

# Camp FAQ

This document is intended to help answer some commonly asked questions about our camp programs. We realize that we may not have included every question out there, but hopefully this document will help answer some questions on the forefront of your mind. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the appropriate camp director or email us at [camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) and we will be sure to answer your question as soon as possible.

Happy camping!

~Your Outdoor Program Team

## General Questions:

**Q: When does camp registration open for the summer of 2018?**

**A:** Summer camp registration opens on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 a.m. (midnight)

**Q: What should I do if I left an item at camp? (lost and found)**

**A:** Contact your camp director as soon as possible. Make sure to detail what the item is (colors, size, any specific details), when your camper was at camp, what program they were in, and any other details that might be important to note about the object. We will do our best to locate the item, but please consider that some items might not be able to be recovered. If your item is located we will contact you and send it off to your nearest Gathering Place. (Note: Please consider that the transport of your item may take a little bit of time to get to you Gathering Place. Make sure to communicate the Gathering Place closest to you to your director.) You can also come to the camp to pick the item up. If you are inquiring after summer camp is over please email [camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org). We will hold items until October 1.

**Q: Are there any forms I need to fill out after registering for camp?**

**A:** Yes. Once registration is open there will be links on our Summer Camp page to Formsite documents to fill out for day and resident camp along with informational packets that contain valuable information about camp that we think is important for you to know.

**Q: What should I do if my camper has special needs or unique habits?**

**A:** Contact the appropriate camp director for the camp your camper will be attending or Peggy Brothers at [pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) so the best placement and appropriate accommodations can be made.

**Q: Do I need to be a Girl Scout to come to Girl Scout camp?**

**A:** Girl Scout membership is required to participate in camp. If your girl is not currently registered, a \$25 membership fee will be automatically charged when registering for

camp. This fee includes basic accident insurance coverage for all registered Girl Scouts as a supplement to existing insurance coverage.

**Q: Is camp cancelled if it is raining?**

**A:** No. Camp programs are held rain or shine. Each camp location has buildings and shelters where campers will be moved in the event of severe weather.

**Q: Is there anything specific I need to consider when sending medication to camp with my camper?**

**A:** All medication must be in its original marked container.

**Q: Do the grades listed for camp programs refer to the grade they are currently in or the grade they will be entering in the fall?**

**A:** Grades listed refer to the grade they will be entering in the fall.

**Q: When do I need to pay for my camp program in full?**

**A:** Day camp and year-round camp programs must be paid in full at the time of registration. Money will be refunded in cases of financial aid. You can apply for financial aid under the Forms and Documents page on our website located here: <https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/our-council/forms-and-documents.html>. Resident camp programs allow families to pay in full or to hold a spot at camp with a deposit at the time of registration. Deposit rates are \$40 for 3-6-day programs or \$100 for programs longer than 6 days. Deposits are non-refundable.

Note: A camper is not fully registered until they have paid for their program in full.

All fees are due no later than June 1, 2018.

Camper registration may be cancelled if full payment is not received by the due date.

For registrations made after June 1, 2018, all fees must be paid in full at the time of registration.

There will be a \$25 service charge for checks returned due to insufficient funds.

**Q: Can I use my Cookie Dough from Girl Scout Cookie® Sales to help pay for camp?**

**A:** Yes! Girls can earn their way to camp by participating in the Girl Scout Cookie® program! Our cookie program is an amazing way for girls to fund their Girl Scout year with a goal-focused plan while learning new financial literacy and customer skills. Visit [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/cookie-resources](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/cookie-resources) to get resources for the 2018 cookie program. When you are ready to use your cookie dough, please contact our program registrar at [RegHelp\\_Events@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:RegHelp_Events@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or at (815) 651-2711. We highly recommend not waiting for cookie dough to register or pay a deposit on a program due to limited spaces per program.

**Q: Will I get a refund if the program I signed up for is cancelled?**

**A:** A full refund will be given if it is necessary for the council to cancel a program. Look for a refund check 2+ weeks out from when the program was cancelled.

