

# Vernon Hills Day Camp

## Informational Packet 2020

### S'more than a Moment



## Welcome!



We are so excited to have your camper join us for a fun-filled week of day camp. To ensure that your camper has a fun and safe experience with us, please read all of the important information outlined in this packet.

This packet includes the following:

- ✓ Camp address, directions, & contact information
- ✓ Packing list
- ✓ Daily reminders
- ✓ FAQs
- ✓ Transportation information
- ✓ Arrival/departure specifics
- ✓ Overnight information for Juniors+.
- ✓ Camp map
- ✓ Retail shop/trading post information



## What is Day Camp All About?



Day camp is an incredible experience and is unique to every girl who tries it. Day camp is a week-long program with an optional Thursday overnight opportunity for Juniors and up. Camp is a place where girls can be themselves, try new things, and make new friends. At Girl Scout day camp, we encourage girls to step out of their comfort zone, build their self-confidence, share their ideas, and explore the natural world. Just as we state in our mission, we care about building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who will make the world a better place. Day camp is just one stepping stone on your camper's road to success. Your camper will return from camp with a smile on her face, memories to cherish, and skills she will use for the rest of her life. We are so glad that she will be joining us for a fun-filled week of day camp this summer!

## Questions?



If you still have questions after reading this packet please email us at [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or call 855-ILOVEGS (456-8347)



## Camp Address

Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
650 N Lakeview Parkway  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

For more information about arrivals and departures please see pages 6, 7, and 8.

## Contact Information

If you have questions during the summer camp season feel free to contact us.

**Customer Care Phone:** 1 (855) 456-8347

**Email:** [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

\*Note: Be on the lookout for more camp and contact information in your email inbox (or possibly junk folder) closer to your camp session.

## Directions to Vernon Hills (From Chicago)

Take I-294 N. Take exit 19 for IL-60/Townline Road. Make a left onto IL-60 W/E Townline Road. Make a left on N Fairway Drive and another left onto Lakeview Parkway. Make a right into the Vernon Hills Gathering Place.

## Vernon Hills Additional Information

We will not be holding an open house for the Vernon Hills Day Camp.

If you would like to see the location, feel free to stop by our Vernon Hills Gathering Place and talk to the Customer Care Specialist at the front desk.

Get all of your questions answered by emailing [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or [kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

## Social Media

Want more information about camp? Visit our website or find us on social media!

**Website:** <https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/camp>










**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GirlScoutsGCNWI/>

**Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com/gsgcnwi/camp>

**Instagram:** [@girlscoutsgcnwi](https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutsgcnwi)

## Items to Bring to Camp EVERY DAY

**Though girls are only coming to camp for the day, it is important that they come prepared. Below is a list of items that campers should bring with them every day they come to camp.**

-  **Sack Lunch** – Refrigeration is not provided; icepacks are recommended.
-  **Backpack** – To carry all of her belongings. Be sure to check your camper's backpack each day when she gets home for any important handouts.
-  **Reusable Water Bottle** – The water at the Vernon Hills Gathering Place is plentiful and safe to drink. Be sure to bring a filled water bottle so that your camper(s) can stay hydrated throughout the day.
- ★ **Tips for Success:** If you fill a water bottle halfway full, freeze it overnight, and fill the remaining space with fresh water in the morning the water should stay cold for the majority of the day.
-  **Sit-Up-on** – This cushion is a Girl Scout tradition which will keep your camper relatively clean and dry whenever she sits on the ground. (Google “Girl Scout Sit-Up-on” or reference our Pinterest page for instructions on how to make your own.)
-  **Insect Repellent/Sunscreen** – It is recommended that you apply this before your camper leaves home in the morning and encourage her to reapply it throughout the day. (Counselors will remind campers frequently to reapply these as well.) A concentration of less than 20% DEET is recommended for campers. Non-aerosol containers or disposable wipes are preferred.
-  **Bandana or Hat** – Pack one, or both of these, to help protect your camper from the sun.
-  **Hair Tie, “Scrunchie,” etc.** – To hold hair back safely when cooking around a fire and to keep hair off of the neck and out of the way on hot days.
-  **Apparel** – Comfortable, everyday “play” clothes should be worn for daily camp activities. Socks and sturdy shoes should be worn at all times. It is a good idea to pack an extra shirt for days where we may play water games. A sweatshirt is always a good idea to have in preparation for any cool changes in weather. Please – NO tank tops, sandals, flip-flops, or other open-toed shoes; they are not safe in the camp environment. Crocs with adventure straps, water shoes, or other close-toed aquatic footwear are acceptable for water activities during the camp day.
-  **Rain Gear** – Raincoat or poncho. Umbrellas are not allowed at camp; they pose a safety hazard.

