# Summer Camp Information Packet Camp Palos



Camp Director

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girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

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# Getting to and from Camp Palos

Camp Address 11736 Will-Cook Road, Palos Park, IL 60464

Camp Phone Number Summer Camp Phone: (815) 545-7818

The summer camp phone number will be answered starting June 1 through July 29. If you have questions before or after that time, please contact the camp director or our Customer Care team.

- Customer Care Phone: (855) 456-8347
- Customer Care Email: <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a>

### Car Riders General Instructions

If you arrive before the gate opens, cars can wait on the shoulder of Will Cook Road facing south. If you are coming from the south heading north, you can come down Wolf Road which curves and becomes Will Cook Road. For safety reasons, we will not allow any cars to make a left turn into camp during the check-in or check-out process. This is why we ask that you are facing south in the carl line.

Please be respectful of those that live in the area while waiting for camper pick-up or drop-off (i.e., not blocking driveways or other exits). Please do not turn around in any of our neighbor's driveways.

Cars should wait to enter the camp property until instructed to do so. Cars should not idle or park on the camp road by the gate. Parking on camp is reserved for camp staff and volunteers unless otherwise noted.

### Car Riders: Check-In

**Check-in starts at 9 a.m.** Cars arriving before 9 a.m. must wait on the shoulder of Will Cook Road, facing south, until the gate is opened.

Before arriving, everyone must complete a COVID-19 self-assessment. If your camper(s) are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home.

Enter camp through the main gate marked with a "Camp Palos" sign out front and follow the road in a counterclockwise route, or staying to the right, as directed. Please leave room on the camp entrance road for cars to pass as they enter/exit the camp.

During check-in, all non-campers, including parents/guardians, should remain in the car. Camp staff will come to your car to check-in your camper and get them to their unit safely.

Car Riders: Check-In (cont.)

Once your camper has been dropped off, please continue driving on the same road to exit camp as directed.

Please note the speed limit at camp is 5 mph. Drive carefully and attentively as campers, staff, and volunteers may be walking through camp.

Car Riders: Check-Out

This process may take 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 starts at 3 p.m.** Cars arriving before 3 p.m. must wait on the shoulder of Will Cook Road until instructed to enter camp by a staff member.

When the gate is opened, buses will be allowed in before cars. Once busses have entered, cars will be allowed to line up behind the buses and wait on the shoulder, facing south, until signaled otherwise. Once buses have departed, cars will be directed to the pick-up area.

To keep campers safe, every day we require photo ID from an adult on your camper's Transportation Release form at check-out. A staff member will come to your car, ask who you are picking up, and check your ID as part of the check-out process.

We will have lists printed from your paperwork, so please make sure your paperwork is complete and includes all approved adults. Once confirmed, you will be directed to the spot where you camper is waiting.

Bus Rider Drop-off & Pick-up

Approximate bus times will be emailed to you one week before your camp program. If there are any changes to your bus stop location or cancellations, you will also be notified at this time.

Plan to be at your designated bus stop at least 10 minutes early when you drop-off and pick-up your camper. Bus drivers are instructed to leave a stop no earlier or later than the time listed on the confirmation.

Bus pick-up and drop-off times are estimated times of arrival and departure. Construction, traffic, weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances may affect the schedule. If the bus is more than 15 minutes late, please have one parent/guardian call camp at (815) 545-7818. Every attempt is made to stay on schedule, and we appreciate your understanding.

# Bus Rider Drop-off & Pick-up (cont.)

Please, review basic bus rules with your camper:

- Always remain seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times.
- Use a quiet, respectful, voice when riding the bus.
- Listen closely and follow any instructions from the bus driver or chaperones.

**Drop off:** Before arriving at your bus stop, everyone must complete a COVID-19 self-assessment. If your camper(s), are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay home.

Be sure to verify that the bus is going to Girl Scout Camp Palos, and please remain with your camper until they board the bus.

If you miss the bus: you may drive your camper to camp and go through car check-in.