**Q: Will I get a refund if I need to cancel my registration?**

**A:** A full refund minus a processing fee (\$20 for day camp, \$40 for one-week resident camp programs, or \$100 for two-week resident camp programs) will be given if the request is made in writing at least two weeks prior to the start of the selected session, or if the cancellation was due to illness or injury and a physician's note is provided.

No refunds will be made for campers who arrive late, leave early, attend only part of a program, fail to show up, or for those who are asked to leave because of behavior issues.

Girl and adult membership registration are nonrefundable.

Refund requests must be submitted in writing to Girl Scouts, Attn: Summer Camp Refund, 1551 Spencer Road, Joliet, IL 60433 or email [RegHelp\\_Events@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:RegHelp_Events@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) with subject line: Attn: Summer Camp Refund.

Cancellation requests due to illness must be made no later than August 30, 2018.

**Q: Is financial assistance available?**

**A:** Yes. Financial assistance allocation is confidential and offered to help meet the needs of those members whose family would financially be unable to participate in approved Girl Scout activities. In this case a camper's family can apply for financial assistance for one day camp **OR** one resident camp session. You can apply for financial aid under the Forms and Documents page on our website located here:

<https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/our-council/forms-and-documents.html>.

Approved day camp financial assistance will be sent in the form of a check to the caregivers of the camper.

When registering for day camp programs you must pay for them in full before applying for financial assistance. Upon financial assistance approval a refund check will be sent.

Approved resident camp financial assistance will be deducted from the amount due for the session.

**Q: Is the water at camp safe to drink?**

**A:** Yes. The water at camp is treated and safe to drink. However, it might taste a little different than you are used to since it is well water.

**Resident Camp in General:**

**Q: What do I do if the program my camper wants to do is already full?**

**A:** Click on "Session Full" and add your camper's name to the waitlist. Please be aware that there is no guarantee that a spot will become available after you camper is put on the waitlist; it is strongly recommended that you sign up for another program in the meantime in case no spot becomes available in your desired program. The camp directors will, however, be closely monitoring the wait lists and they will notify you as soon as possible if a spot does become available for your camper.

**Q: When can I drop-off/pick-up my camper for the week?**

**A:** Check-in is from 1:30 – 3 p.m. on Sunday. Please do not arrive before 1:15 p.m. as the camp staff will be finishing with the preparation for the campers to arrive.

We invite you to your camper's closing ceremony which starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, and this usually concludes around 7:30 p.m. when the camper's will be released for pick-up. We suggest that you bring a blanket or chair if you do not like to sit on the grass for our closing ceremony, for your comfort. Please make sure you have your ID with you for pick-up.

**Q: What will we be doing at check-in?**

**A:** We will have areas set up by unit or sleeping arrangements to collect luggage when you and your camper(s) arrive. There will be a paperwork check to double check that it is all filled out for a successful week at camp. A health screening for your camper will take place. Cell phones and trading post money will be collected. Any medication that your camper takes will be collected by the Health Supervisor (unless there is an Epi-Pen or inhaler which your camper or their counselor will have with them during the week). If you decide to write pre-written letters to your camper, there will be a designated place to drop them off. Please label mail with camper name, program name, and the day your camper should be receiving the letter.

**Q: When will I hear from my camper who checked in a cell phone?**

**A:** Campers will have a short period of time on Wednesday (most likely the afternoon) to be able to call home. Our camps do not have consistent wifi so we do not recommend that they solely use FaceTime as their mode of communication. Because of the location of our camps, we also cannot guarantee that your camper will have cell service. If your camper checks in a phone but is offsite on a trip during the scheduled cell phone time, she will still get an opportunity to call home when she returns to camp.

**Q: Can multiple campers share the same cell phone?**

**A:** Yes, during check-in we will note which campers will be sharing cell phones. Please make sure that either the campers know the contact information or that the contact information is already a contact number in the phone.

**Q: Can I bring my camper's medication already separated in a weekly container?**

**A:** No, we need the original container that the medication was in to ensure that the dosage for your camper is correct. It is also much easier for the Health Supervisor to note exactly what your camper has taken at certain times of the day.

