

2027 Camp Success Guide

girl scouts of montana and wyoming

Welcome to Camp!

We're thrilled for camp this summer! Camp is a magical place where campers are given the space to build courage, confidence, and character. Campers can make new friends, try new things, build self-assurance, and develop leadership skills in a safe environment.

Our goals are that every camper will:

- Work together with camp staff to help select, plan, and carry out program activities that build character, responsibility, and an appreciation for nature.
- Develop social and emotional skills by living harmoniously with others in a different environment.
- Gain independence and confidence through interactions with others and by participating in new and challenging activities.
- Have fun while learning new skills!

This handbook is full of useful information to help caregivers and campers prepare for a summer of adventure. Please read each section carefully, as procedures evolve from year to year.

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Contact Us!

Council Headquarters
2303 Grand Ave
Billings, MT 59102
406-252-0488
customercare@gsmw.org

Camp Castle Rock
665 Little Basin Creek Rd.
Butte, MT 59701
406-743-9329

Timbercrest Camp
513 W Fork Rd.
Red Lodge, MT 59068
406-743-9329

Camp Sacajawea
3155 Micro Rd.
Casper, WY 82601
406-743-9329

Camp Staff

Every staff member has been carefully interviewed, screened, and trained. Staff are expected to maintain high moral standards and act responsibly in all areas of their lives during their time of employment.

Each summer, several international counselors are hired through agencies regulated by the United States government. We've had counselors from England, Germany, Colombia, and many other places! They bring exciting aspects of other countries and cultures to camp and help us gain a broader worldview.

All genders can work at camp. Male camp staff members are provided separate sleeping quarters in their own area of camp, away from all other sleeping areas.

Each camp location has a full staff of directors, counselors, a healthcare supervisor, and a kitchen supervisor.

Camp staff possess the skills, experience, and leadership capabilities necessary to provide the best camping experience possible. All staff are required to go through an intensive training program and complete a background check. Staff members are trained in First Aid and CPR, and some have higher levels of emergency response training.



We maintain the appropriate adult-to-camper ratios required under GSUSA regulations. Campers will find more than one staff member to relate to and learn from.

Want to work with us?

Are you or someone you know interested in working at camp? More information on open positions can be found here.

Registration Details

Wednesday, Jan. 6
Priority Registration

- Priority Camp Registration is a new Fall Product Program reward that provides access to camp registration one week before everyone else.
- Girl Scout can earn Priority Camp Registration by participating in the Fall Product Program and reaching the $650+ reward level.
- Registration opens at 9 AM

Wednesday, Jan. 13
Registration for All

- Registration opens at 9 AM
- At the time of registration a $50 deposit is due for weeklong and short week camps.



Did you know that selling cookies can earn camp credit?

Earn up to $400 in Camp Credits through cookie sales.

- Sell 800 boxes to earn $150
- Sell 1,000 boxes to earn $250
- You may then combine your earnings to get $400 total in Camp Credit.

Camp credit can be used to attend any camp program. This credit can also be used towards a weekend camp with an adult in your household.

What will the camp credit earner registration process look like?

1. Register either during Priority Camp Registration on January 6th (if your girl earns that reward during the Fall Product Program) or on January 13th with it opens for everyone.

2. Choose your girl's camp and pay the non-refundable $50 deposit.

3. Choose a payment method* and complete the registration process!

*If your girl sets a goal of earning camp credit during the cookie program, you can choose a delayed payment plan that will delay the start of your monthly payments until May 1, which will be after earned camp credit is added to your UltraCamp account in late April and applied to your balance due.

2027 Summer Camp | Light Up Your Summer

Paying for Camp

Payment Options

There are several ways to pay for summer camp:

1. Earn money, with troop agreement, through our Fall Product and Cookie Programs.
2. After participating in the Fall Product and Cookie Programs, apply for additional money-earning opportunities. Contact GSMW for more information.
3. Earn up to $400 in camp credit through cookie sales.
    - Sell 800 boxes to earn $150
    - Sell 1,000 boxes to earn $250
    - You may then combine your earnings to get $400 total in Camp Credit.
4. Girl Scout rewards cards - these can also be used to pay for Happy Camper Kits! Please contact shop@gsmw.org or call 406-252-0488 to process.
5. Save allowance or other non-Girl Scout earnings.



