

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa

**2009**  
**Troop Camping**  
**Information and Registration**  
**Packet**



Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa  
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Des Moines, IA 50322-3798

(515) 278-2881  
(800) 342-8389

**Dear Troop Leader:**

It is our pleasure to bring back troop camping this year at Camp Sacajawea and Camp Tanglefoot, and add Joy Hollow as a new site for troops and their leaders to enjoy camp together. Troop camping provides a progression of camping opportunities at our resident camps to better meet the needs of girls and adults.

All our camps are amazing places where girls learn and grow together and make discoveries about the world under the supervision of caring adults. We invite you to read this information carefully with your troop to choose a troop camping option that is right for your troop. We hope to see you at camp!

Sincerely,

Pattie Sanderson  
Joy Hollow

Carmen Contreras  
Camp Sacajawea

Julia Cira  
Camp Tanglefoot

**Who do I call if I have additional questions?**

**Joy Hollow and staff information:**

Pattie Sanderson  
Outdoor Pathways Director  
(515) 571-9187  
psanderson@gsiowa.org

**Camp Sacajawea and staff information:**

Carmen Contreras  
Outdoor Pathways Director  
(515) 278-2881 or (800) 342-8389  
campsac@gmail.com

**Camp Tanglefoot and staff information:**

Julia Cira  
Outdoor Pathways Director  
(641) 357-2481  
jcira@gsiowa.org

**Camp registration/payment questions only:**

Registrar  
(515) 278-2881 or (800) 342-8389

**General camp information:**

VP of Property / Outdoor Pathways  
(515) 278-2881 or (800) 342-8389  
ccarroll@gsiowa.org

**Financial aid information:**

VP of Property / Outdoor Pathways  
(515) 278-2881 or (800) 342-8389  
ccarroll@gsiowa.org

# **TROOP CAMPING**

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## **What is troop camping?**

Troop Camping allows girls to go to one of our camps with her troop and troop leaders.

## **What are the benefits of troop camping?**

Troop camping is a cost effective way for girls and adults to enjoy the camp experience together. Troop camping can facilitate troops from the very inexperienced to the most experienced. Troop camping can be a good step in the camp progression before sending girls to resident camp alone or before going camping on your own as a troop.

## **What are the different program options? How does troop camping work?**

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa (GSGI) will be offering three different types of Troop Camping for Girl Scout Troops and their leaders. Troop Camping: *The Works I*, *Meet You In the Middle*, and *We Can Do It*. Each troop camping provides a different level of programming from the camp and thus a different price scale allowing you to adjust your troop camp experience to meet the needs of you and your girls.

- *The Works I* provides all programming for girls plus Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training for adults.
- For *Meet You In the Middle* the camp provides about half of the program and troop leaders provide about half of the program.
- *We Can Do It* troop leaders provide all of the general program while the camp provides specialty programs only such as Challenge course, small craft activities or guided hikes.

## **Where will troop camping be offered?**

**Camp Sacajawea** sits majestically overlooking the Des Moines River with the privacy of woods and the ravines surrounding it, great for hiking and an abundance of wildlife for you to see. The design of this 454 acre camp gives you the feeling of comfort knowing other campers and modern air conditioned buildings are close, by but also the fun of living in the great outdoors. Spend the day at the climbing wall, in the swimming pool or horseback riding. If the indoors is more your thing, great! Join us center stage for a theatrical or dance production complete with a dressing room and stage lights. Create ceramic pieces, then fire them in the kiln or spend the day with your camera taking pictures then developing them in the dark room. Settle in for the night in a tent, cabin, Hogan or Troop House with the comforts of home with mattresses on cots, showers and flush toilet nearby.

**Camp Tanglefoot**, rich in its unique setting provides campers the feeling of backwoods camping in tents and cabins, and the city life of Tanglefoot Bay at Clear Lake. Taste the good life as you swim, sail a boat, canoe or enjoy the warmth of the sun during a relaxing ride on a pontoon boat. This well designed camp sits on 50 acres, with several retreat buildings, an incredible low obstacle and high ropes challenge course. Plenty of hiking, environmental studies, archery range, craft house and prairie lake. Many Girl Scouts return year after year to become a part of Camp Tanglefoots 60 years of traditions, campfire magic and outdoor excellence.

