

General Information

Swim Test

Your camper will go to the pool where she will be checked for her swimming ability. The swim test ONLY determines if the camper can go into the deep end of the pool. If a camper does not want to do the swim test, she does not have to; but she will not be able to swim in the deep end of the pool. Girls may request to be re-checked during the week. Please let her know this and encourage her to try again if she wants to go into the deeper water.

Lost & Found

Please make sure all items that you pack for camp are labeled. Please check the lost and found items during check-out. Lost and found items will be displayed on a table near the STAR Center at Small Valley and near the Lodge at Archbald during check-out. Lost and found is collected after each session and stored at camp. Lost articles may be picked up at Small Valley until July 15th and at Archbald until August 18th. If appropriate, items may also be collected from the GSHPA office in Harrisburg. GSHPA will not be mail any lost items. Any lost and found items not claimed by September 30th will be thrown away or donated.

Food

Menus are well balanced and snacks are provided. During the week, campers will participate in at least one breakfast, lunch and dinner that they will get to help plan and prepare at their campsite over the campfire. Campers who are out of camp during meal times may have a boxed meal from camp or may cook out. Dinner will be the first meal served at camp.

Every effort is made to work with all dietary needs that are documented by a doctor, religiously connected, or commonly practiced in the home (i.e. vegetarian). This information should be listed on your camper's application, but if this was overlooked, please contact the camp at least two weeks prior to arriving to discuss options. Due to health standards, some diets (i.e. "no carbs") cannot be accommodated, however, if the dietary needs are of high importance such as: gluten, peanuts/nuts, red dye, etc., please notify us in advance and make sure to speak to the Health Care Manager during check-in to ensure we are properly notified. If your girl has a highly sensitive allergy or need, you

are welcome to provide your child's food for the week to the Kitchen Manager during registration, and it will be stored in the camp kitchen for your camper to have at meals.

Lodging

Campers sleep on mattresses on cots, bunk beds, or the floor of a platform tent, cabin or lodge.

Living arrangements are assigned by camp staff ahead of time. Girls will share a unit with other girls based on their age level and Girl Scout Level. We cannot house girls with significant age differences together.

Indoor shelter is available for all campers during severe weather.

Camp is a safe environment for girls to learn independence, therefore, our staff members do not sleep in the same units as campers. However, they do sleep within the same village and are easily accessible throughout the night.

Kapers

All campers are expected to participate daily in the "camp keeping" chores of their own living area and any other facility in which they use while at camp. Examples of kapers include: gathering firewood, sweeping unit buildings, picking up litter, and participating in flag ceremonies. Kapers will be assigned by unit staff and all campers will be expected to lend a hand.

Mail

Mail is very important at camp – no matter how short a time your camper is here. Parents, relatives, and friends are encouraged to write energetic and positive letters. The content of a letter makes a big difference. We recommend that you **send letters a few days prior to your camper's arrival, or bring letters on check-in day** to be distributed throughout the week. We also recommend that you write funny things on the outside envelope, and we will read them aloud before announcing the name (ie: jokes or ask them to do a dance). This friendly atmosphere helps those who may have not received any mail cope.

Remember to **add a return address on your letters**. Mail that arrives after a camper has left will be returned, but this cannot happen without a legible return address. Along

those same lines, young campers sometimes cannot print legibly enough for the postal system. Sending pre-addressed envelopes helps with this.

Care packages with personal items are fine. **Please do not send snacks or food items.** Not only does food in the sleeping quarters attracts animals & insects, but a fellow camper may have a severe allergy to the food sent. Any food or candy brought/sent to camp is collected, held, and returned the last day of camp. Try adding games or activities that she can enjoy with her new friends, such as cards, travel board games, quiz books or magazines.

Similar to letters, packages can be mailed or left with camp staff on check-in day. If you don't want your daughter to see the package, you can return to your vehicle after dropping her off at her unit and give the care package to staff near the parking lot. We'll make sure it gets delivered.

Last, but not least, never communicate bad news in a letter from home. If your camper needs to leave early for a family emergency, please contact camp directly.

Address mail to:

Camp Small Valley
Camper Name
Camp Session
88 Hemlock Road
Halifax, PA 17032

Camp Archbald
Camper Name
Camp Session
100 Archbald Road
Kingsley, PA 18826

Safety

The camper's general well-being is the primary concern of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. Our camp meets state health codes, American Camp Association standards, and strict Girl Scout standards. Staff members are provided First Aid/CPR training, and all waterfront and boating staff are required to obtain Lifeguard certifications. A full-time camp ranger lives on site, and he patrols, maintains the grounds, and supervises the security of camp. All precautions are taken to provide a safe experience for everyone.

In the event of an emergency (accident, illness, etc.), the Camp Director will contact you. In case of a home emergency, parents/guardians may call the Camp Director:

Small Valley – (717)362-9362

Archbald – (570)289-4331

Camp Staff

Camp counselors are enthusiastic, talented, caring, young adults. They are selected on the basis of their skills, experience, ability to serve as role models, and their genuine desire to work with children.

Counselors are trained in camp skills, the Girl Scout program, safety, and childhood development. Most staff members are full-time college students or recent graduates. The camp staff is required to go through an orientation that covers everything from program instruction, homesickness, first aid, youth development, risk management, and more.

Each unit has a minimum of three camp staff assigned to it (depending on GSUSA guidelines based on the age of the campers), but most have 4-6 staff. We follow GSUSA Safety-Wise guidelines for girl-adult supervision ratios, which means that at minimum, there are always two adult staff members with each group (more for larger and/or younger camper groups).

Check Out

CHECK OUT IS ON FRIDAY FROM 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Early departure from camp will not be permitted unless the summer camp director is notified ahead of time. If you arrive early, please wait in your car until check-out begins. Staff will be on hand to direct traffic and instruct parents/guardians where to go to check-out their camper.

Campers will ONLY be released to their parent/guardian. If another person is picking up your child, the person's name must be listed on the Camper Release Form. Photo identification will be required from all adults picking up campers.

Questions about Camp

- Questions regarding registration, payment, or billing information, please call Customer Care at 1-800-692-7816 or email them at customer care@gshpa.org.

- Questions regarding camp, please contact Megan Alcott, Camp Director, at 1-800-692-7816 x1060 or via email at malcott@gshpa.org.