**Q: What is a health screening/health check at check-in?**

**A:** A health screening is a quick check of a camper's overall health upon arriving at camp to ensure that a camper is coming to camp ready to engage in activities and is ready to have exceptional camp experiences.

**Q: What does the health screening/health check consist of?**

**A:** The health screening consists of checking each camper's feet check for any warts or other foot ailments that may be contagious, a check of the camper's hair for lice or nits, and a temperature check.

**Q: What if something is found during a health screening? When may a camper not pass beyond the health screening at check-in?**

**A:** Feet check: Campers will be able to stay at camp: Upon identification of foot warts or other contagious conditions, a note is made and campers are asked to wear flip flops or water shoes at all times in the shower house/pool deck/ect., when they might not already be wearing gym shoes. Camper & camper's family will be asked about current treatments and discuss other ways to prevent spread at camp.

Head check: Campers will not be able to stay at camp if lice or nits are found: Upon identification of lice or nits, camper & camper's family will be asked to step aside to talk with the camp director or health supervisor about not being able to stay at camp for the day. Options may include home treatment and attempt to return to camp in 24hours if nit free, possible transfer to another week in the summer (if available), or encouragement to try camp again the next summer.

Temperature check: Campers will not be able to stay at camp with a high fever. Options may include an attempt to return to camp in 24hours or once the fever breaks, possible transfer to another week in the summer (if available), or encouragement to try camp again the next summer.

**Q: What food allergies/intolerances can you accommodate at camp?**

**A:** We can easily accommodate many food allergies and dietary needs. Those which we regularly accommodate for are peanut/tree nut allergies, gluten allergies, dairy allergies/intolerances and more. We are happy to accommodate food allergies at our camps with advance notice. Contact our camp directors to discuss your camper's dietary needs.

Pokanoka: Vanessa "Venus" Matravers, [vmatravers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:vmatravers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org), (630)-544-5910

Juniper Knoll: Margaret "Strike" Gawlik, [mgawlik@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:mgawlik@girlscoutsgcnwi.org), (224)-207-9207

Butternut Springs: Sam "Freddie" Luchek, [sluchek@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:sluchek@girlscoutsgcnwi.org), (815)-651-2716

**Q: Why is there a swim check/test at camp?**

**A:** At camp, all campers will have the opportunity to swim no matter what her swimming ability is. The purpose of the swim check is for lifeguards to determine, based on the swimming ability campers demonstrate, how deep they will be allowed to go during open swim time. Safety is always our top priority when conducting swim checks and we want campers and lifeguards to be comfortable with the area campers are swimming in.

**Q: Is my camper required to swim?**

**A:** Campers are not required to swim at camp. Her counselors may encourage her to swim, but she will not be forced in. Instead of swimming, she will be able to sit outside of the pool or on the beach, talk with her friends, read a book, or do other activities on deck, but there will not be alternate activities offered away from the pool/waterfront as it will be her program's designated swimming time.

**Q: What happens when there is severe weather at camp?**

**A:** Our staff are trained to be able to handle most minor weather with campers. They remind their camper to wear their ponchos in rain, encourage campers to wear more clothes when it may not be warm that week, and have suggestions on how to keep campers cool when it may be a little warmer than the camper is used to. When the weather becomes very hot we have procedures to keep the campers cool whether this is with water games, a shaded or air-conditioned activity, as well as other options. If there are storms in the area, administrative staff are in near-constant communication with counselors to make sure that campers are moved to a location that is appropriate based on the type of weather that is expected. In instances of relocating campers due to more severe weather situations, counselors are trained to make the transition as smooth as possible for campers.

**Q: Can I call/email to check on my camper if I see that the area around camp is experiencing bad weather?**

**A:** The top priority of camp staff is ensuring the safety of everyone on site. Because we will be focusing on the needs of campers during inclement weather, we will not be able to answer any calls to the camp office or regularly monitor emails. However, when possible, every attempt will be made to communicate with guardians via email before and/or after campers are moved inside and things have calmed down.

