



Certificate of Insurance (COI): Required from vendor providing this activity for Council Approval. Visit [GSNI's webpage](#) for information on requesting a COI from the venue.

If you are travelling and camping as lodging, troops must complete the [GSNI Troop Trip Travel Request Form](#).

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

Required: At least one adult must be trained in GSNI's camp trainings, depending on style of camping, beginning with GSNI's Beyond the Troop Meeting. Indoor lodge/cabin camping require 1 trained adult volunteer in

GSNI's Indoor Overnight training and 1 trained adult volunteer in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. For outdoor camping, 1 trained adult volunteer in GSNI's Outdoor Overnight training and 1 trained adult volunteer in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. If camping 30 minutes or more from EMS, one adult volunteer must be certified in Wilderness Remote First Aid or Wilderness First Responder.

About Camping

Camping, a great Girl Scout tradition, is one of the very first activities that Girl Scouts' founder Juliette Gordon Low encouraged. The key to an enjoyable camping experience is being prepared—by packing just enough gear, supplies, and weather-appropriate clothing. Girl Scouts advocate for the Leave No Trace method of camping, which involves leaving a campground the way it exists in nature, free of garbage and human impact.

You can add to the experience with a camp kaper chart, dividing up cooking duties and getting creative when preplanning outdoor meals. Also, be ready with camp entertainment. Before you go camping, read about camping stories, songs, activities, and games.

Note: When planning activities to do while camping, remember that Girl Scouts are never allowed to hunt, go on high altitude climbs, or ride all-terrain vehicles or motorized bikes.

For travel camping—camping as you travel—note the additional safety precautions listed.

Learn More

- [American Camp Association](#)
- [Reserve America](#)
- [Leave No Trace](#)

Camping with Daisies and Brownies

A Daisy troop may participate in an occasional overnight camping experience. Daisies who have completed kindergarten may independently participate at day camp and in sleepaway camp experiences lasting up to three nights. Daisies who have completed first grade may independently participate in sleepaway camp experiences lasting four or more nights.

Travel camping is not recommended for Daisies and Brownies.

Know where to camp when camping with Daisies and Brownies, which includes Girl Scout camps; public, private, state, and national parks; and sites deemed appropriate by local and state authorities.

Connect with your Girl Scout council for site suggestions and for information on using a non-council-owned site. Search for campground locations at [Reserve America](#).

Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities. Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to check with the location in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities. Discover more about accessible campgrounds, services, and gear in this REI article: [Guide to Adaptive Camping](#).

Equity. Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about expense,

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

Camping Checkpoints

Safe camping locations. These are Girl Scout camps, public, private, state, and national parks, and sites deemed appropriate by local and state authorities. Connect with your Girl Scout council for site suggestions and for information on using a non-council-owned site. The campsite should be able to provide evidence of one million dollars General Liability insurance and instructor certifications upon request.

Verify leader/instructor knowledge, experience, judgment, and maturity. Ensure that at least one adult is trained or possesses knowledge, skills, and experience in the following areas:

- Outdoor program activities and leadership
- Emotional responses to trips, including homesickness
- Trip planning in a youth-led environment
- Safety management
- Program activities specific to the trip
- Group dynamics and management
- Outdoor cooking (if relevant)

Ensure that supervision of Girl Scouts and adults for travel camping includes at least two adults who are additionally trained, or have documented experience, in the following areas:

- Participation in similar trips
- Familiarity with the area in which the trip is conducted
- Physical fitness and skills necessary to support the group
- Chosen mode(s) of transportation
- Site orientation
- Emergency procedures
- Minor maintenance for equipment and vehicles, as appropriate

If travel camping (using campsites as a means of accommodations), verify the following adult certifications and standards:

- Review [Transporting Girl Scouts](#).
- Share the [Checklist for Drivers](#) with drivers.
- For trips by small craft, one adult is currently certified as required by the safety activity checkpoints for any vehicle or vessel being used (canoe or kayak, for instance).
- For trips that involve swimming, follow the [Swimming Safety Activity Checkpoints](#).

