2021 Camp Small Valley FAQs

General Information

Q: What is Camp Small Valley?
A: Founded in 1955, Camp Small Valley is nestled on 762 acres in the wooded hills of upper Dauphin County about 30 miles north of Harrisburg. Accommodations range from modern year-round heated units to rustic cabins and tents. Girls can have a ropes adventure day, swim in our pool, do arts and crafts, play gaga, or practice at our archery range!

Q: Where is Camp Small Valley?
A: Camp Small Valley is located at 88 Hemlock Road, Halifax PA 17032. Click HERE for google map directions.

Q: What camps and themes are offered at Camp Small Valley during Summer Camp 2021?
A: Summer Camp 2021 runs from June 21 – Aug 8. This includes four in-person sessions at Camp Small Valley and six virtual camp sessions, staff based out of Camp Small Valley.

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Q: What different camping options does GSHPA offer at Small Valley this summer?
A: We offer Mini Camp, Resident Camp, and a CIT Program at Camp Small Valley.
Mini Camp is three action-packed days that gives your Girl Scout the Resident Camp experience without committing to a whole week away from home!

Resident Camp is a full week of camp traditions, outdoor skills, self-confidence building, and friend making!

The CIT Program is a 2-week program for go-getters who want to learn the skills needed to be a successful leader on and off camp.

Check out our Parent Guide on the Summer Camp Webpage for more information!

**Registration**

**Q: How much does camp cost at Camp Small Valley?**
A: The cost of Resident Camp is $375, Counselor in Training is $600 and the cost of Mini Camp is $200. Additionally, campers have the option to purchase fun patches and a camp T-shirt.

**Q: Where can I find information on payments, due dates, Go Dough, and financial aid?**
A: Information located in the Summer Camp 2021 FAQ

**Q: How do I register my camper for camp? What is DoubleKnot?**
A: On the summer camp web page or the event calendar, you find links to register through the DoubleKnot system. This software will allow you to complete the registration process all at one time. You can select programs, fill out all your forms, and make payments.

**Q: Can I register for multiple sessions?**
A: If you would like to register your Girl Scout for multiple weeks of camp, choose ‘Keep Shopping...’ instead of ‘Checkout’ after registering for a single session. This allows you to choose a second session without filling out all of the same information a second time.

**Q: When is the deadline to register for Small Valley Camps?**
A: DoubleKnot registration closes 2 weeks before the start of each session.

**Q: Does my daughter need a physical in order to attend camp?**
A: All health information will be disclosed during the registration process. Your camper’s health & well-being are our top priority. It is required that you share medical information, including whether or not your camper has had a physical. Any medical questions or concerns may warrant a call from a GSHPA Registered Nurse.

This summer you will need to complete additional pre-screening information. Prescreen information will be provided in your confirmation email 2 weeks before camp starts. You must complete this pre-screen in order to participate in your camp session. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from camp and you will not be entitled to a refund.

**What to Expect During Your Campers Stay**

Please see the 2021 Parent Guide on the Summer Camp Web Page for more extensive answers to all the following questions. We highly recommend that all parents/guardians review the parent guide.
Q: What is our camp’s goal?
A: The goal of Camp Small Valley lies in our mission statement: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The goal of our camp program is to build girls to have the courage, confidence, and character to try new things and to be pushed outside of their comfort zone.

Q: What if my camper gets homesick?
A: It’s natural for children to experience homesickness while at camp and our staff are trained to work with campers that are experiencing homesickness. We will mentor campers to help enable them to have fun and participate in camp activities. Campers are not immediately sent home when they experience homesickness. Parents will be contacted at the discretion of the Camp Director. If you anticipate that your camper may suffer from homesickness, consider bringing her to an Open House so that you can experience camp together.