### ! Important Note:

Please make sure to label everything with the camper's first and last name.

### ! Important Note:

Campers are **NOT** allowed to share:

- Bug spray
- Sun screen
- Food
- Hats/Bandanas

\*\*\*For information about what to bring for Thursday night camp sleepovers reference the “Overnight Packing List” section of this packet on page 9.



## Monday – First Day of Camp!

- ▲ This is the first day of camp and we are SO excited that your camper will be joining us!
- ▲ **Make sure your camper has her online forms filled out by May 1. You can find the link to these forms in your email from Camp Doc once you register for a camp program. If you do not see them in your email check back weekly as emails with links are not sent out on a daily basis.**
- ▲ If your camper has any medications, please **send them in their original, labeled container(s) with her name printed clearly on the outside.**
  - After May 1, if any health information has changed please send updates with your camper on her first day of camp and email [kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).
- ▲ Before you drop her off, make sure that your camper knows which program she registered for.
- ▲ Make sure to be checking your email (and junk folders) for any additional important information before coming to camp.
- ▲ Please have your camper bring a white, or other light colored, t-shirt (or other garment) to prepare for tie-dyeing on Tuesday.
  - 100% cotton items absorb the dye best.
  - Wash new items before dyeing.
  - Bring a plastic bag clearly labeled with the camper's name so that she can easily transport her wet creation home.
- ▲ Sack lunch.
- ▲ Check her bag and/or your email for any notes or other important information! Be on the lookout for trading post information. Reference page 11 of this packet as well.
- ▲ Finally, last but not least, make sure she doesn't forget to pack a positive attitude! ☺

## Tuesday – Tie Dye Tuesday!

- ▲ Make sure she has her white or light colored item and a plastic bag. (See above for more details)
- ▲ Sack lunch
- ▲ Check her bag and/or your email for any notes or other important information.
- ▲ Instructions for tie dye items:
  - Leave the rubber bands on the t-shirt for 24 hours. (You may want to take the item out of the bag during this time.)
  - After 24 hours, squeeze the item under cold water until the water runs clear.
  - Remove the rubber bands.
  - Wash and dry the item by itself in cold water. You may have to do this several times before the dye is set otherwise it may stain other clothes.
  - \*\*\*If you forget to check your camper's item on Tuesday night don't fret. Any night following Tuesday you can simply start with the second step.

## Wednesday – Wacky Wednesday!

- ▲ Girls and staff dress wacky for the day! Choose to dress in mixed-up/clashing clothing, or create outrageous hair styles to look as wacky as possible. Keep in mind that safety in the outdoors and good taste still apply.
- ▲ Helpful tips for cookout day! (for Daisies and Brownies)
  - **Junior and Cadette units will need to bring a sack lunch this day.**
  - Girls will get the opportunity to plan their menu and work collaboratively to cook their lunch.
  - Mess kits and dunk bags are available for purchase at the Girl Scout Shop prior to camp.

