
Resident Camp

Frequently Asked Questions

We are so excited to have your child join us this summer at the STEM Center of Excellence. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions that you will find helpful as you prepare for her time at the STEM Center of Excellence.

Is my Girl Scout ready for Resident Camp?

Although age is one factor in readiness for resident camp, a child's maturity level and personality can be more important indicators. Talk to your child before registering her. If she is enthusiastic about attending, then she will probably enjoy camp. The following questions may help guide you when learning if your child is prepared for resident camp:

- ✓ Has your Girl Scout ever been away from home for more than one night without family members?
- ✓ Will she feel comfortable sleeping in living quarters separate from the counselors?
- ✓ Can she take care of her own basic hygiene needs such as showering, using the restroom, and brushing her teeth without assistance?
- ✓ Can she keep up with her personal belongings?
- ✓ Can she cope with unfamiliar people, new places, and group schedules?
- ✓ Does she enjoy making new friends?
- ✓ Does she like group situations?

Am I ready for my Girl Scout to attend Resident Camp?

Parents and guardians sometimes have a difficult time sending their Girl Scouts to Resident Camp. Asking yourself the following questions may help in your decision making:

- ✓ Can you relax and enjoy yourself while your Girl Scout is developing her independence at resident camp?
- ✓ Are you prepared to be away from your Girl Scout for several days and not be able to talk to her on the phone while she is at camp?
- ✓ Are you confident in your Girl Scout's ability to care for herself, make her bed and keep track of her belongings?
- ✓ Do you believe that camp provides Girl Scouts with a fun and rewarding experience that builds self-worth and independence?
- ✓ Are you willing to trust camp team members with the care of your Girl Scout?

Can my camper come to camp if she is not currently a Girl Scout?

Yes! All of our camps invite girls, even if they are not active in a Girl Scout troop during the school year. However, you will need to register your camper as a Girl Scout member for insurance purposes **prior** to registering for a camp session. This is a \$35 fee and will cover her GSUSA membership until September 30, 2022. You can contact our Customer Care team at (972) 349-2403 or customer care@gsnetx.org for more information.

Is technology allowed at camp?

No personal electronic devices are permitted at GSNETX camps. These include, but are not limited to: iPods, tablets, laptops and other portable electronics. Cell phones and/or smart watches are not allowed at camp for any session. They are easily lost or damaged in the camp environment. In addition, cameras on cell phones can create privacy issues. Cell phones/watches may interfere with your camper's ability to build trust, friendships, and independence. If a camper breaks this rule and is found with a cell phone or electronic device, it will be held by the Camp Director until the end of camp. The camp, camp staff, and GSNETX are not responsible for lost or damaged cell phones/watches or electronics.

Are Girl Scouts allowed to have visitors?

Visitors are not allowed at Resident Camp.

What are the rules about medication?

Medications **MUST** be in original containers and prescribed by a physician **specifically** for the camper. The camp will assist campers who need regular medication on a set schedule. Medications will **not** be dispensed in any manner other than what is specified on the label without written instructions from a physician. The STEM Center of Excellence Health Officer will be available at check in for any questions or concerns.

Administering medication at camp.

Campers that occasionally need treatment such as medication for a headache, allergies, or lactose intolerance will need to be able to communicate to staff that they need this medication or it will not be given to them. The camp carries over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums, Benadryl, and cough drops that parents may authorize the camp to administer on the Medication Form. Do not send over-the-counter medications to camp (except allergy medications).

***Please note a Medical Screening is required upon check-in to include head, foot, and temperature checks.**

How should campers conduct themselves?

All Girl Scouts are expected to abide by the Girl Scout Promise and Law while at camp. The Camp Director and team members will be accommodating as much as possible to help Girl Scouts adjust to camp life. However, GSNETX reserves the right to send home from camp any Girl Scout who exhibits unsuitable behavior, endangers the camp community, or whose actions towards others are unacceptable. The Girl Scout's parents/guardians are responsible for picking up their child in the event of unacceptable behavior; there will be no refund for camp fees or travel costs.

What if my camper is homesick? Can she come home?

Please include your camper in the decision-making process so that she is aware of the length of stay. We advise not to promise your camper that she can call or come home early if she does not like camp in the first couple of days. We will work with your camper to help her adjust. However, if she refuses to eat or stay adequately hydrated, she will need to be picked up immediately. Refunds are not provided if a camper is picked up due to homesickness.