Camp Financial Assistance

Cost should never be a barrier to attend camp. Our council provides financial assistance to those in need. During camp registration, caregivers will be asked if they plan to apply for financial assistance. If yes, please carefully review the following guidelines prior to submitting the application directly in the UltraCamp system:

- The $50 deposit must be paid for by the family at the time of registration.
- Campers can apply if their family qualifies for state/federal financial assistance, have medical expenses, or other extenuating circumstances.
- Caregivers will be asked to complete and submit household and financial information when completing the application.
- Financial assistance is only available for one camp session per Girl Scout per camp season.
- Financial assistance is only available to GSMW members - we do not offer assistance to out-of-council Girl Scouts.
- GSMW will notify applicants after committee review if the request has been granted or denied.

Refund Policy & Waitlists

Refund Policy

If a camper needs to cancel their attendance at a session, GSMW Customer Care must be notified as soon as possible so the spot can be offered to another camper. Please carefully review the policies listed below.

Weeklong/Short Week

- If a camper needs to cancel due to a medical reason, a full refund will only be given with a family's written request, a doctor's note, and council approval.
- If a camper needs to cancel more than 2 weeks prior to camp, the $50 deposit is non-refundable and the remaining camp fees may be applied to another camp session, if available, or may be refunded.

Troop/GO/Family

- If a camper needs to cancel due to a medical reason, a full refund will only be given with a family/leader's written request, a doctor's note, and council approval.
- If a registered group needs to cancel more than 2 weeks prior to camp, there will be a $50 cancellation fee applied and the remaining balance will be refunded. Family Camp will incur a $100 cancellation fee and the remaining balance will be refunded.

Waitlist for Full Programs

We encourage campers to sign up early to ensure they are in the program and the week they would like!

Once a program is full, a camper cannot immediately be added to the program. Capacities are based on housing/beds that are available, camper-to-adult ratios, whether that program has a field trip outside of camp, and how much room we have in vans to transport the campers.

Campers can be added to waitlists during registration and families will be contacted via the UltraCamp system email if a space opens for them. Once contacted, families will have 2 days from the time the email is sent to accept the spot, payment will be due, and all required forms should be filled out. This is a fully automated process, so please keep an eye out!

Important Note

All refunds may take up to 4 weeks to process. Discounts and refunds will not be given for campers that show up late, leave early, or cancel their registration.

Packing List

Clothes

- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Rain jacket
- Long pants
- Underwear
- Bras
- Pajamas
- Shower shoes
- Closed toe shoes*
- Swimsuit

Personal Care

- Medications*
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- Wash cloth
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Feminine care products
- Hair brush
- Pony tail holders

Bedding

- Twin fitted sheet
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow & pillowcase
- Towel

Other Items

- Brimmed hat
- Flashlight & batteries
- Water bottle*
- Laundry bag
- Day pack

Optional

- Stuffed animal
- Camera & batteries
- Journal & pens
- Reading material
- Stationary, stamps, pre-addressed envelopes
- Friendship bracelet string
- Pirate costume

Please pack for the full length of your camp.

- Weeklong: 5 days, 4 nights
- Short Week: 4 days, 3 nights
- Weekends: 3 days, 2 nights

Dress Code

1. Shorts should be long enough to sit on pine needles, logs, etc. comfortably
2. All shirts must have straps (spaghetti straps not allowed)
3. Campers will be active! Their clothes should not hinder them from activities.

Indicates items that should taken out of luggage and with camper during check in.



Do NOT Pack

- Cellphones, tablets, or smart watches
- Food, gum or flavored drinks
- Anything sentimental
- Weapons, explosives, alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substances

Policies & Participation

Electronics Policy

Campers are NOT allowed to have electronics (cell phones, smart watches, tablets, etc.) at camp. Allowing campers to sneak electronics to camp tells them it's okay to break rules that they don't like, and it goes against Girl Scout values. Instead, send them with mail to read every day and stationery for them to write about their time so they can share their experience once they are home!

