



2024

Troop Camp Guide

girlscouts
of northern illinois



Experience for Every Troop

Troop camping is an essential part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Spending time outdoors at camp lets Girl Scouts try different things, strengthen new skills, build confidence, and ignite their interest in environmental stewardship. Whether earning badges, working on a Journey, or just having fun, Girl Scout troops are in for a fun time when they go to one of our camps! This Troop Camp Guide is for GSNI Troops. We welcome other Girl Scout troops from other councils but the pricing will be different.

- Camping provides Girl Scouts with opportunities to get outside of their comfort zones and experience the outdoors in ways they would not otherwise. It gives them the chance to build their skills and try new outdoor activities.
- 49 percent of Girl Scout alums described camping trips as one of the most positive aspects of their Girl Scout experience—ranking just behind fun and friendships with Girl Scouts.
- Exposure to nature was one of the highest rated benefits to come from belonging to Girl Scouts.

Step #1

Step one for an unforgettable outdoor experience is having prepared co-leaders or parent helpers. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) offers trainings and resources to help adults get comfortable as they plan and lead successful troop camping outings.

- Beyond the Troop Meeting is a self-study and the first step in starting any outdoor activity or adventure. To go to camp for the day this training must be completed. The self-study is online in gsLearn and has an assessment at the end which must be completed.
- Lodge Camping Training, offered several times per year for adults, is required for troops planning to stay overnight in a

lodge and have a fire for stick cooking.

- Outdoor Overnights Training, offered several times per year for adults, is required for troops planning to stay overnight in outdoor units such as sleeping cabins, platform tents, covered wagons, yurts, and pitching tents. This training offers more advanced outdoor cooking methods.

GSNI offers a wide variety of sites and facilities. Troops can pick from three properties in Big Rock, Stillman Valley, and Harvard, Illinois.

Step #2

We welcome you to review our properties to see what awaits you at each site. Visit www.girlscoutsni.org/campandoutdoors.



Reservation Timeframes

Most troops camp on the weekends, but troops are welcome during weeknights as well. All properties must be reserved three weeks ahead of time and up to one year in advance.

For overnight rentals, check in begins at 4 p.m. and check out is 3 p.m. Buildings and outdoor units can also be rented for day use for \$30 per site; check in begins at 9 a.m. and check out is 3 p.m.

The Gnome hunt, goat hunt, bird hunt, corn maze, sledding, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing all require a site reservation and must be booked three weeks in advance.

Two nights are recommended to truly experience “getting away”, but troops can stay one night. GSNI provides discounted rates to groups staying two nights.



Before Booking a Site

- Most times of the year, troops can book sites up to one year in advance—check with your troop to find desired dates and locations. Camp Dean and Camp McCormick are not available during the summer months June 1 – August 15 each year due to council-led summer camp.
- Make sure all children and adults are currently registered Girl Scouts.
- Determine if you have an adult who has

taken our Outdoor Trainings, which is required before you can plan a troop camping trip. It is recommended to complete training at least nine months in advance.

- If not, sign up for a training through GSNI before your camp date.
- Determine who will be your first aider(s) and whether their certification will be current for your camp date.
- If yes, have a copy of their certifications sent to Customer Care at customer care@girlscoutsni.org
- If not, sign up for a First Aid/CPR Training through GSNI.

Step #3

◆ To Reserve a Site:

- Go to <https://www.girlscoutsni.org/campandoutdoors>.
- Select the camp you would like to reserve.
- Click on the Reserve Today link.
- You will be re-directed to Active Net, our reservation site.
- If you have not created an account in ActiveNet, you may need to do so at: <https://www.girlscoutsni.org/content/dam/girlscouts-girlscoutsni/documents/CampCampsite/How%20to%20Create%20an%20Active%20Net%20Account%20.pdf>
- Click on the Reservation tab at the top.
- You can enter which camp you want in the search bar or scroll until you see the camp you would like to book.
- Enter the dates you would like to reserve.
- If a site is not available, a red box will show that there is a conflict for the dates you want.
- This means the site is booked, and you will need to select new dates.
- When clicking the acceptance boxes and signing that you have read the facility agreement and confirmation packet make sure to download these documents as they have important information and a roster you must turn in at check in.
- Payment is due at the time of reservation.