**Q: OPTIONAL: How do my campers keep in touch with their new friends after camp?**

**A:** We suggest that you have a conversation with your camper before you send them to camp. What information are you willing to let them share while they are at camp with new friends. Are you willing to let them send mail to each other? You can decide what type of mail you would like them to be able to use (i.e. snail mail or electronic mail) and

make sure they know either the address or email address where you wish for their letters to be sent. If you and your camper choose that another form of communication is acceptable please make sure that the other camper and her family have decided that they would also consider that type of communication for the campers to keep in touch with one another (I.e. various social media platforms).

**Q: Do counselors share sleeping accommodations with campers?**

**A:** In units of platform tents/tabins/yurts, counselors will sleep in a nearby platform tent/tabin/yurt. It will be centrally located in the unit and counselors will make campers aware of which tent/tabin/yurt they can be found in during the unit orientation on Sunday. In lodges, counselors will sleep in a separate room within the building.

**Day Camp in General:**

**Q: When can I drop-off/pick-up my camper for the day?**

**A:** Day Camp runs from 9 AM – 3 PM. Drop-off starts at 8:50 AM and pick-up starts at 3:00 PM. Buses will be allowed to pick up and drop off before personal vehicles. Wait outside of the Camp Palos gate until buses enter. Enter at Gate 2 and exit at Gate 3 at Camp Greene Wood. If your camper is enrolled in the Before-and-After Care program you are able to drop-off campers as early as 7am at Greene Wood and 7:30am at Palos. Before-and-After Care's latest pick-up time is at 6pm at both locations.

**Q: When is my camper's bus schedule available?**

**A:** Your camper's bus schedule will be available two weeks ahead of the start date of her program. Keep an eye out for an email from your camp director.

**Q: What happens if my camper's bus is not showing up to the location for pick-up?**

**A:** Please contact us so that we can resolve the issue. Please consider the fact that factors such as traffic may affect the time a bus arrives. Make sure to arrive at your bus stop location at least 10 minutes before your bus is scheduled to arrive.

**Q: What do I do if my camper misses the bus?**

**A:** If your camper misses the bus you can either drive them to camp to choose to not have them attend camp for the day. If they will not attend camp that day, please let your director know so that they can inform your camper's counselor(s).

**Q: What happens if a bus stop location is changed?**

**A:** Bus stop locations are subject to change based on numerous factors. You will be notified if your bus stop location is changed. Make sure to be checking your emails 1-2 weeks before your camp program is scheduled to happen.

**Q: How does train transportation work?**

**A:** When campers sign up for train transportation they will board the Metra BNSF train and congregate in a designated Girl Scout Camp train car (we cannot guarantee that this

car will be reserved ONLY for campers and designated chaperones). There will be at least one designated chaperone that will be riding the train with the campers. The train will drop campers off at the Lisle train station where they will then be picked up by a camp bus which will transport them the rest of the way to Camp Greene Wood. The reverse will happen in the afternoon after camp ends for the day. Designated chaperones will make sure campers get off at the correct train stop. Follow the BNSF train schedule M-F, #1225 departing Chicago Union Station at 7:45 a.m. and #1270 departing Aurora at 3:20 p.m. Arrive at your train stop location at least 10 minutes before your train is scheduled to arrive.

**Q: How do I get put on the waitlist?**

**A:** Please email [camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) with the following information:

- Camper and guardian names.
- Camp program you wish to be on the wait list for.
- Desired dates of that camp program.
- Camp the program is located at.
- An email and phone number to contact you at.
- Information about any other programs you are currently signed up for.

**Q: What should I do if a camp program I want is full?**

**A:** Email [camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:camper@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) to request to be put on the waitlist (see above for information to include); a member of the camp team will send you a reply email to confirm that your waitlist request has been received. Please be aware that there is no guarantee that a spot will become available after you camper is put on the waitlist. The camp directors will, however, be closely monitoring the wait lists and they will notify you as soon as possible if a spot does become available for your camper.