<u>Do</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Help us out by letting us know of any allergies, dietary restrictions, religious restrictions, and picky eaters before coming to camp.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send extra food. We can accommodate allergies, dietary restrictions, religious restrictions, and picky eaters.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send a mess kit – any plastic/metal plate, bowl, cup, and silverware.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send paper plates or other disposables.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send a dunk bag – a “drip-dry” type bag (i.e. mesh laundry bag with a drawstring).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send a plastic bag.

- ▲ Check her bag and/or your email for any notes or other important information.

## Thursday – Theme Thursday!

- ▲ A specific theme will be voted on by girls early on in the week. Be on the lookout for information about what the theme for your camp week is by checking your email and/or your camper's backpack.
- ▲ Sack lunch
- ▲ Optional overnight for Juniors and up! Refer to the “Overnight Packing List” section on page 9.
- ▲ Overnights will be cooking their dinner Thursday evening. Reference the above “Helpful Tips for Cookout Day!” bullet points under “Wednesday.”

## Friday – Camp Shirt Day!

- ▲ Sack lunch (for non-overnights).
- ▲ Don't forget to wear this year's day camp t-shirt! (Campers will receive this during their week at camp.)
- ▲ Overnights will prepare their breakfast and lunch.

Details listed here are subject to change based on the camp program, weather issues, or other outside factors. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or want more details on the program your camper has signed up for, please feel free to email

[customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).



## Additional Important Information

### **Absences**

Please be sure to call to inform us of your camper's absence at 1 (855) 456-8347 or email us at [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org). Make sure to leave a message telling us your camper's full name and unit.

### **Severe Weather**

Day camp staff monitors the weather. If severe weather develops during the camp day or evening, appropriate measures will be taken. Indoor shelter is available for all campers and staff. Our first priority is the safety of all of our campers, so please be advised that staff will not be available to answer phone calls during this time. Phone lines need to remain open. Please do not come to camp to pick up your camper, campers will not be released until there is an official "all clear."

### **Lost and Found**

Lost and left-behind items are collected each day and staff will do their best to reunite owners with their belongings daily. However, please understand that this is not always possible. Unclaimed items will be housed at the Vernon Hills Gathering Place at the end of the season, please contact us to arrange transport of your items to your closest Gathering Place. Items are kept until October 1 and will be donated after that time.

### **Cell Phones**

We do not allow cell phones at camp. We want the campers to truly engage in their camp experience and enjoy their time outdoors with their new camp friends! If a camper has a cell phone at camp, they will be reminded to keep it off and in their backpack. However, if it becomes an issue it will be collected and locked in the administration building and returned to the camper's guardian at the end of the session. Additionally, do not send cell phones with your camper for the overnight. Our camp staff are highly trained to meet the needs of your camper. You will be contacted by the camp director if there are any concerns.

### **Financial Aid**

Financial aid is available, but you must first register your camper for camp. After this point, you are more than welcome to apply for financial aid. Reference the "Forms" tab under the "Parents and Caregivers" drop down on our website.

### **Photos and Video**

When filling out your camper paperwork you have given the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana permission to take photos and/or videos of your camper(s) while they are at camp. If you would not like to allow GSGCNWI to take and use photos and videos of your camper(s) please send an email indicating this at least 1 week out from your camp program to [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or send a written note on the first day of camp.

### **Kapers**

Each staff member will model and teach campers the proper way to care for their environment and their camp surroundings through tasks called Kapers. Kapers at camp are done as a group and composed of unit and all-camp tasks. Unit Kapers include tidying up common areas, cleaning bathrooms, gathering firewood, picking up litter, cooking at cook-outs, and fire building. Kapers are a Girl Scout tradition that helps build responsibility and teamwork skills. During Kapers, the staff assists girls in clean-up, ensuring that health and safety procedures are of the utmost importance when completing tasks.