- After payment, a receipt will be displayed which you can email or print.
- You can also look at your receipt in My Account on Active Net at any time.

Step #4

◆ After Booking:

- Plan your activities with your Girl Scouts.
- One week prior to your arrival, please confirm your reservation with the appropriate camp ranger. Ranger phone numbers are in the confirmation packet you will receive with your receipt.
- Once you have confirmed your reservation and agreed on a check in and check out time, troops should adhere to that time so other troops are not delayed with checking in/out. If something comes up, and you must change your time, please stay connected with the ranger.
- Share troop camping information with all parents and drivers prior to your trip.

Cancellations/Transfers

Cancellations made three weeks before your reservation will be eligible for a refund for campsites and facilitated activities. Once approved by the camp's ranger, a refund will be issued for the cost of the reservation to the original form of payment or a credit on your Active Net account to use at a later time.

Cancellations made within three weeks of the arrival date will not be refunded for campsites and facilitated activities. We do not allow transfers; therefore, a refund request must take place three weeks before your reservation and must be re-booked. Emergency situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Refund requests must be done with our Customer Care Team at customer care@girlscoutsni.org or 844-476-4463.



Activities at Camp For GSNI Troops/Members

Rentable Activities at All GSNI Camp-W (Waiver Required)

Activity	Fee for Activity	Price Per Person	Girl Scout Level	Camp	Time needed for Activity
Archery (W)	\$25	\$10.00 (facilitator fee)	B,J,C,S,A	All Camps	2 Hours/up to 18 participants
Nerf Archery	\$25	N/A	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps	2 Hours/up to 18 participants
Sling Shots (W)	\$25	\$5.00 (facilitator fee)	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps	2 hours/groups up to 15
Cross Country Skiing	\$25	N/A	B,J,C,S,A	MABC, McCormick	N/A
Geocaching	\$25	N/A	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps	N/A
Snow Shoes	\$25	N/A	D,B,J,C,S,A	McCormick	N/A

Rentable Activities Requiring a Trained Facilitator

Activity	Fee for Activity	Price Per Person	Girl Scout Level	Camp	Time needed for Activity
Swimming (Seasonal)	\$80	\$10	D,B,J,C,S,A	McCormick, Dean	3 hours is the minimum. 25 participants per lifeguard
Air Rifles (W)	\$25	\$15	J, C, S, A	All Camps	2 hours/up to 16 participants
Crate Stacking (W)	\$25	\$15	J, C, S, A	All Camps	2 hours/up to 10 participants 3 hours/up to 15 participants
Tomahawk Throwing (W)	\$25	\$5	C,S,A	All Camps	2 hours/up to 12 participants
Zipline (W)	\$25	\$15	B,J,C,S,A	MABC	2 hours/up to 15 participants
Canoeing or Kayaking (W)	\$25	\$10	B,J,C,S,A	Dean	2 hours/up to 15 participants
*Mobile Climbing Wall (W)	\$25	\$15	B,J,C,S,A	All Camps	2 hours/up to 15 participants
High Ropes Course	\$25	\$65	J, C, S, A	McCormick	2 hours/up to 12 participants 3 hours/up to 20 participants

Free Activities

Activity	Girl Scout Level	Camp
Hiking Trails	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Gaga Ball	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Sports Equipment	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Sledding	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Hammock Village	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Natural Playground	D,B,J,C,S,A	Dean, McCormick
Slacklines	D,B,J,C,S,A	All Camps
Mini Zipline	D,B,J,C,S,A	Camp Dean
Mud Kitchen	D,B,J,C,S,A	Camp Dean
Fishing (must provide your own equipment)	D,B,J,C,S,A	Dean, MABC
Basketball Court	D,B,J,C,S,A	MABC
Volleyball Court	D,B,J,C,S,A	MABC
Bouldering Wall	D,B,J,C,S,A	MABC

