camp registration. You may not register for troop camp online. Registration forms and camp description can be downloaded on the GSMISTS website. Registration packets can pick up at any Council Service Center. Upon request a registration packet can be mailed to your place of residence. To request a packet please email mvp@gsmists.org

How much does camp cost?

Summer camp costs vary session to session. Cost are determined by the level of specialty, programing, supplies, staffing, and duration. Our three day camps are less than our six day programs, due to length. Our programs involving outdoor living skills and high adventure require specialized staff skill sets and equipment. This is reflected in the cost. Troop camps will vary based on the number of participants, amount of staff time leaders request to run the program, number of meals provided by camp, and the level of accommodation troops select.

4 day camp \$245-\$260

6 day camp \$315-\$320

CIT camp \$315-\$320

Troop Camp Varies

Does my child need a physical?

Yes. The American Camping Association requires a physical annually for participants attending a program longer than 3 days. This is required for the safety and well being of participants.

Can I turn in my registration without my cash deposit?

No, deposits need to be turned in at the time of registration. Deposit is also required even if applying for financial assistance. Financial assistance can be requested by turning in the appropriate form. Registration should be completed and returned to council by **May 24th, 2013**. Girls registering after **May**

24th, 2013 will be assessed a late fee. Resident camp late fees are \$25 per girl. Troop camp late fees are \$5 per participant.

When will the full payment be needed?

Full payment for camp is due 2 weeks prior to the start of your respective camp session. If payment is not made in full 2 weeks prior to the start of the camp session, participants will not be allowed to attend camp. If payment is not made 2 weeks prior to the session, participants forfeit their spot. Their spot may be given to another girl on the waiting list. The \$50 nonrefundable deposit will not be returned, in the event that payment is not made on time.

How do we apply for a campership?

When applying for a campership, a 2013 campership form should be turned in with troop and resident camp registration on May 24th to allow for time to be processed. Campership requests are required to be received three weeks prior to the chosen camp session start date in order to be reviewed. The nonrefundable camp deposit is required, even if applying for campership.

When will I need to return the paperwork in the welcome packet?

After you have submitted your registration and deposit, you will be sent a welcome packet. This packet will brief participants and parents on camp session specifics. The packet will include: general session information, welcome letter, packing list, trading post info, camp policies, health and allergy forms. All forms, physicals, and health forms will be due 3 weeks prior to the start of your respective camp.

What will the camper need to bring?

A packing list will be sent with your welcome packet. If a welcome packet is not received, contact the service center and we will be happy to send a packet via mail or email.

What happens if a camper leaves an item behind at camp?

Lost and Found Items will be kept at camp until August 12th. If your child has a lost item contact your the Outdoor Pathways Manager, or the Camp Director. Staff can arrange to have items brought to one of our three services centers, upon request. Unclaimed lost and found items are turned into the council service center at the end of the summer. Items will be held for 3 months after the end of camp sessions (August 12th). After that time, remaining unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

When do campers check-in/check out?

Resident camp: Check in is at 2pm and checkout is 12:00pm

Troop Camp

Camp Anna Behrens: Check in 10am, check out 10am

Camp Saki: Check in 2pm, check out 2pm

Campers need to be picked up on time!

What if I can't make that time?

Contact the Camp Director or Outdoor Pathways Manager immediately. Your local service center can connect you to either of these people. It is imperative that we stick to our camp schedule for all programs. It is each individual's responsibility to make sure they are at check in and out on time. If individual's or groups are late to check in, programming missed by the group due to delay will not be made up at a different time.

Can I visit or talk to my camper while they are at camp?

No, part of the camp experience is being away from home and getting in-tune with the outdoors. We have found that phone calls and visits provoke homesickness issues among campers. However, contact through letter writing is encouraged. Letters can be sent to campers any time during the week. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's wellbeing during the week, you may contact the Camp Director at any time.

Camp Anna Behrens Mailing Address:

Camp Anna Behrens
9841 Colby Road
Greenville, MI 48838

Camp Sakakawea Mailing Address:

Camp Sakakawea
33 Bass Lake Rd
Traverse City, MI 49686

Is there any transportation provided to camp?