**Pick up:** Be sure to meet your camper when they arrive in the afternoon. The bus will NOT be able to wait for parents/caregivers to arrive after the drop-off time listed. Please be at your appropriate pick-up location at least 10 minutes prior to the arrival time listed.

No bus leaves camp at the end of the day until all campers are present and accounted for.

**Extended day: All campers must be picked up from camp by car.** Check-out begins at 8 p.m. Cars will follow the same pick-up process in the evening as they do other days of the week.

### Before-Camp & After-Camp Care

Pick-up and drop-off for the Before-Camp and After-Camp Program will take place at Troop House.

**Drop-off is between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.** If you arrive at or after 8:30 a.m., please drop-off in the regular line.

**Pick-up is between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.** If you arrive before 3:30 p.m., please pick-up in the regular line.

Park outside of Troop House and wait for someone to come out and assist you with the check-in or check-out process. After a few minutes if no one has come out please call the camp number at (815) 545-7818. Please stay in your car unless you are instructed otherwise.

# Before-Camp & After-Camp Care (cont.)

To keep campers safe, we require photo ID from an adult on your camper's Transportation Release form every day at check-out. A staff member will come to your car, ask who you are picking up, and check your ID as part of the check-out process.

Camp will provide a morning and late afternoon snack as part of this program.

### Modifying Before & After Camp Care or Bus Transportation

If you wish to add, withdraw from, or modify your enrollments for bus transportation or before- & after-camp care, please contact <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a>.

Modifications and additions must be finalized two weeks prior to your camper's program. If you need to modify less than two weeks prior, contact the camp director.

# Late Drop-off & Early Pick-up

Please avoid late drop-off and early pick-up. We ask that you drop-off and pick-up within your assigned window of time to prevent disruption of camp.

Please let camp know as soon as possible of any late arrivals or early dismissals by emailing <a href="mailto:kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a> or calling the camp phone at (815) 545-7818. Please include the camper's name, program name, and date and time of the late drop-off or early pick-up.

We cannot accommodate early dismissals after 2 p.m. due to the dismissal process. If your camper needs to leave early, please plan on picking up prior to 2 p.m.

Do not walk around camp if your camper needs to be dropped off late or picked up early. Please drive around camp and park in front of Troop House and a staff member will come out to assist you.

#### Absences

Please be sure to call to inform us of your camper's absence at (815) 545-7818. If you need to leave a message, please include the date, your camper's full name, and program name.

## **Program & Activity Information**

#### Cook Outs

Most campers will cook out once per week as part of their program. Daisies and Brownies will cook out for Wednesday lunch, Juniors and Cadettes will cook out Thursday dinner as part of the extended day program. Some campers may cook out more than once as part of their program for the week.

Menus are planned by the campers during the week and prepared collaboratively with staff supervision and assistance.

Please let us know of any allergies, dietary restrictions, and religious restrictions before coming to camp. We can accommodate dietary needs and restrictions. You can note this as part of the camper's health paperwork in CampDoc. You may ask questions and confirm information with the camp director prior to camp at <a href="mailto:kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a>

Campers should bring a mess kit on their cook out day, and do not need to bring a sack lunch or extra food.

#### Kapers

Kapers are a Girl Scout tradition that helps build responsibility and teamwork skills, while caring for their environment and camp.

Kapers at camp are done as a group and composed of unit and all-camp tasks. Unit kapers include tidying up common areas, gathering firewood, picking up litter, cooking at cookouts, and fire building.

During kapers, the staff assist campers in clean-up, ensuring that health and safety procedures are being followed.

#### **Trading Post**

Campers will have the opportunity to visit our summer camp trading post. Your camper will have an assigned time to visit the trading post, which will be shared with you before or during your week at camp.

Please send money if your camper will be shopping. Most campers bring \$10-40 for trading post items.

### Extended Day Program

Juniors, Cadettes, and high school campers can participate in an extended day program on Thursday. This program includes a dinner cookout, campfire program with songs, and additional unique activities.