**Troops must hire a facilitator for canoeing, swimming, tomahawk throwing, crate stacking, air rifles, and zipline.*

**Troop leaders must have a current certificate from USA Archery or USA Slingshots or hire a facilitator.*

The following activities are seasonal:

Swimming and Mud Kitchen
(Memorial Day–Labor Day)

Archery, Sling Shots, Nerf Archery, Crate Stacking, Zipline, Tomahawk Throwing, Climbing wall, and Air Rifles
(Mid-April–Mid October)

Air Rifles are year round
Camp McCormick only

All activities require a site reservation.

Is Everyone Ready to Campout?

ADULTS	GIRLS	TROOP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the adults in your groups has the appropriate outdoor training necessary. • One of the adults in your group is certified in First Aid/CPR. • Beyond the troop meeting is completed in gsLEARN. • Lodge Camping training is completed to stay in lodges. • Outdoor Overnight training is completed to sleep outdoors in Adirondacks, yurts, platform tents or outdoor sleeping cabins. • Group has enough volunteers to meet Girl Scout Adult/Girl Ratio. • Understand living conditions in camp. • Have made transportation arrangements. • Have girl information sheet, permission slips, and emergency contact information for all girls and adults attending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents support camp experience. • Can manage with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darkness • Weather • Plants and dirt • Insects & small creatures • Can keep up physically. • Can carry their own equipment. • Want to go camping! • Understand living conditions in camp. • Willing to help with camp chores (cleaning/kapers). • Have previously participated in day and/or overnight experiences with troop/group. • Have practiced packing personal belongings for easy carrying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has planned and practiced their camping skills together. • Has discussed camp rules and best practices while at camp. • Understands emergency procedures while at camp. • Plans an “After Camping” evaluation for troop members and parents to improve their future camping experiences.

Plan for the “What if”

- **What if...it rains all weekend?** Do you have any backup activities planned? Do you have rain gear? Do you have an extra change of clothes in case you get wet?
- **What if... there is a wind advisory or a red flag warning?** During wind advisories and red flag warnings, campfires are prohibited. Do you have a backup plan for cooking?
- **What if...there is an accident?** Do you have Health Forms for all campers? Where is your first aid kit? Do you have emergency contact information for everyone attending? Who is your designated First Aid Adult?
- **What if...the troop is sharing a unit with other troops?** Have you talked about sharing “space” with other troops or groups that are also camping? Sharing the facilities? Sharing the cooking equipment?

Being respectful of other groups during quiet times?

- **What if...a meal we are cooking gets ruined?** Do you have a backup plan for lunch/dinner? Did you pack enough snacks? Are you keeping your food safe from critters large and small?



Camp Dean Big Rock, IL

Facilities for Rent



Year-Round Lodges

Dean Lodge

- Located in the center of camp
- Sleeps 32
- Two single bathrooms
- Table and chairs available
- Large fireplace
- Great room for activities and sleeping mattresses on the floor
- Kitchen with oven, refrigerator, microwave, and a small selection of plates, pots, pans, and utensils
- Air conditioning
- Fire scar located behind the building

Whispering Oaks

- Located on the edge of a wooded area and near the lake
- One room building
- Sleeps 32
- Great room for activities and sleeping mattresses on the floor
- Kitchen with oven, refrigerator, microwave, and a small selection of plates, pots, pans, and utensils
- Bathroom with one handicap accessible shower
- Large fireplace
- Air conditioning
- Fire scar located nearby

McCleary-Shaff Lodge

- Located next to the pond
- One room building
- Sleeps 16
- Kitchenette with cook top, refrigerator with filtered water, microwave, plates, pots, pans and utensils
- Two bathrooms
- Heat and air conditioning
- Tables and chairs
- Fire scar located nearby