No, campers need to have their own transportation to and from camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for the on time drop off and pick up of their camper. If an adult, other than a parent or guardian will be picking up or dropping off a camper, arrangements need to be made 24 hours in advance with the Camp Director. Campers will not be released to anyone other than their parent or guardian, unless accommodations have been made with the Camp Director.

What happens with a child who is homesick?

Camp staff are provided with a thorough training as to how to accommodate a homesick camper. Homesickness is a natural part of the camp experience. The Camp Director will be notified of severe homesick issues by their staff. They will meet with the child and address the issues accordingly. If a child continues to aggressively struggle with homesickness the Camp Director will make the ultimate call on contacting parents and sending home campers.

Do you have a plan for severe weather?

Procedures for severe weather are in place at camp. Camp has emergency plans for all types of inclement weather and natural disasters. These plans are part of our emergency plans. Emergency drills are run at camp on a weekly basis. Plans are approved by the American Camping Association and are a part of our certification. Plans can be accessed by contacting the Camp Director or the Outdoor

Pathways Manager. In the case of an extreme weather situation (i.e. a tornado) ,that inhibits communication with the camp or its staff, there will be an emergency phone number and locations included in the Welcome Packet that will be used as a meeting place.

What if my camper has a special diet?

Special diet restrictions should be indicated on the health form, in your welcome packet. Camper can bring their own items and it will be labeled and refrigerated if needed. Each camper and guardian will meet with the camp Health Supervisor during check in. During this time dietary and other health needs will be discussed. Special dietary needs must be marked on the health form and turned in three weeks prior to camp.

My daughter wants to attend camp session outside her grade level, is this possible?

Camp sessions are designed for girls by grade level and tied into our National Program Portfolio. Accommodations will not be made for girls that do not fit into the program grade level bracket. If campers have a special need, requests will be assessed on a case by case basis. Contact the Outdoor Pathways Manager for further information.

Can two sisters be in the same tent but in different programs?

No, it is not possible for us to mix program participants. When girls register for a program they will stay with the other participants in that session. Girls will be able to mingle with other camp participants (i.e. siblings) at meals, morning ceremonies, evening ceremonies, and other similar activities.

Are there any men as counselors?

Yes, it is possible that there will be male staff at camp. All males are housed in separate quarters. There are sections of camp that are off limits to male staff. We respect and protect each child's privacy. Our top priority is to hire the highest quality of staff and keep girls safe. Girls are never placed in a one on one setting with an adult. Two unrelated adults are required to be present with girls at all times.

What happens if camper cannot attend camp? Is there a policy for changes, cancellations and refunds?

Please submit the request/cancellation in writing. If sickness, please provide a doctor's statement. Refunds will not be considered without written documentation from a licensed professional. In the event of a death or funeral a refund may be given, if we are notified in writing. Refunds are sent within a couple weeks

Can we visit the camp prior to camper attending?

Yes, we have designated times for girls and parents to visit our facilities and meet our staff. We have open houses scheduled and we encourage all participant to come tour camp.

Camp Anna Behrens open houses will be on June 15th, 2013 1:00- 4:00 pm

Camp Sakakawea open house will be on June 16th, 2013 1:00- 4:00 pm

Who will be sleeping in the tent/cabin with my camper? Do staff members sleep with campers?

Girls and adults have separate sleeping quarters. Camp maintains Safety Activity Check Point ratios at all times, including night time. Staff will be sleeping in separate tents within the camp sites. These tents are in close proximity to the girls. Staff are on duty and accessible at all times during the night.

What if my child needs special accommodations, i.e. medications?

Medication is distributed at each meal time by the camp Health Supervisor. A thorough medical log is kept of all care given to camper by our Health Supervisor. In the event that a child take medication outside of meal time, the Health Supervisor will distribute medication as instructed.

What is a buddy?

Buddies are campers recruited by other campers. If a camper makes a recommendation for a friend to sign up for a camp session, they may receive a buddy discount. This discount varies on the cost of camp. A camper may only receive one buddy discount.