### **Late Arrivals/Early Departures**

Camp check in will stop at approximately 9:20 am, and remain that way until campers leave in the afternoon. Staff will begin preparation for dismissal around 2:45 pm. Every effort is made to ensure campers leave as quickly and efficiently as possible. In order to maintain the safe and positive day camp experience we ask that every effort be made to schedule non-camp activities during non-camp hours. If there is an essential activity that is unavoidable and will require a late arrival or early departure, you must notify the director, **in writing**, on **Monday** of the camp week. We can accommodate these as long as we are aware of them. Please talk to the front desk Customer Care Specialist when picking up early or dropping off late.





## Car Drivers

### **Arrival:**

- Enter the Vernon Hills Gathering Place parking lot and park.
- Check-in will not start until 8:45 am. Staff are not available to chaperone campers until that time.
- If you arrive before 8:45 am, please do not idle outside on the street. You are welcome to wait in your car in the parking lot until check-in time.
- Please drive carefully and attentively as campers, staff, volunteers, and other Girl Scouts may be walking through the area. The health and safety of every camper is important to us. Please drive 5 mph for the safety of all.
- When checking-in, please park in the parking lot and enter the building.
- Follow signs to find your camper(s) unit for check in. Staff will be available to assist you if you need help or have questions.
- After checking your camper(s) in, please proceed carefully out of the parking lot the same way you entered.
- We thank you for your patience.

### **Departure:**

- This process may take a little longer on the first day. Every effort is made to ensure campers leave as quickly and efficiently as possible. We thank you for your patience.
- Check-out will not start until 3:00 pm.
- If you arrive before 3:00 pm, please follow the same guidelines that are outlined under “Arrival.”
- When checking-out, please park in the parking lot and enter the building.
- Follow signs to find your camper(s) unit. A staff member will be able to assist you with the check-out process. You will be asked which camper(s) you are here to pick up. You will also be asked to provide a photo ID. **No camper will be released if a photo ID is not presented.**
- We will be utilizing the “Transportation Release Form” that you filled out when completing your camper paperwork on Camp Doc and you will be asked for your signature. Make sure to include anyone that will be allowed to pick up your camper from camp on this document. **Campers will not be released to anyone not listed on their “Transportation Release Form.”**



### **Late Arrival, Early Dismissal, and Dropping Off Items**

- Please let the Vernon Hills Director know as soon as possible if you need to drop your camper off late or pick them up early by emailing [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or calling the camp phone. Be on the lookout in your email inbox (or junk mail) for more information on camp contact information.
- Please send your camper with a written note the day of if your camper needs to leave camp early in addition to contacting the director.
- Please let us know the date and time of the early dismissal or late arrival along with the camper's name and unit.
- If you need to drop something off for your camper please bring it to the front desk of the Vernon Hills Gathering Place. Make sure all items are labeled with the camper's first and last name, along with their unit.

**IMPORTANT**

The safety of our campers, staff, and volunteers is our number one priority. Please make sure you are being vigilant, following road signs, and adhering to the 5 mph speed limit whenever you are driving around camp.



## Overnight Packing List

Overnights are always a great experience for our campers! It is a great way to get a taste of what resident camp is like while still having all the perks of a day camp experience. Since the Thursday overnight is different than typical day-to-day programming, we have listed items below that will help prepare your camper for her overnight experience.

Campers may sleep in tents or on mats on the floor in a building.