Charlie's Lodge

- Located near to the pond
- One room building
- Sleeps 16
- Kitchenette with cook top, refrigerator with filtered water, microwave, plates, pots, pans, and utensils
- Two bathrooms
- Heat and air conditioning
- Tables and chairs
- Fire scar located nearby



Seasonal Sites

Available Mid-April through Mid-October

Cherry Hollow

- Cabin unit sleeps 40
- Two cabins sleep four in wooden bunk beds with sleeping mattresses
- Four cabins sleep eight in wooden bunk beds with sleeping mattresses
- Summer kitchen with electricity, tables, benches, refrigerator, and stainless-steel counter
- Small collection of kitchen items along with eight pie irons, eight toasting forks, charcoal chimney, and a Dutch oven
- Fire scar and latrine nearby

Oak Grove

- Cabin unit sleeps 40
- Two cabins sleep four in wooden bunk beds with sleeping mattresses
- Four cabins sleep eight in wooden bunk beds with sleeping mattresses
- Summer kitchen with electricity, tables, benches, refrigerator, and stainless-steel counter
- Small collection of kitchen items along with eight pie irons, eight toasting forks, charcoal chimney, and a Dutch oven
- Fire scar and latrine nearby

Hickory Glen

- Cabin unit sleeps 12
- Three cabins sleep four in wooden bunk beds with sleeping mattresses
- Summer kitchen shared with Oak Grove unit
- Latrines and fire scar nearby

Camp Dean Big Rock, IL

Fees for GSNI Troops/Members



Location	Site	Fee for GSNI Troops		Capacity
Camp Dean	Dean Lodge	\$85 / 1 night	\$49/ Additional Nights	32
Camp Dean	Charlie's Lodge	\$85 / 1 night	\$49/ Additional Nights	16
Camp Dean	McCleary-Shaff Lodge	\$85/1 night	\$49/ Additional Nights	16
Camp Dean	Whispering Oaks	\$85 / 1 night	\$49 / Additional Nights	32
Camp Dean	Cherry Hollow	\$65/ 1 night	\$38/ Additional Nights	40
Camp Dean	Oak Grove	\$65/ 1 night	\$38/ Additional Nights	40
Camp Dean	Hickory Glen	\$55/1 night	\$32.50/ Additional Night	12
Camp Dean	All of Camp	\$150 per day/ night		250
Camp Dean	All Sites Day Use	\$30		



Camp Dean

46W253 Camp Dean Road, Big Rock, IL 60511



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www.girlscoutsni.org/campdean



Camp Dean Activities

<p>1 Gaga pit</p> <p>2 Mud Kitchen</p> <p>3 Mudpit</p> <p>4 Horseshoes</p>	<p>5 Sound garden</p> <p>6 Pine Tree Activity Area - Archery, Crate Stacking, Tube Slides, Zipline, Tomahawk and Sling Shot / Air Rifle Ranges</p>
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Camp McCormick Stillman Valley, IL

Facilities for Rent

▲ Year-Round Lodges

Friendship Center (Sunrise and Sunset)

- Sunrise and Sunset each sleep 28 in bunk beds and a leader room for three.
- Has a large open room for activities, table, and chairs available
- Features a full kitchen with oven, refrigerator, microwave, and a small selection of pots and pans, dishes and utensils
- Bathrooms with showers
- Air conditioned
- Seating available for 100 people
- Fire scar located behind the building

Troophouse

- Surrounded by woods
- One room building
- Sleeps 36
- Great room for activities and sleeping mattresses on the floor
- Carpeted loft area for either sleeping or activities
- Kitchen with oven, refrigerator, microwave, and a small selection of plates, pots, pans, and utensils
- Large fireplace
- Air conditioning
- Fire scar located nearby

Greenwood

- Surrounded by woods
- Great room for activities
- Sleeps 16 with wooden bunk beds
- Kitchen with oven, refrigerator, microwave, and a small selection of plates, pots, pans, and utensils
- Composting toilets nearby
- Tables and chairs
- Wooden deck with picnic tables
- Fire scar located nearby
- Air conditioned and heated