The extended day program ends at 8 p.m.

**All campers must be picked up from camp by car.** Bus transportation is not an option for the extended day. Check-out begins at 8 p.m. Cars will follow the same pick-up process in the evening as they do other days of the week.

## Off-Site Trips

Programs marked with a map icon in the Summer Camp Guide will travel off-site as part of their program.

These campers will receive details about their trip prior to their camp program. This will include additional items campers need to bring and an outline of trips scheduled for the program. Any changes to trip plans will be sent no later than one week prior to the program start date.

# Health & Safety

#### Weather

Programs are held rain or shine! If the weather is unusually hot or cold, activities are adapted to keep campers safe. Help your camper have a successful time at camp by checking and preparing for the weather prior to arrival.

Weather alerts are monitored and there are designated indoor storm shelters for each camp in cases of severe weather. If severe weather develops during the camp day, campers will be moved to shelter until the weather situation passes.

During a severe weather situation, camp staff will not be available to answer phone calls. Phone lines need to remain open in case emergency services need to be contacted. Campers will be released to families only when there is an official "all clear".

#### Sick Policy

It's important to us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our campers and staff. If your child is sick and/or could possibly be contagious, please do not send them to camp, and email or call your Camp Director to note your camper's absence.

If a camper becomes sick while at camp, we will call the parent/guardian to come pick them up. If your camper has any signs of illness, they will be sent home.

# Camper Paperwork & CampDoc

Within 14 days of registering for camp, you will receive an email from campdoc.com with a link to your camper's electronic paperwork.

Additional forms are required from each camper prior to attendance at camp. These forms request a health profile, personal information, and permissions/releases needed to ensure a safe experience for all campers.

# COVID-19 & Summer Camp

GSGCNWI Summer Camps will follow current recommendations from the CDC regarding COVID-19 prevention. These recommendations may change based on a variety of factors, including CDC updates to guidance, COVID-19 community level, and other changes that we cannot predict. For current recommendations, please visit the CDC's COVID-19 website.

#### Masking

 Masking may be required indoors during GSGCNWI summer camp programs if it is recommended by the CDC based on community transmission rates.

### COVID-19 & Summer Camp (cont.)

- Masking requirements will be communicated by email to caregivers. While camps will do their best to communicate masking requirements prior to the start of the camp session, there may be times masking requirements change midsession.
- o Campers can always choose to wear a mask. If a family wishes to discuss further, please contact the camp director for the camper's session.
- Masks will always be available at camps for camper and staff/volunteer use.

#### • Vaccination

- Campers are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- All adult camp staff and volunteers must be up-to-date on their vaccinations for COVID-19.

#### • Isolation & Quarantine

- o GSGCNWI will follow CDC guidance about isolation and quarantine in situations where a camper, staff member, or volunteer has been <u>positively diagnosed with COVID-19</u> or has been exposed to COVID-19.
- o If the CDC recommends that a camper, staff member, or volunteer should be in isolation/quarantine, then they will not be permitted at summer camp programs for the duration of that period.

#### Communications

- o If your camper tests positive for COVID-19 after attending a summer camp program, please let the camp director know.
- o If there is a positive case of COVID-19 at camp and your camper is suspected to have been in close contact, the family will receive an update by email regarding the suspected exposure.

### General Information

# Communication from Camp

Emails with important camp information will come from:

- Girl Scouts GCNWI Registrations & Reservations, girlscoutsgcnwi@active.com
- CampDoc, @campdoc.com
- Your camp director Kary "Kanga" Roorda, kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Make sure to check your email (including junk/spam folders) for any additional important information before coming to camp!

If you are looking for information, please email <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a> for assistance.

Your camper may bring home notes, forms, and projects in their backpack each day during their program. Please check daily!

#### Contact Information

#### **Ouestions? Contact:**

- Camp Director Kary "Kanga" Roorda, kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org, or
- Customer Support, <u>customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</u> or (855) 456-8347

The summer camp phone number will be answered starting June 1 through August 6. If you have questions before or after that time, please contact the camp director or our Customer Care team.

