

About Day Camp

Girls coming to day camp should expect to:

- Join in activities and share chores with a new group of friends
- Make decisions and plans with the other girls and adults in the unit
- Expect to see spiders, swat at mosquitoes, do lots of walking, and learn to spot poison ivy. Camp takes place outdoors, rain or shine.
- Be prepared to rough it. Day camp sites are rustic. Some sites have pit latrines (no flushing), and at some we have to put up our own tents.
- Have fun! Adult volunteers, with the help of teenage Girl Scouts, ensure activities are fun, safe and age-appropriate.



Frequently Asked Questions About Day Camp Winona or Bay Breeze

Q: What is day camp?

A: Day camp is an outdoor program where girls are at camp during the day and go home at the end of each day.

Q: How long does day camp last?

A: A day camp session runs Monday through Friday.

Q: Who can go to day camp?

A: Day camp is for girls entering grades K through 12 as of fall school year. Girls entering grades 8 and up in the fall, can participate in special programs to earn service hours while learning and practicing leadership skills.

Q: Can just Girl Scouts attend day camp?

A: Girls who are not registered Girl Scouts can attend camp also. Submit an extra \$10 for Girl Scout registration with camp registration form. Only submit extra fee one time, if attending 2 or more camps.

Q: My daughter wants to go, but the other girls in her troop don't. How does this work?

A: Attending day camp is an individual's decision. Each girl's parents register her individually to attend day camp.

Q: Can she come to camp with a friend?

A: Each girl can request to be with one other girl that we refer to as a 'buddy'. Every effort will be made to place buddies together given the following: buddies must be the same GS level/age (ex. both are Brownies, or are entering 4th grade), buddies must sign up for the same camp session (ex. both sign up for Bay Breeze or both for Jr Wrangler), one buddy request per camper, buddies request each other, and all buddy requests are written on the registration form. Because meeting and being with new friends is one goal of day camp, groups of girls from the same troop may not be placed together.

Q: What do girls do at day camp?

A: Day camp is a good start to learn and practice outdoor living skills. Preparing food to cook out, or tending the cooking fire and sharing the kitchen duties help girls learn how to work and get along with others. Crafts, singing, hiking, nature study and outdoor games are part of the fun every day.

Q: Are there any special activities?

A: Depending on the camp, campsite, volunteer availability, and age, girls might also canoe, wade in a creek, walk on a beach, fish, or try archery. Teen units may travel away from camp for a day trip. Juniors (entering 5-6th grades) might join the Wrangler unit. Check out the camp [web site](#) or camp brochure for activities.

Q: What about health and safety?

A: Our day camp directors are experienced in Girl Scout outdoor program and are familiar with the Girl Scout health and safety standards. At their annual training, they review prevention and emergency procedures for weather, lost person, fire and injury. They ensure that there is the recommended number of adults for the number of campers. An adult first aider is present at all times. You can check the [council web page](#) or call the Council office for camp closing status due to severe weather. Safety-Wise & MD Health Dept standards are followed.

Q: What clean-up chores will girls do?

A: We call the daily clean-up chores “kapers.” Sharing the kapers helps to keep the site tidy and safe. Kapers are rotated among the girls and units and include picking up litter at camp, collecting firewood and attending to the latrine. A latrine or biffy is the Girl Scout word for ‘outhouse’. To keep everyone healthy, the latrine kaper includes restocking the toilet paper, replenishing the hand-washing supplies and sanitizing the seat while wearing protective gloves.

Q: What is a unit?

A: Girls are placed in small, troop-size groups called “units”. Think of a unit as a temporary or short-term troop. A unit usually has 10-18 girls, at least two adult volunteers, and one or two teen aides. The girls in the unit are from different troops and are all the same age or GS program level. We do not try to keep troops together, nor do we try to place a group of girls from the same troop together.

Q: What is a counselor?

A: A high school student (teen aide) or adult volunteer (similar to a troop leader) who volunteers at day camp. They work with the girls in a unit, on special activities, or in centers.

Q: How is the day camp fee used?

A: The fee covers camp housekeeping supplies, craft supplies, camp T-shirt, camp patch, food for one lunch cookout, snacks, program fees, insurance, swaps, overnight fees, earned recognition if offered by camp, some staff awards, and transportation. There might be additional charges, if there is a special program (ex. horse riding, trip).

Q: Do I get a refund if my daughter has registered but cannot attend day camp?

A: Refunds will be issued for girls not attending day camp, if the camp guidelines are followed. Please follow the cancellation and refund policy for each camp. Generally, refunds are not given after June 1. Check also the council brochure and camp contacts.

Q: I’m just a parent. Can I help? Do I have to take training?

A: Yes, we love parents to come and help in the units or centers. We request that all volunteers, including parents, take training. 100A-Introduction to Girl Scouting for Resource Volunteers Or 101 class is required of all adult volunteers in our council. Request a 100A home study course at the Council web site: <http://www.gscnc.org/training/100A/>. 101 is offered in a classroom. Day camp training is required to help at day camp and is given at the camp in the spring. Training is a good chance to meet the other counselors.

Q: What do I need to do to become a day camp volunteer?

A: Have an interest in working in an outdoor setting at camp with girls and be 18+ years old. Submit the adult registration to the camp of your choice. This includes:

- The Adult Registration (or Interest Indicator) – may submit on line at the camp website or mail to camp registrar.
- Submit the [Adult Health History](#) form.
- Include \$10 for GS registration, if not already registered (only submit this 1 time if applying to more than 1 camp-then mark registered).
- Include \$7 for an extra T-shirt, or if you want a shirt and can only help 1 or 2 days.
- Be available for training and any all-camp meetings. These will be posted on our web site in the spring—<http://www.campsomd.org/>.

Q: Can adults bring buddies too?

A: Yes. You can bring your friends, relatives, or co-leaders to help you in a unit or center. Or, buddies can just be at the same camp doing different things.

Q: Do I get paid to be a day camp adult volunteer?

A: No, you will not get a paycheck. However, there are endless benefits to volunteering at day camp:

- Free training - prepares adult volunteers to work with girls in an outdoor setting. This training includes outdoor skills, program ideas, health and safety guidelines, and a typical camp day.
- Reduced camp fees for Girl Scout daughters.
- Supervised program for adult volunteers’ other children (boys and pre-schoolers) at minimal cost. See restrictions in the camp brochure.
- Free camp T-shirt, if you help 3 or more days.
- Daily Exercise.
- Snacks and maybe free canoe lessons.
- Fun, adventure, friendship, and excitement!

Q: Wow! How do you do it?

A: Our day camps are staffed exclusively by adult volunteers. These are people who are committed to quality outdoor programs for girls. Camp fees only cover the programs being offered.