



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts of NE Kansas & NW Missouri

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www.girlscoutsksmo.org

Frequently Asked Questions from Adults!

How do I know my daughter is in good hands?

We put together a top-notch staff to make sure your daughter has the very best possible experience! Most of our staff were Girl Scouts and campers as girls. They credit their own great camp memories as part of why they work at camp now.

Hiring for our 100 camp positions starts right after camp ends each summer. High performing staff members are invited to continue the following year. Candidates for jobs fill out applications and are interviewed when their qualifications, background and experience suggest a job match. References are required and criminal background checks are conducted as part of our hiring process.

The latest policies from Girl Scouts of the USA, the American Camp Association, and the American Red Cross as well as local, state and federal guidelines are used to decide how many staff we need for various activities as well as determining requirements for specific camp jobs. Camp Prairie Schooner, Camp Winding River and the Rotary Camp (host to Juliette Low) are all accredited by the American Camp Association. Camp Daisy is an ACA Camp Affiliate pursuing accreditation.

All staff members are trained in basic first aid, and a number of staff positions require first aid certification and CPR. Certifications are also required for staff positions in aquatics including lifeguards, waterfront staff, and boating instructors. Program specialist positions in areas such as archery and challenge activities also require certification.

How does the camp handle health care and special diets?

A health center is located at every camp and staffed round-the-clock by a health supervisor certified in first aid and CPR. Parents are always contacted at the earliest opportunity in the event of serious injury or illness during camp. Each camp has an on-going relationship with a health care facility nearby for consultation and emergency medical services if needed.

A physician from the facility serves as the on-call physician for the camp. Written treatment instructions are reviewed and approved by the on-call physician at the beginning of each summer. All medical treatment at camp is recorded in a health log.

Camper medications are stored at the health center and dispensed by the health supervisor. Parents describe medical conditions, medications, dietary needs and any issues that impact their daughter's health and well-being on the health form requested when camp registration is confirmed. A dietician approves camp menus and most special dietary needs can be met with advance notice.

Parents are always welcome to contact the camp director to talk about any health or dietary concerns before registering their daughters for camp.

What kind of health history/exam do I need for my daughter?

The health form sent with your daughter's confirmation of her camp registration has two sections: 1) The health information section needs to be current within two months of attending camp. 2) The health exam section needs to be current within twenty-four months of attending camp.

Parents fill out the health information section; the health exam section needs to be completed by your daughter's physician or other medical professional qualified to give physical exams.

How does my daughter arrange to come to camp with a friend?

A camper is welcome to sign up for camp with a friend who is close to her in age (within a grade) and interested in the same camp program. Camp buddies stay in the same living quarters and take part in large group activities together such as swimming, meals at the dining hall and ceremonies. Buddies spend time apart, too, when they are placed with other small groups of girls in their unit for hikes, cookouts or rappelling.

Sign your daughter up with a buddy by writing the buddy's name in the space on the registration form. Remind your buddy to write your daughter's name in the same space on her registration form. Be sure they both sign up for the same program and session and send the registrations in the same envelope.

Summer camp is a great time for making new friends and learning independence. Resist trying to register your daughter with more than one girl as her camp buddy. Troop registrations and round-robin listings of girls often create confusion and hurt feelings.

How much does camp cost?

There is a different fee for each camp. Find the fee in the quick reference box at the beginning of the camp descriptions in this guide. Fees include all meals, snacks, and program supplies used during camp. Girl Scout insurance will cover usual and customary charges for sickness and accident treatment during camp but does not eliminate the need for individual insurance. Girls who are not Girl Scouts can attend camp by joining Girl Scouts and paying \$10.00 membership dues in addition to the camp fee.

We keep our camp fees low by underwriting much of the cost of camp. The actual cost of a camp session is much more than the fee that families are asked to pay.

Is there assistance to help pay the camp fee?

Money is set aside each year for financial assistance to help girls who might otherwise be unable to attend camp. Grants are made based on the number of requests, availability of funds and applicants' needs. To request financial assistance, use the form located on the website at www.girlscoutsksmo.org, or call your local Girl Scout office, and a copy of the form will be sent to you. Financial assistance is available for resident camp. It is not available for Mother/Daughter Overnights.

Girls may earn or transfer cookie credits to help pay for the cost of resident camp. See information on the cookie sale distributed each fall for additional information.

Is there a bus to camp?

Bus transportation is arranged for Camp Daisy; a \$35 fee applies.

How can my daughter attend religious services while at camp?

Parents are always welcome to make arrangements to pick up and return their daughter to camp so that they may attend a religious service. Make sure to contact the camp director in advance of your daughter's camp session to work out details. When camp sessions include an entire weekend, girls are invited to plan, conduct and take part in a Girl Scout's Own ceremony. These activities are quiet, reflective times created around a theme, often celebrating a value such as friendship or courage.

Will my daughter earn try-its, badges or patches at camp?

Campers complete many activities that apply toward requirements for a number of Girl Scout recognition programs. However, camp programs are not planned around completing a specific Try-It, Badge or Interest Project. Rather, camp programs are planned to give girls the widest range of activity choices unique to the outdoors.

In order to help girls who are interested in earning Girl Scout recognitions, each camper is given an activity record when she leaves camp. It is a record of all of the activities she has completed during her camp stay that apply towards requirements for recognitions.

