



Canoe and You Camp **Confirmation Packet**



Dear Camper and Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Girl Scouts Summer Camp. We can't wait for you to take those mountain roads and join us in celebrating our camp community by creating friendships and adventures around every turn of the trail. Thank you for choosing Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming (GSMW) for your Girl Scout's summer adventures!

Please check your account to ensure you have paid the full camp fee two weeks before the start of your camp. You will receive emails reminding you to pay your balance and prepare for camp. If you need help with payment options, please contact customercare@gsmw.org.

To help you and your camper prepare for this experience, we have compiled a "Camp Readiness Packet". Please *READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET FROM BEGINNING TO END* and refer to it regularly as you prepare for camp. A physical letter will be mailed to you about 2 weeks out from your theme's start date, it will contain; driving directions, waivers if applicable, and just a few other documents.

This camp confirmation packet includes:

- **PACKING LIST & CAMPER PREPARATION**

Use a pencil to help you track everything as you pack to come to camp. Bring a copy of the list to camp to keep track of everything you should take home. Label everything you bring with the camper's name! Check this section for hints on how to prepare yourself and your camper for a successful week at camp.

- **CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES**

GSMW has defined procedures for checking in and out of camp. Directions to each camp location are also included.

- **PERMISSION/RELEASE/HEALTH FORMS**

Provide completed forms during camp check-in. Health forms that are incomplete may prevent your child from attending camp. **You are required to report all health concerns including mental health conditions.** We ask you to include your camper's mental health status in her health form so we can work together to ensure her success at camp.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to your arrival at camp, please contact Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Headquarters at (406)-252-0488 or customercare@gsmw.org.

From around the campfire,
Your 2023 GSMW Resident Camp Team

Canoe and You PACKING LIST

At GSMW Camps, we dress to be comfortable and safe, and we prepare for being outdoors in all sorts of conditions. Do not bring anything to camp that cannot get dirty, messy or broken. Rugged, comfortable clothes work best! But please leave the tank tops at home. Label all belongings clearly. **The less stuff you bring the better to fit into dry bags!**

ABSOLUTELY MANDATORY:

- ☐ Mess Kit (plastic cup, plate, utensils in a bag)
- ☐ Day Dry Bag(s) - maximum to bring is **two 16 gal/60 liter** dry bags and ALL stuff must fit in those dry bags, including sleeping bag, mat and pillow (used every day, all day)
- ☐ Water shoes like Teva, Chaco, Keen, or similar style with heel strap to keep them on your feet!
- ☐ Very warm sleeping bag (nights may be below 30°F)

NECESSITIES/TOILETRIES/PERSONAL ITEMS:

- ☐ ADDITIONAL WAIVERS (if needed, for camper's extra activities)
- ☐ *Biodegradable* soap
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Pillow in a pillow case
- ☐ Travel toothbrush & toothpaste
- ☐ Brush or comb
- ☐ Sunglasses with case
- ☐ Hair ties
- ☐ Sunscreen & protective lip balm
- ☐ Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (for hiking if unable to hike in water shoes)
- ☐ Travel non-aerosol insect repellent
- ☐ Glasses or contact lenses
- ☐ Feminine hygiene products (even if unexpected)
- ☐ Water bottle (check for leaks)
- ☐ Retainers/mouth guards
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp & extra batteries
- ☐ Medications (in original containers, marked with dosage & campers name. Collected at check-in.)

LEAVE these items at HOME:

- Electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, headphones, smart watches, etc.
- Candy, food, drinks
- Curling iron, blow dryer, makeup & hairspray
- Cash, jewelry, valuables and clothing that can't get dirty
- Tank-tops, crop-tops (clothes that don't protect us from the elements) or not school appropriate logos.