**Q: What should I do if I need to drop my camper off later than the traditional camp start time?**

**A:** Please contact the appropriate camp director ahead of time.

Greene Wood: Kelly "Aqua" Nelson, [knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Palos: Kary "Kanga" Roorda, [kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

**Q: What should I do if I need to pick up my camper before the end of the traditional camp day?**

**A:** Please contact the appropriate camp director ahead of time.

Greene Wood: Kelly "Aqua" Nelson, [knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Palos: Kary "Kanga" Roorda, [kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

**Q: What happens at Before-and-After Camp?**

**A:** For those who need to drop their campers off earlier than 9:00 a.m. and pick them up later than 3:00 p.m. this is the perfect additional program for you! Campers can be



dropped off as early as 7:00 a.m. (Greene Wood) or 7:30 a.m. (Palos) and be picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. (both camps). Campers will get the chance to experience more camp fun, have breakfast in the morning and a snack in the afternoon, and might even get the opportunity to go on a mini (on-site) adventure. Note: this program is an add on to the other camp program that your camper is signed up for. Please drop off and pick up at Gate 1 for Camp Greene Wood Before-and-After Camp (the Gathering Place).

**Q: How many buddies can my camper request?**

**A:** Campers can request 1 buddy. Your camper and the buddy need to request each other for the camp program (along with being registered for the same camp program). We will do our best to keep buddy requests together. However, we'd like you to keep in mind that a big part of camp is making new friends.

**Q: I didn't get an email to confirm my camp registration?**

**A:** Since our confirmations are generated by our registration system they sometimes end up in junk mail. We would recommend looking there first. If you cannot find them there you can always find our confirmation packet at the bottom of our summer camp page. <https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/camp/summer-camp.html>

**Q: Can I pay a percentage of the day camp cost now and the rest later?**

**A:** Unfortunately, our day camp registration system does not allow you to do that. Upon registering you will need to pay in full. If you need to apply for financial aid please do so through the financial aid application found under "Forms" on our website. If you are approved for financial aid you will receive a reimbursement check.

## **Custom Camp Programs:**

**Q: What is a custom camp program?**

**A:** A custom camp program is when you work with a member of the Outdoor Program Team to pick a camp location to stay at, activities you would like to do, and whether or not you would like meal service provided. Camp staff then plan and run activities for you during your stay at camp. Because camp staff are running your program for you, you do not have to go through the Outdoor Training Modules, though it is still recommended.

**Q: Who do I contact to schedule a custom camp program?**

**A:** Please email Peggy Brothers, Assistant Vice President of Camp Programs and Properties, at [pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Q: What choices do I have for activities during my custom program?**

**A:** Reference our Custom Program Guide for more information and ideas on what activities you and the girls can do during your custom program.

<https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/camp/year-round-programs.html>

**Q: Can we earn badges during custom programs?**

**A:** Yes. Work with the Outdoor Program Manager that has been assigned to work with you to figure out the best badges to work on at camp.

## **Outdoor Program Events/Workshops:**

**Q: Do I have to wait until February 1, 2018 to register for year-round programs/workshops?**

**A:** No. All year-round programs through the end of August 2018 are already open for registration at <https://register.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/>.

**Q: How long will registration be open for outdoor program events/workshops?**

**A:** Registration closes 2 weeks before the start date/time of the program. This ensures that we will have enough participants and staff to run a successful program.

## **Troop Camping/Rentals:**

**Q: How far ahead of time do I need to set a date and property location for our camp rental?**

**A:** We recommend booking at least 6 months in advance.

**Q: I have other property rental questions. Who do I contact?**

**A:** Contact the Property Registrar at either (312)-912-6371 or [property@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:property@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) with your questions.

## **Recreation:**

**Q: What recreation (that I have to request beforehand) is available at each camp?**

**A:**

Butternut Springs: Archery, Canoeing, Swimming, Trading Post, Wagon Ride

Friendship Center: Indoor Archery (Winter)

Greene Wood: Archery

Juniper Knoll: Archery, Canoeing, Swimming, Trading Post, Wagon Ride

Palos: Archery, Wagon Ride

Pokanoka: Archery, Swimming, Trading Post, Wagon Ride

River Trails: Archery, Swimming, Trading Post, Wagon Ride

**Q: When is archery offered?**

**A:** Approximately April-October.

**Q: Does archery get cancelled if the weather is bad?**

**A:** If there is any rain, even if there is no thunder/lightning, archery must be cancelled so that the equipment doesn't get damaged.