Q: What are the sleeping arrangements at camp?
A: Unit arrangements vary and girls will be placed in sleeping units based on age levels. In all units, they will have a mattress on either the floor, a cot, or a bunk bed. Sleeping arrangements will vary by week and will depend on the number of registered campers and other factors. Due to covid restrictions, units are at a 50% sleeping capacity.

- Mattis Lodge
- Rustic Cabins
- Yurts

- Rustic A-Frames
- Platform Tents

Q: Can my camper bunk with her friend?
A: During the DoubleKnot registration process, your camper will have the option to include the name of one or two friends, based on their camp type, which she would like to bunk with. This will not be guaranteed and your camper must choose girls that are in her same age level (ex. a Brownie cannot request to bunk with a Cadette). You must list the name of a girl and not a Troop #.

Q: Can my camper bring her phone, iPod, Kindle, or any electronic devices?
A: NO. We encourage campers to leave all devices and electronics at home. All of our staff have radios and cell phones for emergency purposes. We encourage girls to disconnect and unplug from their typical routine. This allows them to concentrate on making friends and enjoying camp activities. However, campers are permitted to bring small fans for their sleeping unit. These should be battery powered, as not all units have electricity.

Q: What’s a typical day like at camp?
A: Expect adventure from sunrise until sunset! Check out a typical day at camp:

- breakfast/morning flag ceremonies
- morning activity periods
- lunch
- rest hour
- afternoon activity periods
- dinner/flag down
- theme or unit selected activity
- lights out

Q: Will the camp theme last all day? For example, if my camper signs up for the Animal Adventure theme, will she be doing themed activities all day?
A: No. Your camper will have at least one themed activity period per day. During the other activity periods, your camper takes part in traditional camp activities such as— archery, arts and crafts,
outdoor living skills, and more! Often times, the theme carries over to the traditional activities as well as the overall camp culture for the week.

Q: What are the check-in/check-out times?
A: This summer, we are doing a drive through check in and check out. This procedure will reduce the number of people coming in contact on camp and reduce the likelihood of contagious diseases on camp. You will receive a detailed procedures and any check in updates in an email 2 weeks before the start of your camp week.

The camp gates will open at the start of each check-in time listed below:
- **Resident Camp**: check-in will be split into arrival groups. Your arrival time will be between 2-4 pm on Sunday. You will receive an email stating which arrival group you are in two weeks before your check-in date. Checkout is from 4-5m on Thursday.
- **Mini Camp**: check-in will be split into arrival groups. Your arrival time will be between 2-4 pm on Tuesday. You will receive an email stating which arrival group you are in two weeks before your check-in date. Checkout is from 4-5m on Thursday.
- **CIT**: check-in will be split into arrival groups. Your arrival time will be between 2-3 pm on Monday. You will receive an email stating which arrival group you are in two weeks before your check-in date. Checkout is from 4-5m on Friday.

If you need to arrive late or leave early, please let us know. We will do our best to accommodate.

Detailed Check in/Check out procedures can be found in the parent guide. Please note that may be subject to change and you will receive any updates to this procedure two weeks before the start of your camp session.

Q: Can I visit camp during my camper’s session?
A: Family members are not allowed on camp except for check in and pick up.

**Risk Management**

Please see the 2021 Parent Guide on the Summer Camp Web Page for more extensive answers to all the following questions. We highly recommend that all parents/guardians review the parent guide.

Q: Who are the camp staff?
A: We have a wide variety of camp staff — including but not limited to cooks, a registered nurse, lifeguards, activity specialists, and assistant unit leaders.

These staff members are carefully selected for their character, commitment, and skills, as well as how they work with children and adults. All of our staff are required to attend extensive pre-camp training before the camp season begins. Staff members who supervise units or specialize in activities, such as the high ropes, lifeguarding, and archery, receive additional training and qualifications each year.