**Joy Hollow's** natural beauty along broad vistas and famed Loess Hills lures you into 350 acres of wooded trails, primitive camping and the unforgettable feeling of peaceful existence with nature. Enter main camp for sun and fun around the swim pool, challenge the target or field archery range, journey out of camp for canoe trips, experience the Native American culture, or explore sciences through anthropology, weather or stargazing. Before settling into your plush Tree house for a comfy nights sleep, sing and laugh with new and old friends around a crackling campfire.

## **Are the camps accredited?**

Camp Sacajawea and Camp Tanglefoot are proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) and meet their high standards. Joy Hollow will be visited for accreditation this summer. In addition, all camps follow all guidelines recommended by GSUSA listed in *Safety-Wise* and *Girl Scouts Sites and Facilities*.

## **Troop Camping: *The Works Levels I*** **(Includes adult Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training)**

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### **What does this program include?**

The camp will provide program for girls and adults for their entire stay. This program also includes an adult training track.

### **Who is this program for?**

This program is for Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts. This program is for troops who have minimal camping experience or troops who would like the camp to provide all programming.

- *The Works Level I* is designed for troops whose troop leaders have not taken Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training module.

### **What activities will we do?**

For Level I there will be activity blocks where girls and adults can do activities together. These activities include: one horseback riding time at Camp Sacajawea or one archery time at Joy Hollow, games, group initiatives, arts and crafts, outdoor skills, and a hike together.

There will be activity blocks where girls can go with the counselors to do activities and the adults/troop leaders can attend training. Activities for the girls during this time will include: Try-it, Badge, or Interest Project Patch requirements, themed activities, workshop choice activities, and a cookout. At nighttime, come back together to enjoy all camp parties and campfires.

### **What Trainings are available for adults?**

*The Works Level I* will offer the Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training module. Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training is required to go on any troop camping experience. Focus is on program, safety standards and check points for outdoor activities such as: field trips, environmental awareness, short hikes, outdoor service projects, team and individual sports and other troop programs that take place out-of-doors or away from the normal troop meeting site.

This Troop Camping is only for troops whose leaders have not received the Basic Outdoor Awareness training. It is mandatory that one adult from each troop attend this course, but we recommend that all adults whether leaders or not attend this training.

## **Troop Camping: *The Works* (continued)**

### **Sample schedule for the Works:**

Time	Day 1	Time	Day 2	Time	Day 3
		8 a.m.	Breakfast Kapers	8 a.m.	Breakfast Kapers
		10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	Girls/Adults Separate. Girls to program, Adults to training.	9-11 a.m.	Girls/Adults together for activities.
2 p.m.	Check In	1 p.m.	Lunch	11 a.m.- 12 noon	Kapers/ Checkout
2-3 p.m.	Troop Leader Mtg. Girls with staff	2 p.m.	Me Time/free time (1 hour)		
3-5 p.m.	Girls/Adults together for activities.	3-5 p.m.	Girls/Adults together for camp activities		
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	5:30 p.m.	Dinner		
7:30 p.m.	Campfire	7:30 p.m.	All Camp		

### **Session Information:**

#### ***The Works Level I:***

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
June 29-July 1	Mon. 2 p.m.-Weds. 12 noon	Joy Hollow
July 1-3	Weds. 2 p.m.-Fri. 12 noon	Camp Sacajawea

**FEE:** \$60 per person. Includes all program and training supplies for girls and adults, meals, and staff. Does not include the camp T-shirt. You can order a shirt for girls and adults on the registration form.

## **Troop Camping: *Meet You In the Middle***

### **What does this program include?**

The camp will provide program to girls and adults for half the program blocks. Troop leaders will provide program for their girls for the other half yielding a price break to troops for this program.