Discounts are as follows:

3-day \$15 4-day \$20 5-day \$25

Campers may also request one buddy to be in the same tent or cabin. We do not guarantee that a camper will be placed with her buddy. However, we do try to accommodate requests to the best of our ability.

What types of meals will be served?

Meals will be planned by food professional. Camp strives to offer three well balanced warm meals. Girls will be able to cook out during some camp programs. Camp is equipped to accommodate special dietary needs. Please help us to do this by turning in health forms 3 weeks prior to the start of your respective camp session.

Will my child ever leave camp?

Some of our high adventure programs include offsite elements. This information will be included in your child's welcome packet. In the event of a medical need or emergency campers may be transported off camp property. Campers only ever leave camp property with authorized staff personnel. In the event of a medical need or emergency parents or guardians would be contacted.

What happens if child gets injured at camp?

Parents or guardians will be contacted in the event of a medical emergency. If a child has a medical issue that keeps them from participating to their fullest ability at camp parents will be notified. The Camp Director and Health Supervisor will asses and oversee action for medical emergencies. If a child is transported for a medical need off property, parents or guardians will be contacted before child is transported.

What is the camp Trading Post?

The trading post is a place where girls can purchase GSMISTS camping gear. While all of the essentials are provided for girls at camp, the trading post offers an opportunity for girls to purchase commemorative camp items. Girls all be allotted one trading post trip during the week. Parents or guardians will be able to put money in the trading post for girls to use during check in. It is at the discession of the parent or guardian to put money in the trading post. Girls are not required to shop at the trading post, but is part of the camp experience. Parents will be able to see items at prices when then check in their camper. Campers will not be allowed to exceed the balance their parent or guardian deposits. Leftover money will be returned to the parent.

What is a care package?

A care package is a pre assembled packaged offered through the GSMISTS council. There are three levels of package each with a different cost. Packages are an optional add on and purchase with camp. Packages will be delivered to girls during their camp session.

Level 1

Package cost \$10

Girls will receive:

Girl Scout Pen

Girl Scout Activity Kit

Girl Scout commemorative jewelry

Level 2

Package cost \$20

Girls will receive:

Girl Scout Pen

Girl Scout Activity Kit

Girl Scout commemorative jewelry

2 other Girl Scout Camp commemorative items

Level 3

Package cost \$30

Girls will receive:

Girl Scout Pen

Girl Scout Activity Kit

Girl Scout commemorative jewelry

Stuffed animal

3 other Girl Scout Camp commemorative items

Equestrian Summer Program

Why will there be no Equestrian program this year at resident camp?

GSMISTS is taking the year to audit the equestrian program. We will be looking into ways to make the program more cost effective for girls. This will allow more Girl Scouts to take part in the equestrian experience. It is crucial for us to reach an optimal number of girls in t he most cost effective way. We believe by not offering the program this year we will be better equipped

to serve girls in the future. Furthermore, we are utilizing this year to expand our high adventure outdoor programming. We are offering several sports, science, and high adventure programs. These programs are in high demand council wide, and have the ability to serve a greater number of participants.

Is the Equestrian program gone for good?

No. We are taking the year off to look at all opportunities to make this program stronger and more accessible to all girls. We will look to our membership base for suggestions on how future equestrian program will best meet the needs of each girl participants. We will use these suggestions to determine: duration of future program, locations, and desired riding experience. Through this feed back we will look to service more girls in the future.

What will be available at camp instead of the Equestrian program this year?

This year we will be offering a few new programs including a few high adventure opportunities. Our high adventure programs go beyond summer camp to explore the world of backpacking, wilderness medicine, and outdoor living skills. GSMIST is also proud to offer more progressive camping experiences. We have further expanded our camps to include sports centered camps and environmental issue based camps for older girls. We are proud to introduce camps strongly rooted in science and natural history.

What can I do to help?

We will be having an online survey and we need to hear your voice! Help us spread the word about where to find this survey, so we can look at options to strengthen the GSMISTS Equestrian program as part of summer camp!