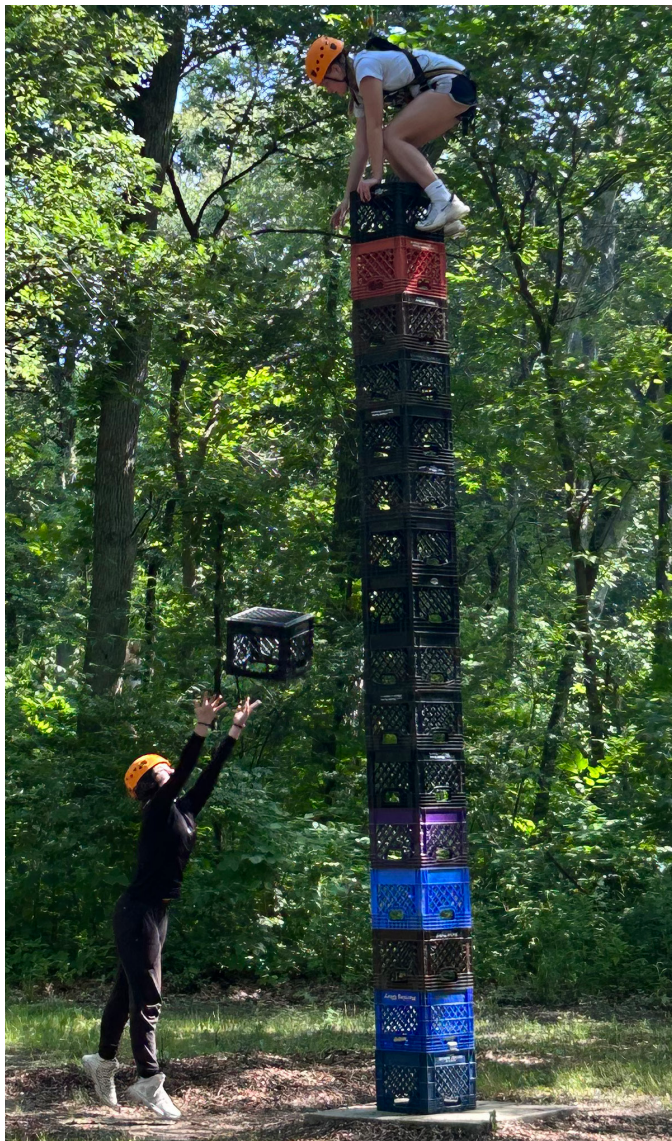




girl scouts
of northern illinois

2026 Summer Camp *Parent Guide*

GSNI Summer Camp: June 7–July 31, 2026



Welcome to our Camps!

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) operates multiple camps where Girl Scouts explore nature, make friends, and develop confidence.

When campers arrive at **Camp Dean**, **Camp McCormick** or **Mary Ann Beebe Center**, they are welcomed into a supportive “camp family” where caring counselors, volunteers, Program Aides, and Counselors in Training (CITs) encourage them to try new things like kayaking or riding horses. GSNI’s summer camp programs help Girl Scouts make friends, explore the outdoors, and learn social and problem solving skills while gaining independence and resilience.

This concise guide summarizes key **session options**, **registration details**, and **packing information** for the 2026 camp season.



Weekly Themes & Session Options

Seven themed weeks run from June 7–July 31, 2026. Each week has different program options (day camp, mini/overnight camp, adventure or horse camp, and Counselor in Training sessions). The table below lists the week number, dates, theme, available session types, grade ranges, and 2026 prices (with early registration discounts before April 1 shown in parentheses).

Week & Dates	Theme	Session Types & Grade Ranges	Price (early reg*)
Week 1 (June 7–12)	Wild Earth – Hike forests, explore soil science, and make up cycled art.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Weeklong Overnight (Camps Dean & McCormick, grades 3–12)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Overnight: \$731 (\$706*)
Week 2 (June 14–19)	Roots & Robots – Compare primitive survival skills with coding and robotics.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Mini Camp (half week, Camps Dean & McCormick, grades 2–8); Adventure Camp (Camp McCormick, grades 7–12); Counselor in Training I (Camp McCormick, two week program for grades 9–11)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Mini: \$539 (\$514*) Adventure: \$786 (\$761*) CIT I (2 week): \$346(\$321*)
Week 3 (June 21–26)	Camp Create – Paint, dance, sculpt, and design comics; take creativity outdoors.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Weeklong Overnight (Camps Dean & McCormick, grades 3–12) Counselor in Training I (Camp McCormick, two week program for grades 9–11, continues)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Overnight: \$731 (\$706*)
Week 4 (July 5–10)	Under the Big Top – Experience carnival games, colorful crafts, and camp wide celebrations.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Mini Camp (half week, Camp Dean, grades 2–8); Counselor in Training I (Camp Dean, two week program for grades 9–11)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Mini: \$539 (\$514*) CIT I: \$346(\$321*)
Week 5 (July 12–17)	Wild West Wonders – Take on frontier games, homestead crafts, and trail adventures.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Mini Camp (half week, Camp Dean, grades 2–8); Counselor in Training I (Camp Dean, two week program for grades 9–11)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Overnight: \$731 (\$706*) Horse Trekker: \$786 (\$761*)
Week 6 (July 19–24)	Once Upon a Camp – Enjoy fairytales, riddles, and enchanted journeys.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Mini Camp (Camp Dean, grades 2–8); Horsin' Around mini horse camp (Camp Dean, grades 4–9); Counselor in Training II (Camp Dean, two week program for grades 9–11)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Mini: \$539 (\$514*) Horsin' Around: \$621 (\$596*) CIT II: \$346(\$321*)
Week 7 (July 26–31)	The Great Camp Mystery – Solve a camp wide whodunit using teamwork and puzzles.	Day Camp (Camp Dean, grades 1–5); Weeklong Overnight (Camp Dean, grades 3–12); Counselor in Training II (Camp Dean, two week program for grades 9–11, continues)	Day: \$319 (\$294*) Overnight: \$731 (\$706*)

*Early registration discount applies if you register by **April 1, 2026**.