- ☐ **Sleeping Bag and Pillow** – please note that sleeping bags may not be warm enough on a cold night. We recommend bringing an extra blanket to stay warm.
- ☐ **Flashlight with New Batteries** – campers will be walking around camp at night. A handheld flashlight or headlamp will help her get around safely in the dark.
- ☐ **Mess Kit\*** – any plastic/metal plate, bowl, cup, and silverware. Please don't send anything disposable.
- ☐ **Dunk Bag\*** – a mesh bag that allows for dishes to dry in once washed. A lingerie washing bag works well.
- ☐ **Sweatshirt or Light Jacket** – warm clothes are recommended for wearing around the campfire and at night.
- ☐ **Pajamas or Sleepwear** – pajamas or a t-shirt and shorts or pants work well. Plan for cool night temperatures just in case. Having sleepwear that can be adjusted for cool or hot nights is recommended.
- ☐ **Small Stuffed Animal** – sometimes stuffed animals make the overnight experience easier. Please refrain from sending numerous, large, or any favorite stuffed animals to camp.
- ☐ **Clothes for the Next Day** – include socks and underwear. Don't forget to pack this year's camp shirt to wear on Friday!
- ☐ **Extra Shoes and Raincoat** – be prepared for the weather and outdoor camp conditions.
- ☐ **Medications** – any medications that your camper may need for the overnight in the original labeled container and marked with the camper's name. Medications must be turned in to the unit leader upon arrival at camp for the overnight.
- ☐ **Backpack or Duffel Bag** – to carry all overnight items. Use a separate bag to pack day items. Please don't use large trash bags as they tend to tear and result in dirty and wet belongings.
- ☐ **Day Camp Supplies** – sit upon, bug spray, sunscreen, water bottle, hat or bandana, etc. (see "Items to Bring to Camp EVERY DAY" section on page 3 for more details.)

**\*Mess kits and dunk bags are available for purchase in the Girl Scout Shops prior to camp. See page 11.**



## **Why Does My Camper Have to be a Registered Girl Scout/ What is Girl Scout Insurance?**

Though campers do not have to actively participate in Girl Scouting year-round. Every camper attending a Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana camp must be, or become, a registered Girl Scout.

Every registered Girl Scout and registered adult member in the Girl Scout movement is automatically covered under the basic insurance plan upon registration. The entire premium cost for this protection is borne by Girl Scouts of the USA. The basic plan is effective during the regular fiscal year (October to the following October). Up to 14 months of insurance coverage is provided for new members who register in the month of August.

This insurance provides up to a specified maximum for medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident while a member is participating in an approved, supervised Girl Scout activity, after the individual's primary insurance pays out. This is one reason that all adults and girls should be registered members. Non-registered parents, tagalongs (brothers, sisters, friends), and other persons are not covered by basic coverage.

This insurance coverage is not intended to diminish the need for, or replace, family health insurance. When \$130 in benefits has been paid for covered accident, medical, or dental expense, any subsequent benefits will be payable only for expenses incurred that aren't compensable under another insurance policy. If there is no family insurance or healthcare program, a specified maximum of medical benefits is available.

**We can't wait to see you at camp! If you have any questions make sure you email [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or your camp director at [kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).**

# DAY CAMP TRADING POST

**Find time to stop by the Trading Post  
when you are at camp!**

From patches to activity books to t-shirts and more.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Camp Temporary Tattoos	\$0.50	Girl Scout Mystery Books	\$7.99
Fun Patches - Assorted	\$1.00	Camp Purse	\$8.00
Glow in the Dark Camp Patch	\$1.50	Mess Kit	\$8.00
Camp Playing Cards	\$3.00	Camp Stuffed Animal with Bandana	\$10.00
Camp Bandana	\$4.00	Camp T-Shirt - Youth	\$14.00
Camp Flashlight	\$5.00	Camp Sweatpant	\$15.00
Camp Hand Fan	\$5.00	Camp T-Shirt - Adult	\$16.00
Camp Waterbottle	\$5.00	Camp Blanket	\$20.00
Jewelry - Assorted	\$5 - \$10	Camp Pullover Sweatshirt	\$25.00
Charms - Assorted Styles	\$6.00	Camp Sweatshirt - Youth	\$28.00
Camp Sunglasses	\$6.00	Camp Sweatshirt - Adult	\$30.00
Camp Pedometer	\$6.00		

**Pre-order giftcards online at [www.shopgirlscouts.com](http://www.shopgirlscouts.com)**



Merchandise subject to availability at each camp.

***Toiletries such as sunscreen, shampoo, body wash and more also available.***

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana  
1 (855) 456-8347; [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/camp](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/camp)