#### **Buddy Requests**

Campers can attend camp with a buddy. During registration families will have the opportunity to add a buddy request.

Campers may request one buddy. Buddies must request each other and be in the same program, for the same dates, at the same camp location. Groups, troops, and multiple buddy requests are not guaranteed for summer camp programs.

#### Girl Scout Membership

Girl Scout membership is required to participate in camp. If your camper is not currently registered, a \$25 membership fee can be added when registering for camp. This fee includes basic accident insurance coverage for all registered Girl Scouts as a supplement to existing insurance coverage. For more information about becoming a Girl Scout visit <a href="https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/join">www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/join</a>

#### Behavior Issues

All campers and their caregivers are asked to review and commit to a behavior and expectations agreement. If a camper is struggling, camp staff will work with the camper and the family to try to help the camper succeed in the camp setting.

If a camper poses a safety risk to themselves or other campers on site, the caregiver will be called and asked to pick up their camper. There will be no refund for early dismissal.

#### Photos & 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. These photos or videos may be used for future promotional materials.

If you do not authorize Girl Scouts GCNWI to take and use photos and videos of your camper(s), please send an email indicating this at least one week out from your camp program to <a href="kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">kroorda@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a> or send a written note on the first day of camp.

### Camp Staff

Our summer staff are composed of carefully selected and screened adults, who display a commitment to working with children and a love for the outdoors. Background checks and reference checks are completed for all staff members. All staff members complete pre-camp training that includes First Aid, CPR, child development, Girl Scout programming, and much more.

Each camp staff member chooses a "camp name." These are nicknames that allow staff to create memorable relationships with campers distinguished from that of their teacher, other authority figure, or even yourself. It also keeps us from having multiple staff members with the same name and adds to the magic of Girl Scout camp.

## **Financial Information**

#### Camp Fee Payments

Day camp registration fees cover a wide variety of weekly camp activities including a one-day lunch or dinner cookout and supervision from trained and caring adult staff. Transportation by chartered bus or additional before and after camp care can be added on for an additional fee.

Families can choose to pay camp fees in full at time of registration or pay by payment plan.

Families who opt for payment plan will pay the nonrefundable \$25 deposit at time of registration and prompted to save a credit card to your secure registration account.

The remainder fee owed will be automatically charged to the credit card on file on June 1. If you wish to make payments prior to June 1, please log into your registration account and make payments through your account portal.

#### Financial Assistance

Girl Scouts GCNWI makes funds available for participants whose caregivers could otherwise not afford the cost of camp. Any registrant who is a registered Girl Scout is eligible to receive confidential financial assistance for one session of any day or resident camp program. Assistance is distributed based on available funds.

To receive financial aid, campers must register for summer camp and make initial payment in the form of a deposit. After registration, campers can complete the Girl Scout Financial Assistance Application which is available at <a href="https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/financial-assistance#camp">www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/financial-assistance#camp</a>. Approved financial assistance will be deducted from total owed for the summer camp program.

#### Cancellations & Refunds

All camp programs are subject to cancellation or rescheduling by GSGCNWI. If a camp program is cancelled by GSGCNWI, and the camper is unable to attend an alternate session, all fees will be refunded, including any deposit made. If a program is cancelled, notification will be sent by email or phone.

Camp program cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the program start date are eligible for a refund, minus the nonrefundable deposit. Refunds will be issued to the same credit or debit card they were paid with.

# Cancellations & Refunds (cont.)

Cancellations due to medical reasons less than 14 days prior to the program start date are eligible for refund, minus the non-refundable deposit. Requests for cancellation due to medical reasons must be made by August 30, 2023 and include a doctor's note. Cancellation requests due to COVID-19 must provide dated proof of positive test.

Refund requests must be submitted in writing. Please email <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a> and use the Subject Line: Attn: Summer Camp Refund.