Each summer, we recruit both regionally and internationally. Carefully selected staff from around the world join our staff as counselors and help broaden the campers’ experience. Campers’ health and wellbeing are our top priorities. We select staff based on maturity, program skills, experience,
and their ability to serve as role models. All campers are under the supervision of trained camp staff 24 hours a day. All staff members are trained in First Aid/CPR/AED.

Q: What safety precautions are taken to reduce risk at camp?
A: Camp Small Valley is an ACA Accredited Camp. This means that we operate at the highest standards. All of our staff are highly trained, background checked, and trained in First Aid/CPR/AED. Like a good Girl Scout, we’re always prepared with our Emergency Action Plan and weather monitoring.

Additional Contagious Disease Policies and Procedures will be implemented during this summer’s camp programs. Please see the parent guide for details.

Q: What is the Emergency Action Plan?
A: The Emergency Action Plan is a comprehensive plan that addresses every type of emergency that we can foresee to be prepared for (flood, severe thunderstorm, etc.). We train with this plan to prepare our staff and our campers.

Q: Is there a storm shelter at Camp Small Valley?
A: We have two storm shelters located at Camp Small Valley that can hold more than our expected attendance at any time.

Q: Does your camp have a behavior policy?
A: Yes! All camp participants signed a behavior policy during their camp registration, which will be reviewed during your session’s orientation. Participants who fail to follow our behavior policy may be dismissed from camp and will not be entitled to a refund.

Q: Who should I contact if there is an emergency at home and I need to get ahold of my camper?
A: You can reach member services at 800.692.7816, who then will direct you to a leadership member of the summer camp staff team.

Additional Information

Q: Can I send mail?
A: It is highly encouraged to bring the letters you want your camper to receive to check-in. The mail often takes one to two extra days for delivery. If you would still prefer to mail your letters, we recommend sending it the Thursday or Friday before the start of your camp week.

During check-in, there will be multiple boxes labeled with the camp units for camper mail. We do not have a mail time on check-in day, so any letters labeled with you campers check-in day will be given the next day.

If you’re dropping letters during check-in, please be sure to label them as follows:

Camper’s Full Name (No Nicknames)                   Sally Jones
Theme Week                                          Potions and Wands
Camper Type (Resident or Mini or CIT)                Resident Camper
Day Letter Should be Received                        Tuesday
If you are mailing letters to camp, please be sure to label them as follows:

**Camper’s Full Name (No Nicknames)**  
Sally Jones

**Theme Week**  
Potions and Wands

**Camper Type (Resident, Mini or CIT)/**  
Resident Camper/Wednesday

**Day Letter should be received**  
Camp Small Valley

**Camp Address**  
88 Hemlock Rd  
Halifax, PA 17032

If you choose to send mail and it arrives after your camper has left, we will not return it to you.

**Q: Can I send a Care Package?**

**A:** Care packages are discouraged, but not forbidden. Care packages often cause jealousy and homesickness amongst cabin mates and so we prefer that communication is kept to letters and postcards. If you do decide to send or leave a care package, campers will be required to open it in front of a counselor. If a package includes any LEAVE AT HOME items (listed on you packing list) they will be confiscated and returned to campers on check-out day. This includes any candy or food.

**Q: Can I send snacks?**

**A:** No. To reduce the risk of attracting wild animals, we do not allow food to be stored in the sleeping units of campers. If food is found with your camper, it will be held by camp staff until check-out.

**Q: Can you accommodate special diets?**

**A:** We are able to accommodate most dietary restrictions and preferences. We can also prepare our food with most allergies in mind. During registration, you will be able to indicate food allergies or dietary preferences/restrictions. If we are not able to accommodate your camper, we will permit her to come with her own food that can be stored in the Dining Hall.

**Q: What if my camper is a picky eaters?**

Girls are encouraged to try a brownie bite (small bite) of available options. However, there are always a variety of options available. Even the fussiest of eaters will find something to eat at every meal. If a camper absolutely refuses to eat for more than one meal, the nurse or the Camp Director will contact you to discuss the best course of action.