**Q: Why can't my Brownie troop/campers participate in archery?**

**A:** As a council, the policy is that Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors can participate in archery. We do not have the equipment for younger campers to independently or safely participate.

**\*Bonus Archery Q: But, my camper has done archery before so why can't she participate?**

**A:** Per the Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoint, Daisies are not allowed to participate in archery. Brownies are only allowed to participate if the equipment is designed for that age level and body size. Unfortunately, we do not have the equipment for younger campers to independently or safely participate in archery.

**Q: When is swimming offered?**

**A:** Memorial Day Weekend-Labor Day Weekend.

**Q: Is there a swim check? Why?**

**A:** We only require a check for those campers who wish to swim in the deep end during a recreation related swim time. Whether the campers will have a wristband or other form of visible proof that they have completed the swim test is to the discretion of the facilitator. Since this is a single swimming time, we wish to make sure that our campers will have the endurance to be able to swim in the deep end. Resident Camp swim questions should use the Resident Camp answer.

**Q: Does my daughter/a girl in my troop need to do the swim check if she previously participated in a GSGCNWI resident camp and was swim checked then?**

**A:** If your child was previously swim checked through one of our council's resident camps, she will still need to go through a swim check in order to go in the deep water during troop camping swimming activities; we cannot guarantee that the swim check records from resident camp will be available for lifeguards during troop camping/recreation.

**Q: When can my swimming not be facilitated?**

**A:** The time that has been scheduled with our Property Registrar, Celeste, is your swimming time. The facilitator will be able to facilitate swimming if weather conditions are within ranges that they are trained for. Examples of when swimming may not be able to be facilitated: If it is too cold or there is thunder in the area. You may not enter the water without a certified lifeguard on duty; if you are bringing a certified lifeguard with you to camp, her/his certification(s) must be on file with the Property Registrar.

**Q: Why can't my Brownie canoe?**

**A:** Our council's policy is that Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors can participate in canoeing. We do not have the equipment for younger girls to successfully and independently participate in canoeing. Accommodations can be made for younger

girls to participate in canoeing if they are the 'Princess' sitting in the middle of the canoe while older girls/adults are paddling.

**Q: When is boating offered?**

**A:** Boating is offered approximately April-October. Typically, it will be scheduled for Saturday morning based on demand and facilitator availability.

**Q: When can boating not be facilitated?**

**A:** All boating activities will be facilitated by someone certified in lifeguarding and canoe instruction. If weather conditions force your facilitator to cancel, they will attempt to reschedule a different timeslot for the same day, but that cannot be guaranteed.

**Q: What if I get to camp and decide I want to participate in recreation activities that I did not request?**

**A:** Because most of our recreation requires a facilitator and due to limited availability of time slots, we cannot accept on-site requests for recreation. The only exception may be the Trading Post, but only if the Trading Post Associate is already on-site and has availability in her schedule to accommodate your group.

**Q: What forms of payment do you accept in the Trading Post?**

**A:** We accept cash, checks, and credit cards. However, please note that our wifi can be unreliable at times, which may affect the credit card machine.

**River Trails Specific:**

**Q: What is this year's You and Me: Summertime Fun theme?**

**A:** Under the Sea! Feel free to make some SWAPS that are theme specific.

**Q: What time is check in on Friday for You and Me?**

**A:** Check in is from 6-8 p.m. on Friday. Please let Kara Kastenholtz know if you are going to be late or need to arrive the next day. Email: [kkastenholtz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholtz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

**Q: What happens at a You and Me: Summertime Fun program?**

**A:** Come enjoy the weekend with your special female adult. You plan your schedule! There will be activities ready for you to participate in. Some activities require signing up for a specific time slot (sign up occurs during your camp program) while others are available for you to enjoy all on your own. Crafts, hikes, scavenger hunts, and so much more!