Refunds will not be made for the following:

- No shows, late arrival, early departure, or partial program attendance.
- Cancellation requests less than 14 days prior to the program start date.
- Campers who violate camp policies and are sent home.

### Daily Packing List □ Backpack ☐ Sit-upon □ Water bottle (filled) □ Water gear (as needed) ☐ Insect repellant ☐ Personal hand sanitizer (optional) □ Sunscreen ☐ Clean masks (optional) ☐ Sack lunch (on non-cookout ☐ Cell phone (optional, see below for guidelines) days) ☐ Weekday Specific Packing Lists (page 16) ☐ Raincoat or poncho ☐ Specialty Program Packing Lists (page 17) ☐ Hair ties ☐ Bandana or Hat **Packing List Details** What to Wear Campers should wear casual clothing that can get dirty. Campers will frequently use art supplies and play outdoors; we recommend clothes you won't mind getting stained. Socks and sturdy, close-toed shoes are required to protect feet on trails and gravel roads at camp. A sweatshirt for changes in weather and extra socks is a great idea! Clothing is there to protect campers from the environment, such as the sun, bugs, and sticks/uneven walking surfaces. Tank tops, sandals, flip flops, and aquatic footwear are not as effective and should not be worn to camp unless your camper is participating in water activities. Campers' belongings will stay with them throughout the day, so Backpack send them with a backpack large enough for their things plus any projects they may bring home. We recommend using a regular backpack instead of a drawstring bag. Please check your camper's backpack daily for notes, handouts, and camp projects. Water Bottle Water bottles should be reusable—Girl Scouts stay green! Please bring the water bottle filled to camp. Refills are available at camp. Filling the water bottle halfway and freezing overnight can help

keep water cold all day at camp.

Insect Repellant & Sunscreen	Make sure to apply before arrival at camp and to bring extra!
	Counselors will help remind campers throughout the day to reapply. If a camper forgets their insect repellent or sunscreen, the Health Supervisor at camp will have extra and can make sure they are protected.
Sack Lunch	Please pack your camper a sack lunch daily unless otherwise noted. Please note that campers may not share food due to health and safety restrictions. Food will not be refrigerated, ice packs are recommended.
Sit-Upon	A Girl Scout tradition! These are portable seats that keep campers dry when sitting on the ground. Bring a small, light-weight option as it will be carried around by the camper throughout the day.  Campers can make their own by searching "Girl Scout Sit-Upon" online for several easy-to-make options.
	omme for several easy-to-make options.
Water Gear	Campers may be asked to bring water gear for they days they may play water games. Water gear includes swimsuit, cover-up, towel, and water shoes.
Cell Phones	Optional. If a camper has a cell phone at camp, they will be reminded to keep it off and in their backpack—we want campers to enjoy their time with each other and the camp activities!
	If a phone becomes a distraction to programming, it will be collected and locked in the administration building and returned to the camper at the end of the day. You will be contacted by the camp director if there are any additional concerns.
What to Leave at Home	We ask your campers to leave their toys, games, cards, video games, other technology items or any other personal valuables at homeGSGCNWI cannot be responsible for these items at camp. Also, please do not bring umbrellas.

# Weekday Specific Packing Lists

An email will be sent on Monday with any specific supplies that may be needed for your camper's program.