CLOTHING:

- ☐ 2 T-shirts (must cover shoulders/stomach; no suggestive logos)
- ☐ Camera (inexpensive & waterproof)
- ☐ Journal & pen/pencil
- ☐ Something to read
- ☐ 2 pairs of shorts – one for lounging, one for canoeing
- ☐ 1 pair of comfy hangout pants
- ☐ Small personal item like a stuffed animal
- ☐ Very warm pajamas & sweatpants/long johns
- ☐ Daily underwear & bras
- ☐ 2 pairs of socks
- ☐ 1 Swimsuits (sturdy so they don't fall off)
- ☐ Rain jacket or poncho
- ☐ 1 sweatshirt or fleece shirt
- ☐ Brimmed hat
- ☐ Warm stocking cap

CAMPER AND CAREGIVER PREPARATION

Before your camper comes to camp, it's important to prepare her for being on her own:

- With support and advice, let your camper pack her own bag, and teach her how to roll her own sleeping bag so she gains independence.
- Have her practice being away from home by having a sleepover at a friend's house.
- Before camp starts, have regular talks about what to do if she misses home while away.
- Listen to the camper's concerns, and provide answers to their questions. If they have questions about camp that you can't answer, feel free to ask customercare@gsmw.org.

Prepare your camper to use coping strategies, like these, at camp:

- Try to play every game, and try every offered activity at least once.
- Talk with a Camp Counselor or other trusted camp staff.
- Write letters home (or keep a journal) to tell your family about all the fun activities and your new friends.
- Look forward to the new skills and adventures each day at camp.
- Introduce yourself to at least one new friend every day!

Missing Home

While at camp, girls do not have access to the phone to call home, and parents will not be able to call their campers unless it's an emergency. Girls can write letters and receive letters given to staff at check-in. Send your girl with addressed, stamped envelopes, stationary, and a pen so she is ready to write home.

For more hints on preparing for camp, check out GSUSA's "Camp Hacks" videos at:
www.youtube.com/user/girlscoutvideos/playlists

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT | SCHEDULE

Theme	Check in Date/Time	Check out Date/Time
Canoe and You	Sunday , August 6, 2023 (4:00-5:00 pm)	Thursday , August 10, 2023 (4:00-5:00 pm)

DROP OFF INFORMATION

Sunday, August 6

10:00 AM – Hobby Lobby in Helena, MT

12:00 PM – Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT

PICK UP INFORMATION

Thursday, August 10 - More details to come from camp staff

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you need to get in touch with the staff running the camp, please use the following information.

Tolly Patten - 406-422-9931 - blaackraam@gmail.com

Vicki Hentz - 406-439-916

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

CHECK-IN DAY: Opening day/times will vary according to the specific camp you are signed up for, see above for your specific camp. Campers must be checked in & out on the date & within the time period assigned to your session.

- **Late arrivals will not accepted** *Please notify the camp staff (contact above) as soon as circumstances arise.*
- Upon opening, staff will meet you in the parking lot and direct you to the check-in tables. Please have any updated address/phone/health history information, and medications ready and available for the Camp Director.
- During check-in, your camper will have her picture taken for identification. After check-in, parents/guardians are invited to help their camper move into her cabin. After move-in, non-campers must say a quick “goodbye” so girls can start enjoying their camp adventure.
- Please leave all non-human family members at home or in the car. Pets are not allowed on camp properties.
- Parents are not permitted on camp premises after check-in is complete. We do not allow campers to have visitors, and campers are not permitted to call home during the camp session. Prepare yourself and your camper for this. Should an emergency arise, camp staff will contact you.

CHECK-OUT DAY: Parents/ guardians are asked to pick-up their daughters within the assigned check-out time range specific to your camp location and theme. Refer to the table for the correct pick-up time. Check-out times are firm and cannot be negotiated.

- **Please be prompt in picking up your camper.** Upon arrival at pickup, parents will be met in the parking lot and given directions.
 - For your camper’s safety, **a photo ID is required and the pick-up person MUST be listed as an authorized “Camper Pick-Up”.** Please list nearby family & close friends in case of an emergency.
 - If you are picking up a camper other than your own child, you **will need to have a photo identification** and be on their “Camper Pick-Up” list. Campers WILL NOT be released from camp without an authorized “Camper Pick-Up” with a photo ID.
 - All campers will be signed out with the “Camper Pick-Up” at the check-out tables before leaving camp. At this time, any medication will be released to the “Camper Pick-Up”.
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Head over to our website for the most update FAQ’s. Found at: www.gsmw.org/camp