**Q: What are SWAPS and when do we use them at camp?**

**A:** SWAPS stand for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere." We will exchange them Saturday evening. Most people come to camp having pre-made SWAPS ready to share with their new (and old) camp friends.

**Q: What if I, or my camper, has a dietary restriction or allergy?**

**A:** Please let us know asap about that allergy or dietary restriction so that we can do what we can to prepare for your needs. Feel free to bring some of your own food as well if it would make you feel better. Please also let us know the severity (contact, airborne, ingestion) and any other important specifics for us to consider. Make sure to email Kara Kastenholtz with the program, dates, and name of person(s) with dietary restrictions or allergies at [kkastenholtz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholtz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Q: Where do I park?**

**A:** When you enter camp property you will approach a stop sign. There should be someone there to sign you in. Once signed in you will proceed to the left to the grassy parking area. Feel free to park around the perimeter of the parking space. Your car will remain there during the duration of your camp stay. At this point you can start to unload your luggage and place it on the trailer which will transport it to your lodging location. This trailer will also be placed near your lodging location Sunday morning for you to load up again. During breakfast the trailer will be moved back to the parking lot so that you can receive your luggage before heading for home.

**Q: What are the bathroom options?**

**A:** Flush toilets are available for all at Lenona and the Pool House. Platform tent units (Trailblazer and Cloverleaf) contain latrines. The Prairie Cabins and Bonnie Brae have porta potties available. Idle A While contains indoor restrooms. Showers are located at Lenona and the Pool House.

**Q: Can I request a specific type of lodging?**

**A:** Yes. You can sign up for lodges, Prairie Cabins, or platform tents when you register. If you would like to request an even more specific lodging location please include it in the special considerations section of your registration. We will do our best to accommodate the requests of all who make them. However, please consider that it may not be possible to meet all requests made.

**Q: What is the bedding like at each location?**

**A:** Platform tents and Prairie Cabins contain cots and mattresses. Bonnie Brae contains cots and bunk beds with mattresses. Idle A While contains bunk beds with mattresses. Bedding is not included at any location. Lenona contains mattresses to be used for floor sleeping.

**Q: What are Hosts and what do they do?**

**A:** At Camp River Trails we use Hosts to help take some responsibility for small groups of campers during You and Me, and sometimes Family Camp. Hosts will be a guide for an assigned unit (for example, Cloverleaf tent unit). They should be someone who knows camp well enough to feel comfortable answering simple questions, leading small group activities, and making a campfire. Preferably Hosts have completed all Outdoor

Modules. Hosts may also be asked to help out with some tasks around camp to help keep the program running smoothly. May receive a discount for the program they host for. Hosts will be debriefed on the Friday of their program at 4:30 p.m. and will be provided with appropriate materials. If you are willing to be a Host or have further questions please contact Kara Kastenholz at [kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or Peggy Brothers at [pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:pbrothers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Q: Is a swim check required for pool time at Camp River Trails?**

**A:** Yes. A swim check is required for all campers (adults and kids) who wish to enter the deep end of the pool. To complete the swim check you must be able to swim the length of the pool without touching the ground using either the front crawl or the breast stroke. Lifeguard(s) have the right to ask swimmers to tread water in the deep end for an additional 2 minutes if they deem it necessary. Lifeguards also have final say on whether or not they feel a participant's swimming ability is strong enough for entering the deep end of the pool they are guarding. Participants may retake the swim check if they wish.

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp River Trails?**

**A:** Kara "Caribou" Kastenholz. Email her at [kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Butternut Springs Specific:**

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp Butternut Springs?**

**A:** Sam "Freddie" Luchek. Email her at [sluchek@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:sluchek@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Juniper Knoll Specific:**

**Q: What is a yurt?**

**A:** A yurt is a cross between a cabin/tabin and a platform tent. It has a wooden floor, a door, and a wooden frame with canvas walls and ceiling. Each yurt sleeps 8 people on bunk beds. During resident camp, all Brownie programs will sleep in yurts.

**Q: What is a platform tent?**

**A:** A platform tent is a canvas tent, about 8-10 feet tall at its highest, that stands on a wooden platform. Each tent sleeps 4 people on cots. During resident camp, bugs nets are provided for campers.