Types of Camp Sessions

Day Camps

Day camps offer a five day (Monday–Friday) program with drop off at 9 a.m. and pick up at 4 p.m. Day camps are great for campers who want independence but prefer sleeping at home. Activities include swimming, arts and crafts, nature exploration, and other theme related projects. An optional **Thursday overnight** encourages day campers to try sleeping at camp for an extra \$75. Overnight stays use heated lodges with bunk beds; Background-checked and vetted camp counselors sleep in the same room.

Mini & Week long Overnight Camps

Sleepaway programs give campers the classic resident camp experience. At **Camp Dean**, campers entering grades 2–12 can choose a **three day/two night Mini Camp** or a **six day/five night** session. Drop off for overnight camps is on Sundays from 4–4:30 p.m., and pick up is on Fridays from 4–4:30 p.m. Campers sleep in age appropriate cabins and can request to bunk with a friend. The program includes theme activities plus swimming, crafts, and outdoor cooking.

At **Camp McCormick**, sleepaway camps operate similarly. Campers arrive Sunday afternoon, choose either a 3 day or 6 day session, and are grouped by age in platform tents or Adirondacks. The camp sits on nearly **400 acres** along the Rock River and offers activities like hiking, archery, high ropes, and geocaching.



Adventure & Horse Camps

Adventure and horse camps are high adventure programs for campers in grades 7–12. **Camp McCormick Adventure Camp** teaches backpacking, high ropes, and paddling; campers may sleep in tents or hammocks and go off site to canoe or ride horses. There are minimum age requirements for activities such as high ropes (grades 4+) or axe throwing (ages 12+). Horse camps immerse campers in equestrian skills. **Horsin' Around Mini Camp** (grades 4–9) introduces beginners to riding with a 45 minute lesson at Tower Hill Stables. **Horse Trekkers** (grades 6–12) is a week long horse adventure camp where experienced riders refine their skills and enjoy trail rides at Millbrook Trail Rides.

Counselor in Training (CIT) Programs

CIT sessions are leadership camps for teens. **CIT I** is a two week, 13 day/12 night program for Girl Scouts entering grades 9–11. Participants develop leadership and outdoor skills while helping staff facilitate camp activities. Program Aide trainings are recommended but not required. Check in is from 4–4:30 p.m. on the first day, and pick up is from 4–4:30 p.m. on the final day.

CIT II (grades 11–12) builds on CIT I and focuses on planning camp activities and learning camp administration. Girl Scouts engage with camp administrators, plan programs, and complete advanced outdoor skill training. CIT II also lasts two weeks. Participants must complete CIT I before CIT II. For both CIT levels, campers are expected to stay during the middle weekend.



Registration & Important Dates

Key Dates

- **December 1, 2025** – Summer camp registration opens; campership and CIT II applications open.
- **December 10, 2025** – Summer Camp Virtual Open House
- **March 15, 2026** – Campership applications close.
- **April 1, 2026** – Early registration discount ends.
- **April 8, 2026** – Pre Camp Parent Meeting
- **May 15, 2026** – Final camp payment is due.
- **June 7, 2026** – First day of summer camp

Registration Process

Registration is **first come, first served** and begins December 1, 2025. Families register online using **gsEvents** or in person at a GSNI Resource Center. Confirmation and updates are sent via email; parents should check spam/junk folders and contact customercare@girlscoutsni.org if they do not receive a confirmation.

Girl Scouts must be entering **grades 1–12** in fall 2026; day campers must have completed kindergarten, and sleepaway campers must meet the grade requirements for their program. Non members can register as Juliettes (individually registered Girl Scouts) via GSNI's website.

Payments & Camperships

A **non refundable \$100 deposit** per session is due at the time of registration. Balances must be paid by **May 15, 2026**; payment plans are available and automatically charge remaining fees on May 15, if not paid sooner. Registering by **April 1** saves **\$25** on most sessions! GSNI e-codes (Cookie Dough, Cashew Cash, and S'more Dough) can be applied to any remaining balance but cannot be used for the deposit.

Families needing financial assistance can apply for **camperships**. Applications open December 1, 2025, and require the \$100 deposit. Awards are based on household size and income. Camperships may cover a percentage of the camp fee or provide a full scholarship for households below specified income thresholds. Horse and adventure camps are not eligible for full camperships.

Additional Notes & Contact Information

- **Optional Thursday Overnight** – Day campers can try a one night sleepover for \$75. Overnights use air conditioned lodges; Background-checked and vetted camp counselors stay with campers.
- **Camp Facilities** – Camp Dean spans 160 acres and offers activities like archery, swimming, canoeing, crate stacking, air rifles (ages 10+), axe throwing (12+), trail hiking, fishing, and a hammock village. Camp McCormick covers almost 400 acres along the Rock River and provides archery, high ropes (grades 4+), swimming in an indoor pool, and other adventure activities.
- **Cancellations & Refunds** – Deposits are non refundable. GSNI may cancel sessions if minimum registrations are not met; families will be offered another session or a full refund. Cancelled registrations before the deadline receive a refund, minus the \$100 deposit. There are no refunds for late arrivals or early departures.
- **Contact** – For registration assistance or any questions, contact GSNI Customer Care at 1-844-476-4463 or customercare@girlscoutsni.org. Visit www.girlscoutsni.org/events for detailed session descriptions and to register.