Electronics detract from the camp experience in the following ways:

- They are a distraction from the camp program. We want kids to unplug from technology and tune into the present experience. It's difficult to become fully engaged in the world around them when they are tied to their electronics and life at home.
- They can be a crutch for homesickness. A camper cannot benefit from the experience of being independent and away from home if they are retreating to their bunk to text home. We have counselors that are trained to work with campers to help them with homesickness and other issues.

Plus, cell service is very limited and non-existent for some providers.

If a camper brings any of these items to camp, the Camp Director will take it and put it in a Ziploc bag with their name on it, and keep it in the office lock box, and return it at pick up time.

The phone number to contact camp is included in the confirmation packet and at the beginning of this guide. This should be used for emergency situations only.

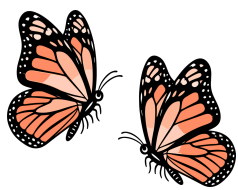
Camp Participation

Campers

All attendees must be a registered Girl Scout. Campers must be entering the grade listed in the fall to attend. This is done to keep the ages close so that the campers can bond and feel comfortable within their units.

Caregivers

Caregivers can attend camp with their Girl Scout on weekends when allowed. The weeklong programs are just for campers. We have highly trained staff to lead them in their camp experience during weeklong camp. If caregivers would like to experience camp with their camper, we invite them to check out our weekend camps.



Forms & Waivers

Confirmation Packet

An electronic copy can be found in the Document Center in UltraCamp and at www.gsmw.org/camp. A hard copy can be mailed upon request. Please send requests to customercare@gsmw.org at least 2 weeks prior to camp start date.

Waivers

Waivers for specific camp themes can be found on the 'Already Registered' page. Please be sure to check back prior to coming to camp in case anything has changed.

Required Forms & Authorizations

All forms will be completed in the UltraCamp system. You can find them under Messages and/or under the Document Center.

- Health Form: All campers are required to complete the health form. Campers must have their caregivers complete the form to attend camp. UltraCamp is a password-protected database that only the necessary staff members have access to.
- Pickup Authorizations: Campers attending weeklong or short week camps must complete this form. It is important for the caregiver completing the form to write themselves in so that we can release the child to them as well as listing others that may be picking up the camper. Those picking up campers will still be required to show an ID.
- Camp Attendance Authorizations: The Inherent Risk Statement, Camper/ Caregiver Agreement, and General Authorizations and Permissions are required for campers to attend camp.

Special Accommodations

We want our campers to have the most successful week possible at camp. If a camper has any dietary restrictions, learning differences, health needs, or need for accommodation, please contact us (at least 2 weeks before camp) at customercare@gsmw.org.

Together we can discuss the camper's needs to determine the best course of action to ensure a safe and successful camp experience.

If a child has an allergy to a certain food, the kitchen will adapt meals based on what is planned for everyone in camp. If caregivers would like to send a specific food that their camper would eat as opposed to the brands/kinds we may have at camp, they are more than welcome. Please write the child's name on their food and send it in an appropriate cooler or bag for storage.

Weeklong Camp Information

General Check-in Procedure

More specific check-in details can be found in your confirmation packet.

Check-in will be done on Sunday from 3:00-4:30 pm.

- Caregivers will need to drop campers off in person at camp. Counselors, health staff, and directors can meet with campers and caregivers to discuss the week and any needs.
- This is when waivers and medications will be collected, so please have them on hand at check-in.
- Campers should be dressed and ready to participate in camp upon arrival – including wearing closed-toed shoes and water bottles in hand.
- Pets are allowed onsite, but please keep them in the car or on a leash.
- We understand a lot of people have long drives and we do have bathrooms at camp that may be used, if needed, but we prefer this to be done prior to arrival due to the backup it may cause.
- Please refrain from wandering around the camp during check-in. We understand the curiosity and excitement but, as stated previously, it can cause backup and makes it harder for us to ensure all safety protocols are being followed.
- The camp gate will not open until the start of the check-in period. If the gate is not open AND manned by a staff member please stay in the car and wait.



Check-in Stations

There will be 3 stations every camper needs to go through with their caregiver:

Station 1: This is where campers and caregivers will be greeted and given directions about the process.

Station 2: This is where forms are confirmed and health checks are completed.

Station 3: This is where luggage is dropped for cabin move-in. This is also where goodbyes are done and campers will join in a group game.

