

Bluespring Caverns Overnight Welcome Packet



Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois
Elgin Service Center
12N124 Coombs Rd.
Elgin, IL 60124
Phone 847-741-5521
Fax 847-741-5667

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We're glad your daughter is joining us on what is sure to be a one-of-a-kind overnight adventure! She will explore the far reaches of the cave spend the night in the majestic Bluespring Caverns. The girls will take a boat ride down America's longest underground river, learn how to safely cave, climb through the "wild area" of the cave, and meet lots of other Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is committed to providing your daughter with a safe, healthy, and fun trip. As always, we strive to provide girls with the opportunity for personal growth, to develop life skills, build confidence and gain a sense of empowerment.

The information in this packet will help you and your daughter prepare for this overnight adventure! Please take the time to read it thoroughly and contact me if you have any questions.

All forms are due back to the Elgin Service Center by Monday, January 11, 2010.

Sincerely,

Brooke Radford
Program Specialist

Forms to return by 1/11/10:

- ◆ Girl Agreement
- ◆ Information Regarding Waivers of Liability
- ◆ BSC Overnight Adult Information (for chaperones only)
- ◆ Chaperone Agreement (for chaperones only)
- ◆ Girl Health History
- ◆ GSNI permission slip
- ◆ Bluespring Caverns Parental Permission (will be mailed out to participants)

****You may also choose to enclose your balance due with completed paperwork.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the program?

Contact **Brooke Radford**
Program Specialist

Phone: 847-741-5521, Ext. 7147

E-Mail: bradford@girlscoutsni.org

PROGRAM

Forms

You should have: *Girl Health History form*
Girl agreement form
Chaperone agreement form
Adult Health form

Permissions
Bluespring Cavern parental permission form
Information regarding waivers and liability

GIRL HEALTH HISTORY:

Who completes this form?: parent/guardian

PERMISSIONS:

Who completes this form?: parent/guardian; participant

GIRL AGREEMENT: To be read and signed by participant and her parent/guardian

BLUESPRING CAVERN PARENTAL PERMISSION (the blue form): completed by parent/guardian

INFORMATION REGARDING WAIVERS OF LIABILITY: completed by parent/guardian

ADULT HEALTH INFORMATION/CHAPERONE AGREEMENT: to be completed **only** by adults attending the event

Sending Medications

Covers: *How to bring your medications*

- Please DO NOT pack medications of any kind in your daughter's luggage! **ALL MEDICATION IS COLLECTED AT CHECK-IN** and is turned over to the trip leader. Medication **MUST** be placed in a zip locked bag, with the participant's name on bag. If your daughter has an inhaler that is needed, she can keep it on her person.
- Please list ALL medications currently being taken by your daughter; this includes over-the-counter and doctor prescribed. Please do not allow your daughter to keep medication such as Tylenol, cough drops, or allergy spray in their luggage! This is considered medication; you daughter may request their medication anytime it is needed.
- ALL medication, prescription and non, must be in its original package with instructions indicated clearly. Please note that medication not labeled will not be accepted; please remember that the name on the label is the only person we can give the medication to.

Packing

Includes: *Electronics*
What to bring
What NOT to bring

Electronic Devices: We are here to enjoy the beauty of the cave so please limit your use of electronic devices. We do not want your expensive electronics to get lost, stolen, or broken. Please be cautious with cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, ect; you are responsible for your own items. *Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will not be responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.* Expensive items are better left home.

Jewelry: Similar to electronic devices, we cannot be responsible for lost or stolen jewelry. It is better left at home.

WHAT TO BRING: (packed in a small duffle bag that you can carry on your own, cave space is limited)

- ◆ Flashlight or head lamp
- ◆ Old clothing and boots or sneakers for wild caving, plus another change of warm clothing and shoes
- ◆ A warm coat (the temperature in the cave is about 50 degrees year-round)
- ◆ A standard sleeping bag (suitable for camping, not the thin, character-style) and small pillow
- ◆ A towel and toothbrush, toothpaste, ect.
- ◆ Canteen for water
- ◆ Spending money (see enclosed packing list for more information)

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- ◆ No cots, air beds, mattresses, ground covers, ect. Bluespring Caverns will be providing bunk beds
- ◆ No alcoholic beverages or smoking are allowed
- ◆ No coolers, large containers, or large suitcases

Transportation and Check-In

Let's you know:

Arrival
Departure

Transportation for this program will be provided by Van Galder charter bus company.

Bluespring Caverns is located at 1459 Bluespring Caverns Road, Bedford, IN 47421

Check-in/Departure: —Check-in will begin at **9:15 A.M.** at the Elgin Service Center at 12N124 Coombs Rd, Elgin, IL 60124. Please arrive **NO LATER THAN 9:45 A.M.** We will be leaving the Elgin Service Center PROMPTLY at **10:00 A.M.**

Arrival: —We will be arriving in Bedford, IN at Bluespring Caverns at approximately 5:30 P.M. on Saturday, April 10th.

Return: We will be returning to the Elgin Service Center at approximately 2 P.M. on Sunday, April 11th.