What happens if/when my camper misses home?

Even the most experienced camper may miss home once at camp! It's common for early letters from camp to be filled with complaints about food, bugs, other campers or simply being miserable.

Camp staff training emphasizes how to help girls overcome feelings of homesickness. Counselors make special efforts to listen, console and engage girls in activities. In most instances, homesickness passes within a couple of days and campers begin to have a good time.

Since telephone calls to and from home focus girls' attention on missing home and increase feelings of missing home, our policy is that campers do not make or receive phone calls during their time at camp. Parents are always welcome to call the camp director with any concerns prompted by a letter from their daughter.

Tip: Before camp talk positively with your daughter about the activities she'll get to do such as swimming, hiking and cookouts. Tell her that you are confident that she will enjoy her time at camp. *Parents who promise to pick girls up early from camp if they don't like it send a message that they expect their girls to struggle or fail.* Focus on helping her cope with homesickness and building her ability to rely on herself. Camp staff will contact you if your camper isn't adjusting to camp life after the first couple of days.

A great thing to say: I know you can do it! You're going to have a great time!

What is the Trading Post?

The Trading Post is the camp store. Campers visit the trading post at least once during their camp session to purchase items such as camp t-shirts (\$10-\$15), patches, stuffed animals, camp pictures and other fun camp souvenirs (\$1-20). Trading post items are different at each camp.

The money added to the camp fee on the registration form is deposited into your camper's trading post account. This way, she will be able to buy something when the trading post comes to camp. If you did not include trading post money with registration and would like to, contact the camp registrar. At the end of the camp session, the balance of your camper's trading post account will be sent home with your camper.

What do I do if my camper leaves some of her belongings at camp?

If your daughter leaves items at camp, call the Kansas City Girl Scout office on the first business day after she returns home. If you are looking for individual loose items, it might be necessary for you to come to the Girl Scout office and look through the Lost and Found to find your daughter's things. In spite of best efforts, there is frequently a pile of unclaimed clothes and gear that looks a lot alike!

Please note: Lost and Found items are kept for 2 weeks after the closing date of each camp session. After that they are given to a charitable organization.

Tip: Help your daughter understand that she needs to keep track of her belongings at camp. Choose clothing that, if lost or damaged will not be missed! Leave her favorite sweatshirts and expensive outfits at home.

How do I keep in contact with my camper while she is at camp?

Counselors build relationships with campers so that girls in their charge feel comfortable talking about their concerns and questions. Parents are called in any situation where staff believes they need advice and guidance from parents. Campers do not make or receive phone calls.


Parents are welcome to call and talk with camp staff to express concerns or have any of their questions answered. Procedures are in place for quick response to calls from parents in the event of home emergencies.

Tip: Talk with your daughter before camp about the adults she will meet at camp. Help her realize that the staff is there to help her with anything that bothers her, no matter how big or small.

Cell phones are not permitted at camp. All electronics brought to camp, including cell phones, pagers, text message equipment, and music players will be collected when campers arrive and held until the end of the

session. **Thank you for respecting our attempt to offer a rare and special chance for kids to “unplug” and slow down.**

Campers look forward to getting mail and e-mail at camp! Learn more about our one-way emails in your camp confirmation packet or by visiting www.bunk1.com. Mail is delivered daily except Sundays. It’s a great idea to write and mail a letter to your daughter before she leaves for camp as a special camp greeting when she arrives at camp. Include her name, session and program in the address. Here’s a sample:

<p>Dear Carly, I know you’re really excited to be at Girl Scout Camp! It’s such a fun place to be. I know you are going to do lots of new things. We’ll see you next week!</p> <p>Love, Mom, Ann and John</p> <p>P.S. Remember to use your bug spray!</p>	 <p>Carly Anderson Session 2—Discover Daisy Camp Daisy 7240 SW Douglas Rd Topeka, KS 66620</p>
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Tip: Keep your letters up-beat! Unhappy news is best delivered in person when your daughter comes home.

Camp Visits: Campers like to show parents and friends their camp home. You are welcome to tour the camp with your daughter on closing day. It’s a great time for your daughter to point out her favorite places and her favorite activities. All camps do offer Open Houses in the Spring. Please visit our website at www.girlscoutsksmo.org for more information. Visits are scheduled on the last day of camp for a couple of reasons. Campers’ schedules are full of activities from the time they arrive to the time they return home! A second reason is that visits during sessions can easily get in the way of a camper growing in self-reliance and independence--very important camp goals.

When does my daughter arrive at camp?

Arrival times vary by camp, but are typically between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the first day of the camp session. Arrival times for campers at Camp Prairie Schooner and Winding River are staggered to accommodate all of the girls who arrive by car. Individual arrival times are published in the parent information guide sent with the camp confirmation.

How do I know my camper is registered for camp?

Your daughter’s camp registration is complete when we have her health form, her camper profile, camper release form, and the total camp fee is paid. **All forms and the complete camp fee are due 30 days before your camper’s session begins.** Return any balance due with the Resident Camp Health Form, Camper Profile, Camper Release form and the balance of the camp fee. Please make check or money order payable to Girl Scouts or use your MasterCard, VISA or Discover charge card.

Late Payments and Forms: If you have difficulty arranging for a physical exam or updating the health history by the date the registration is due, please call the camp registrar. Do not hold up completing the rest of the registration.