Late arrivals are only accepted in emergency situations and will be given an extended check-in time. If the camper cannot arrive within the extended window of time, they will have to wait until the following day at 8:00am to be checked in by camp staff. Please notify the camp as soon as circumstances arise.

What Happens at the Health Check?

Campers will turn in medications to the Health Supervisor. Medication must come in its original container with dosage directions clearly visible. This includes over the counter medications. This is the time and place for caregivers to discuss any issues their camper may have during the week and to talk about medication distribution. Please include this information on the health form as well.

Additionally, if a camper has any dietary restrictions that need to be discussed, the Camp Director will be more than happy to discuss what the week's meals will look like. Please be sure to include any dietary restrictions (allergies, intolerances, religious or cultural reasons) on the health form.

This is also when forms for the week will be confirmed, including any waivers and the health forms. Please have these filled out prior to arrival.

Also, campers' heads will be checked to ensure that all campers are free of head lice and nits (head lice eggs). If a camper is found to have live lice, they will be sent home. If they are found to have nits, caregivers may attempt to remove the nits, treat the child for lice, and return to camp for a second inspection later in the day or early the next morning. To prevent a surprise during lice checks, check campers before leaving home. Lice, nits, or other hair conditions that appear like nits can be treated at home with special hair products.

Please do not bring campers to camp if they have a communicable condition or disease of any kind.



Daily Medication

Many campers take daily medication and come to camp. Caregivers are required to send the medication in its original container with the dosage and directions still printed on the bottle to ensure this remains consistent while at camp. Medication will be counted during Check-In and Check-Out, please only send what your camper will need.

All medication is required to be stored in a locked cabinet within the health center at every camp. The health code requires documentation of anything and everything given to a child. This documentation will be recorded in the UltraCamp system. Caregivers must fill out the medication section in UltraCamp so camp staff can appropriately administer medication. This includes over the counter medications.

If a medication is labeled “as needed” it is the camper's duty to inform a staff member if they need to take said medication, otherwise it will be assumed that they do not need it.



If a camper requires an Epi-pen or rescue inhaler, we recommend bringing TWO to camp (one for our staff and one for the camper). If it is needed for the camper to always have their emergency medication in their possession at camp, please bring the appropriate Emergency Medication Policy form found at www.gsmw.org/camp or email customercare@gsmw.org for a copy of this form. This permission form requires a physician’s signature. If the form is not signed, our staff will hold the medication.

Camp will have standard over-the-counter medications (ex: ibuprofen, allergy medications, tums) that may be given, if the caregiver gives permission via UltraCamp.



General Check-out Procedure

More specific check-out details can be found in your confirmation packet.

Check-out time is 10:00 - 11:00am. If the pick-up person is running late, please notify the Camp Director at 406-743-9329.

- The camp gate will not open until the start of the check-out period. If the gate is not open AND manned by a staff member please stay in the car and wait.
- For campers' safety, a photo ID will need to be presented, and the person picking up will need to be listed on the "Authorized Pickup" form. Please list everyone who may be picking up the camper. If edits need to be made to the "Authorized Pickup" form, this needs to be done at least 24 hours prior to pick-up.

Check-out Stations

Upon arrival at pick-up, caregivers will be met at the gate and given directions on where to go. There will be just 2 stations:

Station 1: This is where medication will be given back and IDs will be checked to ensure the adult is an authorized pick-up person. Please refrain from approaching campers until IDs have been checked.

Station 2: A counselor will bring campers over to the luggage pile and help load items into the car.
Please make sure all medications are returned properly, camper's luggage has everything they came with, and that the lost and found has been checked prior to leaving camp property.

We understand people have long drives and we do have bathrooms on camp that may be used, if needed, but we prefer this to be done prior to arrival due to the backup it may cause.

Lost & Found

At each camp, there is a bin for lost and found items. These items will be kept until the end of the summer and then will either be donated or kept at a camp for other children to use, if it's an item they might need like: a raincoat, shoes, or flashlights. Campers and caregivers are encouraged to look in the Lost and Found bins at the end of each week.

Weekend Camp Information

General Check-in Procedure

More specific check-in details can be found in your confirmation packet.

Troop, GO & Family Camp:
Check-in is from 6:00-7:00 PM

Please inform us if there will be a late check in at 406-743-9329.