What if it's hot outside?

Despite the expected summer heat, your Girl Scout will still have an amazing time at camp! We encourage and remind the Girl Scouts to drink plenty of water and refill their water bottles regularly at designated locations. The SCoE has buildings with air conditioning that we can do certain activities in when temperatures become unbearable or unsafe. Please note that even though Girl Scouts may spend some time in air-conditioning, a majority of their day is spent outside at camp. Extra precautions will be taken on days when the heat index exceeds 100 degrees.

How can I contact my camper while she's at camp?

Letters may be left in a designated location at check-in for the camp staff to deliver during the week. (Mail is distributed to Girl Scouts once a day.) Please focus messages on the positives of camp: friendship, new experiences/stories, new foods, etc. Families may also register for free at Bunk1 to view pictures of what's happening at camp. For an optional, low-cost fee, you can purchase prints of those pictures and/or send "Bunk Notes" to your camper! To ensure pictures of your campers are safe for viewing, do not send shirts with her actual name on them. Camp names, however, are more than welcome.

Can my camper call home?

Campers are not provided phone access while at camp, as this distracts from the camp experience. If there is an emergency with your child, a member of the camp administrative staff will contact you. Camp contact information is provided in the parent guide in case you need to contact the camp.

Are food and snacks provided?

Meals are prepared by the girls and camp counselors and served in the units. Snacks are provided at designated times. During all sessions, Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in cookouts. Parents/guardians of Girl Scouts with special dietary needs (vegetarian, kosher, etc.) **MUST** list that information on the Camper Information section in CampDoc and contact STEM@gsnetx.org three weeks before her session to confirm that we can adequately meet her dietary needs.

What are kapers?

At Girl Scout camp, Girl Scouts are active members of our camp community and are assigned daily tidiness actions, known as kapers. Kapers may include activities such as: picking up trash, collecting firewood, sweeping common areas, and setting the table. In addition, Girl Scouts are expected to keep track of their personal items and keep the common living area. Please discuss this expectation at home with your Girl Scout.

Will my Girl Scouts earn badges or Journeys at camp?

Each session will focus on different STEM related Girl Scout badges or journeys. Not all summer camps will fulfill the requirements for badges and journeys. At the end of the camp session, your Girl Scout will receive a list of all activities that can be applied to badge work. Some badges and Journeys are provided at conclusion of camp, but all are available at all GSNEX shops. The shop at the STEM Center will NOT be open at check in or check out.

Can my Girl Scout go to camp with a buddy?

Yes, your Girl Scout may request a buddy.

1. Buddy requests should be made in the CampDoc online form.
2. Only **ONE** buddy may be requested. In order for a buddy request to be granted, both Girl Scouts must request each other on their online CampDoc form. If one Girl Scout requests a different person as her buddy, the Girl Scouts will not be placed together.
3. Spell your buddy's full name correctly on the form.
4. Make sure both buddies are already registered for same camp session.

The Camp Administrative Team has the final authority to house campers at her discretion. Registering for the same session does not mean that all Girl Scouts from the same troop will be placed in the same cabin. No more than four Girl Scouts from a Girl Scout troop will be placed in the same cabin within a camp session. Camp sessions (including deposits) **WILL NOT** be refundable due to a buddy's cancellation or disqualification at check-in.

What if I need to cancel my registration?

To cancel your camper's registration, you **MUST** email customercare@gsnetx.org as soon as possible. The camp fee (minus a \$100 cancellation fee for resident camp) will be refunded if cancellation is received by GSNETX at least 30 days before camp session start date.

Will my Girl Scout need a Covid Test to go to RESIDENT camp?

Girl Scouts attending RESIDENT CAMPS will need a NEGATIVE Covid test to attend camp. Covid Test will be administered at check in for resident camps at the STEM Center. If you do not wish to test at camp and wait for the results at camp, you may bring documentation of a negative Covid test that is dated within 3 days of your camp start date.

Covid Safety while at Camp

For the most up to date information on Covid protocols at camp please visit the GSNETX website.

https://www.gsnetx.org/content/dam/NE_Texas/documents/safety_GSNETX_COVID19_CAMP_FAQsUpdates.pdf

<https://www.gsnetx.org/en/camps/summer-camp.html>

At the conclusion of each day, all equipment and building will be sanitized according to the latest CDC and Texas Dept of Health Youth Camp Guidelines.