- If a trailer is used, make sure it complies with all state, local, and federal regulations for the areas of travel. The assigned driver is experienced in pulling a trailer. No one rides in the trailer.
- Ensure that participants receive information about first aid kit procedures, emergency and rescue procedures, environmental awareness, and program plans for mode of travel and geographic area, as well as operational procedures (water purification, food preparation, camping equipment, sanitation, and food storage procedures).
- If camping more than 30 minutes away from EMS, one adult volunteer must be certified in Wilderness and Remote First Aid or Wilderness First Responder.

For sites without electric lights and toilet facilities (otherwise known as primitive campsites):

- Choose and set up your campsite well before dark.
- Use a previously established campsite if available.
- Make sure the campsite is level, below the tree line, and located at least 200 feet away from all water sources.
- Avoid fragile mountain meadows and areas with wet soil.
- Avoid camping under dead tree limbs.
- Use existing fire rings if a fire is necessary.
- If a latrine is not available, use individual cat holes—holes for human waste that are at least 200 feet away from the trail and known water sources—to dispose of human waste. **Note:** *Cat holes are not permitted in some areas, so follow local sanitary codes or alternative instructions in those areas.*
- Wash dishes and do personal bathing at least 200 feet away from water sources.
- Store food in a secure location away from tents and out of reach of animals.
- Where necessary, use a bearproof container to store food or, if allowed or appropriate, hang food at least 10 feet off the ground from a rope that’s stretched between two trees. If the site is in bear country, check with local authorities for additional precautions.

Sleeping Arrangements

Follow these Girl Scout standards around sleeping:

- Each participant has their own bed and sleeping bag. Parent/guardian permission must be obtained if Girl Scouts are to share a bed through the [GSNI Youth Sleeping Accommodations Permission Slip](#).
- Girl Scouts and adults do not share a bed; however, some councils make exceptions for mothers and their children.
- It is not mandatory that an adult sleep in the sleeping area (tent, cabin, or designated area) with the group, but if an adult female does share the sleeping area, there should always be two unrelated adult females present.

On trips where male volunteers are part of the group, it is not appropriate for them to sleep in the same space as youth members. Men may participate only when separate sleeping quarters and bathrooms are available for their use. In some circumstances, such as public venue (museum or mall) overnights, with hundreds of girls, this type of accommodation may not be possible. If this is the case, men do not supervise youth in the sleeping area of the event and the adult-to-youth ratio is adjusted accordingly.

Always avoid having men sleep in the same space as girls and women. An exception is made for family members during events such as parent-daughter or family overnights where one family may sleep together in an area specifically designated to accommodate families. If possible, men should have their own designated bathroom. If a unisex bathroom is used, the door must have a working lock, or a system for notifying others that the bathroom is in use. This system should be reviewed and understood by all participants.

Men should not have to walk through the troop members' sleeping area to get to the bathroom. When camping in tents or single room cabins, men should stay in a tent or a cabin that is separate from the Girl Scouts or female adults.

During family or "he and me" events (in which youth share sleeping accommodations with men), ensure the sleeping details are clearly explained in a parent/guardian permission slip.

More than one family may use a tent or single-room cabin during these events only if both families agree.

In public venue overnights, such as museums or at malls, ask if there are separate sleeping areas and bathrooms for men. If no such areas exist, designate an area out of the way or off to the side so that men are not sleeping alongside the girls.

Safety Gear

- Clothing, including a rain jacket or poncho that can be layered and is appropriate for the weather
- Socks with sturdy shoes, hiking boots, or sneakers (no sandals, clogs, flip-flops, or bare feet)
- A sleeping bag that is rated for the anticipated temperature
- A flashlight and other battery-powered lights for indoor use (no candles, kerosene lamps, portable cook stoves, heaters, or other open-flame devices are to be used inside tents)
- A first aid kit
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- A hat or bandana
- A hat, gloves, and thermal underwear for cool temperatures
- Flame-resistant tents or tarp (no plastic tents)
- A map and either a compass or a GPS
- Mosquito netting, where necessary
- Cooking supplies (pots, pans, utensils, mess kit, dunk bag, etc.)
- A cooler for food storage
- Portable cook stoves and fuel whenever possible (to reduce the use of firewood)
- A flashlight or propane-fueled lantern (for outdoor use)
- A water purification kit