If a camper is attending troop camp and not arriving with the troop's leader, their caregiver must wait at camp until the troop leader arrives.

Please eat prior to arriving. Camp will have snacks available during Keys to Camp Success.

Packing List

Please refer to page 7 for a complete packing list.

- Adults are prohibited from bringing alcohol, marijuana, illegal substances, weapons, or explosives.
- We do not allow tobacco to be used on camp property.
- We also encourage adults to leave electronics at home/in their cars. This is a weekend to disconnect with the outside world and connect with the campers.

Housing



For Troop Camp, troops will be housed together; the adults can assign campers to bunks/beds. If the troop doesn't fill a cabin/yurt they may have to share with another troop.

During Family Camp, families will be housed together in their cabin.

Consistent with GSUSA policy, unrelated adults cannot sleep in cabins with unrelated children. Housing at camp does not allow space to house related adults with related campers without there also being unrelated adults and campers in the space. Adults will stay in a separate cabin/yurt nearby.



Health Care

Adults will oversee campers' medications. Camp staff will not be responsible for administering medications during weekend camp.

Camp will have standard over-the-counter medications (ex: ibuprofen, allergy medications, tums) that may be given, if the caregiver gives permission via UltraCamp.

All campers are required to complete the health form. Campers must have their caregivers complete the form to attend camp. Adult campers attending a weekend camp will also be required to complete a health form.



Adult Expectations

Adults are expected to participate in all aspects of camp activities. Staff are here to help facilitate activities but, adults will be expected to oversee camper behavior and participation. Groups are expected to provide the correct number of adults to maintain adult to camper ratios as outlined by GSUSA. More info found here: Adult-to-Girl Ratios: Understanding How Many Volunteers You Need

General Check-out Procedure

More specific check-out details can be found in your confirmation packet.

Campers leave between 9:00-10:00 am on Sunday.

We recommend packing prior to Sunday morning to make departure easier. Please make sure to check the Lost and Found prior to departure.

CAMP CASTLE ROCK SPECIFIC CHECK-IN/OUT

665 Little Basin Creek Rd.
Butte, MT
59701

There is limited cell service once on Little Basin Creek Rd. Expect to lose service while on this road – have directions downloaded and important phone calls done prior to approaching. Adults staying for weekend camp should not expect consistent service. Camp staff has access to emergency lines.

Weeklong Camp

As cars approach the camp gate, a staff member will direct everyone up the driveway. This is a very long and narrow driveway that turns into a one-way road during check-in and check-out, so be prepared to wait at the gate until other cars are off the road.

Check-in:

- Once cleared to drive up to camp, follow the road to the right.
- Luggage will be collected at the front of the lower camp cabin area.
- After luggage handoff, wait in your car for camper health checks and drop off. Please stay in your car until you reach the front of the line.
- Once at the front of the line, go up to the lodge porch, and go through health checks, and send campers on their way to start off camp!
- Caregivers will then wait for the "okay" from a staff member to head back out the one-way driveway.

Check-out:

- Once cleared by a staff member to head up the driveway, follow the road up to the lodge.
- Once at the lodge, park and go to the check-out table (with ID in hand) to sign out camper.
- After properly signing out, reunite with your camper, grab bags, check the Lost and Found, and head out once given the "okay" from the staff member helping with traffic.

Weekend Camp

Check-in:

- As cars approach the camp gate, a staff member will direct everyone up the driveway.
- After driving up the road, a staff member will help drivers back into a parking space.
- Everyone should then grab their luggage and head towards the pavilion for check-in, moving into cabins, and games!

Check-out:

- All campers are expected to leave with the adults they came with (if this is not the case, please communicate with camp staff). Staff will help load cars and then send everyone off.

TIMBERCREST CAMP
SPECIFIC CHECK-IN/OUT

512 W Fork Rd.
Red Lodge, MT
59068

There is little to no service once on West Fork Road. Expect to lose service while on this road – have directions downloaded and important phone calls done prior to approaching. Adults staying for weekend camp should not expect to have service. Camp staff has access to emergency lines.

Weeklong & Weekend Camp

Check-in/out process is the same for both weeklong and weekend camps. For weekend camp, campers are expected to leave with the adults they came with (if this is not the case please communicate that with camp staff).