▲ Seasonal Sites

Available Mid-April through Mid-October

Arrowhead

- Platform Tent Unit sleeps 28 in seven tents
- Covered shelter with wood stove
- Picnic tables
- Mattresses provided
- Composting toilets nearby

Deer Trail

- Platform Tent Unit sleeps 28 in seven tents
- Covered shelter with wood stove
- Picnic tables
- Cots and mattresses provided
- Latrine nearby

Turkey Ridge

- Three Adirondacks that sleep 18 people; six bunk beds each.
- Two covered wagons that sleep 8
- Covered shelter that has picnic tables
- Mattresses provided
- Latrine nearby

Opeechee

- Platform tent unit that sleeps 32 people in eight tents
- Covered shelter that features a wood stove
- Picnic tables
- Mattresses provided
- Latrines nearby



Camp McCormick Stillman Valley, IL



Fees for GSNI Troops/Members

Location	Site	Fee for GSNI Troops		Capacity
Camp McCormick	Turkey Ridge	\$35/ 1 night	\$21.50 / Additional Nights	26
Camp McCormick	Sunrise	\$105 / 1 night	\$60 / Additional Nights	28
Camp McCormick	Sunset	\$105 / 1 night	\$60 / Additional Nights	28
Camp McCormick	Greenwood	\$85/ 1 night	\$49/ Additional Nights	16
Camp McCormick	Troophouse	\$85 / 1 night	\$49 / Additional Nights	36
Camp McCormick	Arrowhead	\$65/ 1 night	\$38.00 / Additional Nights	28
Camp McCormick	Deertrail	\$65/ 1 night	\$38.00/ Additional Nights	28
Camp McCormick	Opeechee	\$65/1 night	\$38.00/ Additional Nights	32
Camp McCormick	Entire Camp	\$150 per day/night		160
Camp McCormick	All Sites Day Use	\$30		



Camp McCormick

9995 N. Girl Scout Road
Stillman Valley, IL 61084

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www.girlscoutsni.org/campmccormick



- Gravel Road
- Trail
- Paved Road
- Parking
- Composting Toilet
- Latrine
- Toilet (flushing)

Activities	
Gaga pit	Tetherball
Crate Stacking	Indoor/Outdoor Air Rifle
Archery	New Horizons High Ropes
Sling Shot Range	Tomahawk Range

East McCormick Road

Girl Scout Road

Mary Ann Beebe Center

Harvard, IL

Facilities for Rent

◆ Year-Round Lodge

Kimball Hill Family Activity Center (Upper)

- Sleeps 36 people with mattresses on the floor
- Leader room with bunk beds that sleep four
- Indoor bathrooms with no showers
- Includes a great room for activities and sleeping
- Full kitchen with:
 - Double oven/range
 - Refrigerator
 - Microwave
 - Coffee pot
 - Selection of pots and pans
 - Dishes and utensils
 - Toasters
 - Bread maker
- Vegetable steamer also available for use.
- There is a fire scar out the front of the building for the upper activity center.
- The Upper Activity Center also has air conditioning.

Kimball Hill Family Activity Center (Lower)

- Sleeps 24 people with mattresses on the floor
- Leader room with a bunk bed, sleeps two
- Includes indoor bathrooms with no shower
- A great room for activities and sleeping
- Full kitchen with:
 - Two ovens/range
 - Refrigerator
 - Microwave
 - Coffee pot
 - Selection of pots and pans
 - Dishes and utensils.
 - Toaster available for use.
- There is a fire scar located out the back of the building for the lower activity center.
- The Lower Activity Center also has air conditioning.

◆ Seasonal Sites

Available Mid-April through Mid-October

Adirondacks 1 and 2

- Each unit has nine Adirondacks that sleep four people each.
- Covered shelter
- Patrol boxes with small supply of pots, pans, and utensils
- Units 1 and 2 share a refrigerator.
- Latrine nearby for each unit
- Two fire scars located in each unit
- Please bring your own bedding.
- New! Adirondacks 2 has hammocks!