- We will be stopping for lunch and a break halfway through the trip which is approximately 5 1/2 hours. Please remember that Indiana is on Eastern time so it is one hour later there.
- Restrooms are available on the bus.
- **Let Me Arrange It , Inc asks that you do NOT bring any soft-sided coolers, peanuts or dairy**



**Girl Agreement for Participation in
Council-sponsored *Bluespring Caverns Overnight Adventure***

I understand that my attitude and behavior are critical to the success of the trip. Therefore, for the good of the trip as well as my other group members, I agree to abide by the following:

1. I will try to be sensitive to the needs of each group member.
2. I will respect the places and the people with whom I come in contact.
3. I understand that the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs will not be tolerated, and that usage during the trip will result in expulsion from the trip.
4. I will be responsible for my personal belongings and will not hold Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois or Bluespring Caverns responsible for their loss or damage.
5. I will treat all equipment provided for my use with care. I understand that I will be assessed for damages to any equipment in the event that my use of such equipment is negligent or abusive.
6. I will use all required safety equipment and follow safety rules and procedures.
7. I agree to perform my share of daily responsibilities.
8. I understand that if I am sent home early due to serious misconduct, it will be at my parent's or guardian's expense and that the chaperones will make the travel arrangements and notify my parents/guardians of those plans.
9. I will not run around or engage in "horse-play," or wander from the at any time in the caverns
10. I will not remove or disturb anything in the cave in accordance with Indiana State Law
11. I will follow all instructions of Bluespring Caverns personnel and plan on staying for the entire program.

I will do my part to make the group function in a productive manner abiding by the Girl Scout Promise and Law. I promise I will do my best to get along with the other members of the group, minimizing differences, and expanding the sisterhood.

Girl Scout Signature

Date

I have discussed this contract with my daughter/ward and I believe she understands her responsibilities. I will also support this agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

MY BLUESPRING CAVERNS PACKING LIST

NO LARGE SUITCASES IN THE CAVE

MUST HAVE ITEMS

- WATERBOTTLE!!!!
- FLASHLIGHT OR HEADLAMP
- Extra batteries
- 1-2 Large garbage bag for wet things

SLEEPING GEAR

- Pillow and pillowcase
- WARM sleeping bag (not the thin, character-style)
- NO cots, air mattresses, ground covers

CLOTHING: It can be very damp in the cave, please pack clothing accordingly.

- Old pants and shirt for wild caving
- A change of warm pants and shirt/sweatshirt for after the tour for sleeping
- 2-3 pairs of socks
- 1 change of clothes for Sunday's return trip
- 2 pairs of underwear
- Warm coat

RAIN/OUTDOOR GEAR (WEATHER PERMITTING)

- Boots or sneakers for wild caving (this will most likely get dirty and/or wet)
- Gloves (recommended)
- Hat of some sort (recommended)
- Raincoat or poncho (weather permitting)

SHOES (Worn at all times)

- 1 pair of tennis shoes
- 1 pair old boots/shoes to get wet during wild caving (They will get wet!)

PERSONAL ITEMS

- WATERBOTTLE!!!!
- Brush and/or comb
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hand towel
- Bandana (optional)

FUN ITEMS!

- Digital Camera/Camera with film
- Journal (optional)
- Day pack (small backpack) for bus ride
- Fun stuff to keep you entertained on the bus ride (it's about 6 hours each way)
- ***MONEY (there is a snack bar, souvenirs, patches, etc. available for purchase)
- Stuffed animal (optional)
- Book to read

**REMEMBER TO USE THIS LIST WHEN PACKING!
DON'T FORGET ANYTHING! 😊**

*** Girls are responsible for some of their own meals and snacks except for pizza on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning which is provided by Bluespring Caverns. Meals the girls are responsible for are:

Lunch on Saturday afternoon: Girls can either bring a lunch to eat on the bus or purchase lunch when we stop half way.

Dinner on Saturday night: We will be providing pizza for all participants. Please bring a drink to go with dinner.

The "Cave Inn," at Bluespring Caverns has reasonably priced hot dogs, snacks, and cold/hot beverages for sale to eat during the evening at the participant's expense.

Breakfast on Sunday morning: Provided by Bluespring Caverns

Lunch on Sunday afternoon: We will be stopping for participants who would like to purchase lunch on the way home or participants can bring a sack lunch to keep on the bus.

Any snacks: Girls can bring any snacks they would like for the bus ride.

NO PEANUTS OR DAIRY PRODUCTS!

Souvenirs will be available at Bluespring Caverns for purchase.



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INFORMATION REGARDING WAIVERS OF LIABILITY

Although a waiver of liability is being requested for you to participate in this activity, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois does not encourage or discourage your signing of such a waiver. The council does, however, want you to know that legally, a parent/ guardian cannot waive liability for his/her child. Upon reaching the age of majority, the child has the right to sue the entity holding the waiver. Should the child win a settlement in a court of law, the defendant (holder of the waiver) could, in turn, sue the parent/ guardian who signed the agreement. Please carefully consider your risk when making the decision to sign such a waiver and allow your daughter to participate in the activity.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date