Check-in:

- A staff member will be waiting at the gate to welcome campers and caregivers. They will then be directed to another member that will help back them into a parking space.
- Campers and caregivers will then be directed to the front porch where check-in and health checks will be done.
- Please bring all health forms, medications, and luggage to the front porch.
- After health checks are complete. luggage will be dropped off at the back porch and campers will go play games and start camp!
- Adults will be asked to head back to cars and leave - please pay attention to staff helping with traffic.

Check-out:

- A staff member will be waiting to welcome caregivers and direct them to another staff member that will help them back into a spot.
- Once parked, caregivers will be directed to the front porch to check-out their camper (please have ID in hand).
- After properly signing out the camper, staff will bring the camper to the front porch with their luggage.
- Please make sure to double check luggage content and check the Lost and Found.
- When leaving, please pay attention to staff helping with traffic.



CAMP SACAJAWEA
SPECIFIC CHECK-IN/OUT

2945 Micro Rd.
Casper, WY
82601

There is limited service once on Micro Rd – have directions downloaded and important phone calls done prior to approaching. Adults staying for weekend camp should not expect consistent service. Camp staff has access to emergency lines. Maps tend to take people to the first gate – please keep going down Micro Rd and enter at the second gate (about 500 yards) - there will be a sign for Camp Sacajawea and a staff member at that gate.

Weeklong & Weekend Camp

Check-in/out process is the same for both weeklong and weekend camps. For weekend camp, campers are expected to leave with the adults they came with (if this is not the case, please communicate that with camp staff).

Check-in:

- A staff member will be waiting at the gate to welcome campers and caregivers. They will then be directed to another member that will help back them into a parking space.
- Campers and caregivers will then be directed to the front porch where check-in and health checks will be done.
- Please bring all health forms, medications, and luggage to the check-in table. There will be staff directing campers and caregivers to drop-off locations (weather dependent).
- Once luggage is dropped off, campers will join others for games and adults will be asked to head back to cars and leave - please pay attention to staff helping with traffic.

Check-out (depends on weather):

- A staff member will be at the gate welcoming caregivers.
- If it is NOT raining, check-out will be drive-thru. Caregivers will drive to the Director's table, IDs will be checked, and medications will be given back. Caregivers will follow the road to the left where they will pick up their camper and all their camper's belongings. The Lost and Found will be in this area, so please check it before leaving
- If it IS raining, caregivers will be asked to back into a parking spot, with the assistance of a staff member, and then head to the lodge. Once at the lodge, IDs will be checked, medications will be given back, and campers will be called to reunite with caregivers. Please check all luggage and the Lost and Found. You will then head back to your car and leave - please pay attention to staff helping with traffic.

Sleeping Arrangements & Nighttime Supervision

Sleeping Accommodations

Campers are assigned to living units by program and age. Housing is based on age; youngest campers live in the least rustic areas. All housing is a short walk to the bathroom.

Camp Castle Rock: The cabins have single-level beds, heating, and electricity.

Timbercrest Camp: The cabins have single-level beds and are illuminated by battery-operated lanterns. There is no electricity in these cabins.

Camp Sacajawea: The yurts, round, cabin-like structures, have bunk beds, ceiling fans, and electricity. The platform tents are wooden platforms that have canvas tents on top with cots inside. There is no electricity in these tents.

Nighttime Supervision

- Most campers live with three to seven other campers their age.
- Counselors do not stay in sleeping quarters with campers. They sleep near the center of the unit, so they can supervise all campers in their group.
- At night, counselors check on campers. The buddy system and nighttime safety are discussed in depth so that campers feel comfortable going to the bathroom at night.
- Counselors do not go to sleep until all their campers are asleep and are always within earshot of campers if needed.

Bunkmates

- Campers can sign up as bunkmates, however they must be registered for the same camp week AND camp theme (not just be at camp the same week).
- The preferred bunkmate's name must be listed in UltraCamp no later than 2 weeks prior to the camp start date.
- Please be aware that we cannot guarantee more than one pair to be placed together.
- Bunkmates must request each other to guarantee the request is fulfilled.