**Q: What are my bathroom options?**

**A:** Each camper unit has its own bathroom with sinks and flush toilets. Campers also have access to flush toilets in the dining hall and porta-potties in the meadow and at the waterfront and archery field.

**Q: Is there a pool?**

**A:** Juniper Knoll is located on a public lake and there is a designated swimming area there for the camp. A majority of the other properties are residential and it is a designated "No Wake" lake.

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp Juniper Knoll?**

**A:** Margaret "Strike" Gawlik. Email her at [mgawlik@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:mgawlik@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

### **Pokanoka Specific:**

**Q: What are the clay pits?**

**A:** The clay pits are an area that is a nice hike from the main portion of camp. There are leftover deposits of clay from when there used to be mining on the property before it was a camp. Campers can choose whether or not they would like to play in the clay pits.

**Q: What is the adventure course?**

**A:** The adventure course is a small set of team building obstacles. This includes: a block to see how many campers/volunteers are able to stay on; a tire set where the goal is to get from one side to the other; a rope swing; and a large, low to the ground, balance beam.

**Q: What are my bathroom options?**

**A:** Camp Pokanoka has three options for bathrooms. The term "latrines" is used for both our pit toilets as well as Port-a-Potties. Port-a-Potties are available at: Oriel, the tabin sites Chicakdee, Flicker, the tent site Blue Jay, as well as various other locations. Pit toilets are available at Hickory Lodge/Tabin Site and Whippoorwill Lodge/Tent Site. The last option for bathrooms is a flushing toilet (also called "flushies") is only located in the shower house.

**Q: What is a "tabin"?**

Tabins are what we consider a cross between a tent and a cabin, thus the name "tabin". These are an outdoor living option that have screened in doors and windows. The windows have flaps to be able to put down in case of rain to keep our campers and their belongings dry. In the tabin there are bunk beds with enough to sleep four campers.

**Q: What is a "platform tent"?**

These are canvas tents that are on a raised deck. The canvas can be down or fastened up to be able to allow more of a breeze inside the tent. Campers will be able to sleep in cots that, during resident camp, we will supply bug netting and poles to be able to keep campers bug free during the night.

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp Pokanoka?**

**A:** Vanessa "Venus" Matravers. Email her at [vmatravers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:vmatravers@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

### **Greene Wood Specific:**

**Q: What transportation options are available?**

**A:** Campers can either use their own transportation, be picked up and dropped off by bus transportation, or ride the Metra train. You must sign up for bus and train transportation separately. Please reference page 18 of the camp brochure. Train routes are highlighted in blue. Follow the BNSF train schedule M-F #1225 departing Chicago Union Station at 7:45 a.m. and #1270 departing Aurora at 3:20 p.m. Campers riding the Metra train will be accompanied by an approved adult. They will ride the train to the Lisle train station and be bussed the rest of the way to camp. The reverse will happen in the afternoon. Bus and train transportation is not available for those participating in the Before-and-After Camp program.

**Q: What gate do I enter when dropping off and picking up my camper(s) for summer camp?**

**A:** Enter at gate 2. If you arrive early we recommend parking at the park across the street while you wait.

**Q: What are the bathroom options?**

**A:** Mon Daw Min, Qui Quito, and Odakota have indoor flush toilets. The rest of the camp contains latrines and porta potties.

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp Greene Wood?**

**A:** Kelly "Aqua" Nelson. Email her at [knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:knelson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**Q: Is there anything different about Camp Greene Wood's Before-and-After Camp program?**

**A:** Yes. Campers will get the opportunity to attend Journey World one day.

**Palos Specific:**

**Q: What transportation options are available?**

**A:** Campers can either use their own transportation or be picked up and dropped off by bus transportation. You must sign up for this separately. Please reference page 27 of the camp brochure. Bus transportation is not available for those participating in the Before-and-After Camp program.

**Q: Who is the camp director of Camp Palos?**

**A:** Kary "Kanga" Roorda. Email her at [kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).