Yurts

- Four cozy yurts that sleep six people each (24 capacity)
- Covered shelter
- Patrol box includes a small number of pots, pans, and utensils
- Fire scar located in the unit
- Pizza oven located in the unit
- Latrine located nearby
- Please bring your own bedding.

Screened Pavilion

- Shelter house that has picnic tables and benches inside
- Also includes a refrigerator, counter space, and a sink with cold running water
- Fire scar and latrine nearby

Bring Your Own Tent

- Primitive tent units at Screened Pavilion, Little Bunny, Baby Shark, Brown Bear
- Bring your own tent and equipment and set up camp
- Covered shelter with patrol box
- Refrigerator available at screened pavilion only
- Latrines and pavilion with patrol box nearby.

Day Use Sites

Mary Ann Beebe Center offers three-day use sites that include a fire scar, covered shelter, and latrine nearby. Small selection of pots, pans, and utensils are available for use.



Mary Ann Beebe Center Harvard, IL













Fees for GSNI Troops/Members



Location	Site	Fee for GSNI Troops		Capacity
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Kimball Hill Activity Center (Lower and Upper)	\$165 / 1 night	\$93/ additional nights	60
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Kimball Hill Activity Center Lower	\$85/ 1 night	\$44.00/ additional nights	24
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Kimball Hill Activity Center Upper	\$85/ 1 night	\$44.00/ additional nights	36
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Adirondacks 1	\$55/1 night	\$38.00/ additional nights	36
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Adirondacks 2	\$55 / 1 night	\$38/ additional nights	36
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Yurts	\$65/ 1 night	\$38.00/ additional nights	24
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Bring your own tent	\$30/ 1 night	\$30 / additional nights	
Mary Ann Beebe Center	All Sites Day Use	\$30/ Per Day		20
Mary Ann Beebe Center	Entire Camp	\$150 per day/ night		450

Mary Ann Beebe Center

17501 Streit Road, Harvard, IL 60033

Map Legend	
	Black top Road
	Gravel Road
	Trail
	Latrine
	Parking
	Dining Shelter
	Campsite
Vegetation Color Guide	
	Mowed Area
	Brush/Long Grass
	Dense Trees/Forest
Bodies of Water	
	Lake
	Wetland

Activities	
	Gaga pit
	Archery
	Adventure Walk
	Crate Stacking
	Sports Court
	Zipline
	Air Rifle range
	Tomahawk / Slingshot range



www.girlscoutsni.org/mabc

Streit Road

Day Use Site
Day Use Site
Day Use Site

Ranger's House

Screened Pavilion

Yurts

Activity Center

Adirondack Unit

Adirondack Unit

Zipline/
Lookout
Tower

3

4

2

5

7

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GSNI Land Acknowledgement

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois recognizes that our Camps and Resource Centers are located on the ancestral Native lands of Turtle Island, the original name for what now is called North America. Northern Illinois is the home of the Sauk, Meskwaki, Peoria, Kickapoo, Ho-chunk, and Potawatomi tribes and more. GSNI is committed to developing partnerships and programs that honor and amplify the voices of Indigenous communities and learning from their knowledge. With that, we pay our respects to Indigenous peoples both past and present.

A Land Acknowledgement is a statement recognizing the lasting relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. Recognizing the land is an expression of gratitude and way of honoring Indigenous peoples who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

Northern Illinois is home to one of the larger Native American communities in the United States living outside their lands in trust. The members of these Native American communities continue to share and celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land.

The Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois are dedicated to the acknowledgement and preservation of Native American lands and we seek to support indigenous communities with ongoing relationships with indigenous organizations and individuals.



Questions? Contact Customer Care:
844-476-4463 or customer care@girlscoutsni.org
www.girlscoutsni.org/campandoutdoors

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