Weekend Camp

- During weekend camp, adults can expect to stay in the accommodations listed.
- Kids and adults will NOT be able to share living quarters, with the exception of Family Camp.
- Campers can make new bonds with their peers and gain independence when they sleep in separate quarters from their caregivers.
- Unrelated adults should never be alone with unrelated youths therefore, GSMW requires separate sleeping quarters for adults (camp staff or volunteers) and campers.
- All adults attending camp must be a registered Girl Scout volunteer with an approved background check.

Healthcare at Camp

Emergencies

First and foremost, the safety and well-being of campers is our top priority.

- All camp staff are trained in First Aid and CPR. Our staff will provide care under this scope of training.
- Through the advanced training of our Healthcare Supervisor, campers will receive necessary medications permitted only by the authorization of the caregiver.
- If emergency medical care becomes necessary, camp staff will ensure that the proper emergency medical services control the situation.
- If this type of situation occurs, the Camp Director, Healthcare Supervisor, or designee will contact the emergency contacts listed for the camper.
- GSMW collaborates with local officials for environmental emergencies (e.g. wildfires or flood). In an event of an environmental emergency, caregivers will be notified by camp staff in regards to action being taken.
- If there is an emergency at home and campers need to be notified, caregivers may contact GSMW Headquarters at 406-252-0488 or the Camp Director at 406-743-9329.

Allergies

We ask that caregivers complete this section on their child's health form so we can make any needed accommodations. An email sent to camp@gsmw.org is also very helpful so that we know specifics about the camper. This way camp staff can prepare ahead of time.

- Typically, if a child has an allergy to a certain food, the kitchen staff will adapt their meal based on what is planned for everyone in camp.
- If caregivers would like to send specific food that their camper would eat as opposed to the brands or kinds we may have at camp, they are more than welcome. Please make sure to write the child's name on their food and send it in an appropriate cooler or bag for storage at camp.
- If a camper requires an Epi-pen or rescue inhaler, we recommend bringing TWO to camp (one for our staff, and one for the camper). If the camper needs to carry their emergency medication at camp, please bring the appropriate Emergency Medication Policy form at www.gsmw.org/camp or email customercare@gsmw.org This permission form requires a physician's signature. If the form is not signed, our staff will hold the medication.

Communicating at Camp

Electronic Communication

Campers are not allowed to have electronics (cell phones, smart watches, tablets, etc.) at camp. Allowing campers to sneak electronics to camp goes against Girl Scout values. Instead, send them with mail to read every day and stationery for them to write about their time so they can share their experience once they are home!

Electronics detract from the camp experience in the following ways:

- They are a distraction from the camp program. We want kids to unplug from technology and tune into the present experience. It's difficult to become fully engaged in the world around them when they are tied to their electronics and life at home.
- They can be a crutch for homesickness. A camper cannot benefit from the experience of being independent and away from home if they are retreating to their bunk to text home. We have counselors that are trained to work with campers to help them with homesickness and other issues.



Cell service is very limited and non-existent for some providers.
If a camper brings any of these items to camp, the Camp Director will take it and keep it in the office lock box, and return it at pick up time.

The phone number and email to contact camp is included in the confirmation packet and at the beginning of this guide.

Sending Mail to Camp

Campers LOVE to get mail! Given the lengths and locations of camps, mailed letters will not be delivered to camp in time. Instead, caregivers can bring a letter or batch of letters to check-in.

Give the letters to our camp staff at the check-in table. Camp staff will deliver these letters throughout the week. Please keep messages up-beat and supportive.

Campers can also be sent to camp with pre-addressed envelopes and stationery to write to loved ones throughout camp. Camp staff will mail these out throughout the week, so mail may not arrive until after camper has returned home.

If caregivers choose to send campers with a care package please do NOT include any food, gum, or flavored drinks – these encourage critters to visit. Some suggestions would be small toys, books, cards, or friendship bracelet string. Alternatively, GSMW offers Happy Camper Kits that may be purchased at registration time.





Birthdays

If a camper is at camp for their birthday, please notify the Camp Director during check-in. Due to allergy concerns we do not allow outside snacks to be brought in. Camp will hold a small celebration for the camper.

