

## **Summer Camp Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **My child is not a Girl Scout, can she still attend camp?**

Yes!

### **Is financial assistance available?**

Yes, financial assistance is available to all registered members of GSNENY. Please complete the [girl grant application](#)

### **Can my daughter bring her cell phone to camp?**

No, please do not send cell phones, tablets, computers, mp3 players or any other electronic device to camp.

### **How can I stay in touch with my daughter while she is at camp?**

We offer Bunk1 notes for both resident/overnight camps. This is an online letter writing system that allows parents to write letters to their child. The camp staff print and deliver the message to the campers daily. You will be provided the user information with your camper's confirmation information. Your daughter is encouraged to write a letter back using the US Postal service.

### **Will my daughter be placed in the same group as her friend?**

We try our best to place buddies together. Make sure to indicate your daughter's registration form the name of her friend/buddy. We only place girls of the same age or within 1-2 years of each other. The older girl will be placed with a younger group of campers near her friends age. Girls must be registered in the same specialty program to ensure same group placement. Placement is not guaranteed.

### **Who are the Staff Members?**

Our camp staff members are enthusiastic, creative and caring adults who are selected based on their experiences, leadership abilities, and their ability to serve as role models to our campers. We select staff who are committed to the GS mission and to the camp mission. These staff members come from a varied background to support and care for your child. Staff members are recruited from colleges, universities, local agencies and through Camp American, an international camp staff recruitment agency. Criminal and sexual offense background checks are conducted for all staff members.

### **How old are the staff members?**

Resident Camp: staff members working directly with campers must be at least 18 years old.

Day Camp: staff members working directly with campers must be at least 16 years old, most are 18 years old.

### **What training do the staff receive?**

All staff go through an intensive one-week staff training which includes workshops/trainings in programming, outdoor skills, health and safety, emergency procedures, characteristics of youth age levels, homesickness, first aid/CPR and a variety of other workshops all designed to enhance the campers experience at summer camp. Staff members who supervisor specialty activities are required to have additional training/certifications.

**What are the ratio of staff to campers?**

We maintain a ratio of 1:10.

**Where will my daughter sleep?**

Resident Camp:

Hidden Lake Camp- girls sleep in platform tents or lean-tos. Staff sleep nearby in an adjacent tent/lean-to within the unit.

Lake Clear Camp- girls sleep in cabins or lean-tos. Staff sleep nearby in an adjacent room/lean-to.

Day Camp: (weekly 1x sleepover)

Girls sleep in platform tents, half-screened cabins, pop-up tents, or covered wagons (Camp Is-Sho-Da). Staff sleep nearby within the cabin or next to the tent/wagon.

**Where will she eat?**

Resident Camp: Our food is served family style within the dining hall. Throughout the week campers will have the opportunity to experience a cook-out, where they will plan and cook their food over an open fire. Staff work with the girls to ensure progression of skills and safety. All meals are appropriate for children and nutritious with plenty of options. Special diets can be accommodated with notice. Please be sure to discuss options with the Annette German, Director of Camp Services or the Camp Director.

Day Camp: campers bring their lunches daily and will eat either with their unit or camp community. At least once a week, your camper will experience a cook out meal where they will plan and cook their food over an open fire. Parents are notified of the cookout on Monday of each camp session.

**Can my camper bring additional food/treats to camp?**

Resident Camp:

Campers may bring snacks to camp, but it is not necessary. A daily afternoon snack is offered to all campers. At resident camp, all snacks MUST be stored in the kitchen storage area to avoid animals in tents/cabins and allergic reaction from other campers. Snacks are collected on Sunday during check in.

Day Camp: campers are provided a health afternoon snack so additional snacks outside of what they include in their lunch is not necessary.

**What if my daughter needs medical attention?**

A health supervisor is on site at each camp and oversees the routine health care and administration of medications for all campers and staff. Parents will be notified in the event of an emergency.

### **What safety standards are followed?**

Our camps are inspected twice a year by the NYS Department of Health. We are governed by NYSDOH, GSUSA and the Board of Directors for GSNENY. Both Hidden Lake Camp and Camp Is-Sho-Da are accredited by American Camp Association (ACA).

### **What is ACA?**

ACA stands for American Camp Association. We have chosen to complete this peer review process and meet requirements for accreditation.

### **Can I visit camp?**

We offer an open house at each of our camp facilities. We discourage visiting summer camp while in session with campers. [Please see the camp brochure](#) for dates/times of the open houses.

### **Where are the camps located?**

For the safety of our campers we do not publish the camp addresses. Once your daughter is registered for summer camp, you will be sent a confirmation letter with this information. [Here is a map](#) of the general locations of each camp.

### **What are the programs offered at camp?**

Every camper will experience the traditional camp activities such as swimming, boating, hiking, outdoor cooking and outdoor skills. You may elect to register your daughter for an additional program experience. These options include a little bit of everything from primitive camping, sailing, art programs, STEM, theater, to local field trips. Camp has something for everyone! Be sure to check out the [summer camp brochure](#) for more details.

### **Do you offer swim lessons?**

Lake Clear offers swim lessons included in the cost of summer camp. Be sure to register for this additional program. Each camper that participants will bring home the American Red Cross Swim information card.

### **What is the GSNENY Summer Camp Leadership Program?**

Day Camp offers three leadership programs, LiA (Leader in Action) Program Aide (PA) and Journey through Leadership. The LiA and PA are programs for the Cadette level (grades 6-8) and the Journey through Leadership program is designed for Senior and Ambassadors (grades 9-12), all leadership programs include workshops, hands-on training and leadership development. Campers in the leadership programs have time throughout the week to participate in some of the traditional camp activities. Specialty program options are not available for any camper registered for a leadership program.

Resident Camp offers two leadership programs, Counselor in Training (CIT) 1 & 2. CIT 1 is intended for Senior level campers (grades 9-10) and include workshops, hands-on training and leadership development set up in four modules. CIT 2 is an extension of CIT 1 and includes more time directly working with campers while receiving positive feedback from camp staff who serve as role models. Campers in this program have time throughout the week to participate in some of the traditional camp activities. Specialty program options are not available for any camper registered for a leadership program. However, any CIT 2 assigned to a younger group *may* have the opportunity to join that group on a local field trip. CIT 2's has the option of registering for additional programs to earn certifications.

**Need more information?**

New this year, the NENY Summer Camp team will be offering Summer Camp Expos. At the expos families may ask questions, talk directly to camp staff and find out more information regarding all aspects of camp. If you would like more information regarding the camp expos or would like any additional information regarding summer camp please contact Annette German, Director of Camp Services at [agerman@girlscoutsneny.org](mailto:agerman@girlscoutsneny.org).