Monday	<b>Medications</b> : If your camper has any medications they need to take while at camp, send them in their original, labeled containers in a Ziplock bag with the camper's name and program printed clearly on the outside. <b>Sack Lunch</b> : Monday is a sack lunch day! <b>In preparation</b> : Make sure your camper knows which program they are registered for, and how they are getting to and from camp (car or bus route information).
Tuesday	White/light colored t-shirt or other garment: It's Tie Dye Tuesday! 100% cotton items absorb the dye best. Wash and dry new items before sending to camp. Send the item in a plastic bag clearly labeled with your camper's name. When the tie dye comes home, leave rubber bands on for 24 hours, then squeeze and rinse under cold water until water runs clear. Remove the rubber bands and rinse again under cold water. For the first wash, wash separate from other clothing.  Sack Lunch: Tuesday is a sack lunch day!  Trading post money
Wednesday	Sack Lunch (Juniors and Cadettes): Wednesday is a sack lunch day for Juniors and Cadettes!  Mess Kit (Daisies and Brownies): Mess kits are a reusable plate, bowl, cup, and utensils in a "dunk bag" (drip dry type bag with drawstring). Campers will use this for their cookout. Mess kits are available for purchase through our online shop and should be ordered prior to the camper's program.  Fun Theme Dress Day: Keep an eye out for the Wednesday theme of the week in the Monday email from the director!
Thursday	Sack Lunch: Thursday is a sack lunch day! Tie Dye Day: Wear your tie-dye to camp today!
Thursday: Extended Day (Juniors and Cadettes only)	Flashlight: For walking around in the evening during sunset. Make sure to send flashlights with fresh batteries.  Mess Kit: Mess kits are a reusable plate, bowl, cup, and utensils in a "dunk bag" (drip dry type bag with drawstring). Campers will use this for their cookout. Mess kits are available for purchase through our online shop and should be ordered prior to the camper's program.  Clothing: A sweatshirt or light jacket and long pants are recommended for cooler evenings.  Evening Medications: Any medications the camper may need from 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. If your camper has any medications they need to take while at camp, send them in their original, labeled containers in a Ziplock bag with the camper's name and program printed clearly on the outside.

Friday
Specialty Program Packing Lists
All specialty program packing list items are in addition to the packing list above. If your camper's program is not listed below, there are no additional items needed. An email will be sent from the director on Monday, of the week of your program, with details on when, where, and what will be needed for the field trips.
Counselor-in-Training □ Pillow Overnight (if staying for □ Sleeping bag overnight) □ Pajamas □ Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, deodorant, etc.) □ Clothes for next day □ Medications
Animal Adventures Off-Site Trip: Brookfield Zoo (Brownie)
Book Worm  Off-Site Trip: Local Library  (Junior)  Backpack with day camp supplies  Sack lunch
Dinosaur Discoveries Off-Site Trip: Field Museum  (Brownie)   Backpack with day camp supplies  Sack lunch
Escape, Girl Scout Style Off-Site Trip: Escapology (Cadette) □ Backpack with day camp supplies □ Sack lunch
Explore More  (Cadette)  Closed toe shoes  Long pants  Shirt with sleeves; no tank tops  Backpack with day camp supplies  Sack lunch

Off-Site Trip: Museum of Science and Industry

☐ Backpack with day camp supplies
☐ Sack lunch

Gadgets, Gizmos, & Goo

Paddlers	Off-Site Trip: Tampier Lake  □ Water gear □ Backpack with day camp supplies □ Sack lunch
Painting Pros	Off-Site Trip: The Art Institute  ☐ Backpack with day camp supplies ☐ Sack lunch
Wet and Wild	Off-Site Trip: Centennial Water Park in Orland Park  ☐ Water gear ☐ Backpack with day camp supplies ☐ Water gear

# Item Drop-Off & Lost & Found

Item Drop-Off

Forgotten items may be dropped off between 9:20 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Troop House.

When you arrive, park outside Troop House and wait for someone to assist you in your car. After a few minutes, if no one has come to assist call the camp phone at (815) 545-7818. Make sure all items are labeled with camper's first and last name along with their program name.

Do not walk around camp if your camper forgot an item. Talk to the director or appropriate camp staff or call the camp phone at (815) 545-7818 and we will send someone to help you.

Lost & Found

Help us keep track of your campers' belongings by labeling all personal items with their first and last names. Camp staff will do their best to reunite owners with their belongings daily.

Unclaimed lost and found items will be brought to GSGCNWI Gathering Places at the end of the camp season and held until October 1, at which time they will be donated. Contact <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org">customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</a> to arrange for item pick up from a Gathering Place.