Happy Camper Kits

During registration, consider ordering a “GSMW Happy Camper Kit” which will be given to campers on the first day of camp. These kits are curated to provide comfort and excitement for campers. For details about the Happy Camper Kit, please visit www.gsmw.org/camp.

Other Helpful Information

Bugs and Critters

Camp is an outdoor activity and there is no way of eliminating critters that live in the great outdoors.

- For these reasons, campers should not carry snacks and flavored drinks.
- A travel-size, non-aerosol bug-spray/lotion should be sent with each camper. Please instruct campers how to properly use these prior to camp.
- Sprays should never be sprayed indoors or upwind of others.
- All camp staff are trained to keep campers safe around local wildlife.

The Buddy System

Campers are expected to always comply to the buddy system while at camp and is discussed with them at opening campfire.

- Ensures that campers are always within arm's reach of help if need be.
- Requires campers to always travel in a minimum group of two. This includes trips to the bathroom in the middle of the night.
- Campers will also never be alone with a staff member and there will always be at least one other person within earshot and eyesight. This may be another camper or staff member.

Activities not Listed

Our camp guide has limited space, so not every detail makes it in.

- Everybody gets to participate in arts and crafts, team building, archery, and all sorts of other activities if they choose to!
- Some activities have age requirements set by GSUSA safety activity checkpoints.

Programs that Leave Camp Property

Two staff members are present anytime a group of campers leaves the camp property.

- Ratios of campers to adults are kept to a maximum of 10 campers to 2 adults when leaving camp.
- Typically, any field trip that leaves camp will ride in a 12-passenger van.
- It is essential to have all waivers filled out prior to checking in at camp. Please double-check they are filled in before you arrive at camp.



Homesickness

Campers of all ages and levels of camp knowledge can experience some degree of homesickness.

- Our homesickness policy redirects campers and distracts them with fun activities.
- Often homesickness will set in during rest time or free time, so we try to keep them busy.
- We have a no-call-home policy as calling home can often lead to homesickness getting much worse.
- If homesickness is sustained or severe, on-site camp staff will call the emergency number listed in the camper's UltraCamp profile to ask caregivers directly what they think is the next best step for the camper. If caregivers believe their camper needs to leave camp early due to homesickness, it is the responsibility of the caregiver to arrange for transportation/ pick up for their camper. Refunds are not given for partial camp stays.
- Check out this resource from the American Camp Association on how campers and caregivers can prepare for their stay away from home: https://bit.ly/3TWR5PR



Bad Weather

Our outdoor activities are dependent on good weather.

- In the case of bad weather (lightning, thunder, or high winds), it may become too dangerous to continue the activity.
- Our primary concern is for the campers' safety.
- Our staff is trained on what to do during inclement weather and activities to entertain campers safely.

Privacy

To ensure that campers feel comfortable and safe, private changing tents have been purchased for all units for use during their stay at camp. Campers must request that these tents are brought to their unit or it will be assumed they are not needed.

Camp Security

Our foremost concern is the health and safety of campers.

- Our camp complies with the health and safety standards of GSUSA and the states of Montana and Wyoming.
- Procedures for handling emergencies, both generalized and specific, have been established and the camp staff is trained to follow them.
- The camp also maintains communication with local authorities, including the local sheriff, fire and emergency departments, and animal control units.

Hydration

Dehydration is the number one cause of health problems while at camp.

- If a camper doesn't drink enough water, they might develop headaches, stomach cramps or even feel lightheaded and dizzy.
- Staff members make sure campers are all taking frequent water breaks and drinking water at every meal.
- Please make sure campers pack their own reusable water bottle.
- Help by getting campers in the habit of carrying a water bottle with them to sip throughout the day and by having them drink a glass of water at each meal at home.

Hygiene

- All camper living units have a sink area for hand washing, teeth brushing, and face washing.
- Campers will have the option to shower throughout the week.
- Please send campers with appropriate hygiene products (deodorant, body soap, hair brush, etc.)

Picky Eaters

We encourage all campers to step out of their comfort zone and try a "brownie bite" of all food served prior to deciding they do not like the food.

- At every meal, we offer additional options so that campers who do not care for the main dish can still find plenty to eat.
- These options will include a salad bar, sandwich station, or cereal bar.
- We also have snack once a day to help provide further options for nutrition.