### **Who is this program for?**

*Meet You In the Middle* is for Brownie, Junior, Cadette, or Senior Girl Scout troops.

This program is designed for troops that have some experience camping or are ready to do some activities on their own. Troop leaders must have attended GSGI's Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills.

### **What activities will we do?**

The camp will provide program for two three-hour program blocks. One block will include two hours of Archery and an arts and craft activity. The second block will include outdoor skills, hike, and a Badge/Try-it or IPP workshop.

Troop leaders provide program for their girls for the other two three-hour blocks. The troop can plan to do any activities that you would like. Some ideas include:

- Me Time (free time) up to an hour per block is recommended
- Shower Time
- Arts and Crafts (you would need to bring your own supplies)
- Badge, Try-It, or IPP workshop (you will need to bring your own supplies)
- Hiking or Outdoor Skills
- Games, skits, talent or fashion show
- Or anything else your girls would like to plan to do at camp

### **Sample schedule for *Meet You In the Middle***

Time	Day 1	Time	Day 2	Time	Day 3
		8 a.m.	Breakfast	8 a.m.	Breakfast
		9 a.m.- 12 noon	Block II	9 a.m.- 12 noon	Block IV
2 p.m.	Check-in Troop leader Mtg.	12 noon	Lunch/Kapers	12 noon	Checkout
2-5 p.m.	Block I	2-5 p.m.	Block III		
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	5:30 p.m.	Dinner		
7 p.m.	Camp fire	7 p.m.			

### **Session Information:**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 1-3	Weds. 2 p.m.-Fri. 12 noon	Joy Hollow

**FEE:** \$45 per person. Includes program supplies for activities provided by the camp, staff, and all meals. Does not include the camp T-shirt. You can order a shirt for girls and adults on the registration form.

## **Troop Camping: *We Can Do It!***

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### **What does this program include?**

For this program troop leaders provide most or the entire program for their girls and provide all camper supervision. The camp can facilitate specialty programs for your troop. There is an optional meal service.

### **Who is this program for?**

*We Can Do It!* is for Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout Troops. This program is for troop leaders who feel comfortable supervising and programming for their girls. This program is the most cost-effective way to attend camp. Troop leaders must have GSGI Basic Outdoor Awareness Skills training.

### **How much will it cost?**

The cost of your troop camping experience depends on the services you would like the camp to provide, your choice of living arrangements, and the number of meals you would like to eat in the dining hall. The price for this camping experience can range from \$2 per person to \$40 per person. A troop of ten who chooses all program options and all meals in the dining hall can expect to pay approximately \$30 per person. See registration form for fee lists.

### **Where will we sleep?**

Camp Tanglefoot has platform tents and cabins which sleep four on cots with mattresses or huts that sleep six on cots with mattresses. Adults may not share tents, cabins, or huts with girls. Keep this in mind when figuring out how many tents, cabins or huts your troop will need.

### **What specialty programs are available?**

1. Challenge Course (for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors only)
2. Small Craft activities
3. Guided hike
4. Three weeks prior to your program, you will receive a schedule for your troop that shows the times for your troop to attend the specialty programs you selected.

### **How do meals work?**

Your troop can choose to eat all or part of your meals in the dining hall. You can bring in your own food and do your own cooking in the unit as a cookout for some or all of the meals if you choose. Kitchen facilities will not be available for troop use. If you bring in your own food, GSGI provides access to refrigeration, ice, general cooking supplies (pots/pans, bowls, etc.), Dutch ovens, and propane stove. Your troop provides individual mess kits, charcoal, and food. If you do your own meals, you will receive a detailed list of cooking supplies available with your confirmation.

### **Session Information**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
July 14-16	Tues. 2 p.m.-Thurs. noon	Camp Tanglefoot

## **Information Everyone Needs to Know...**

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### **ACCOMMODATIONS:**

#### **Can adults stay in the same tents/cabins/huts/hogan/tree house as the girls?**

GSUSA requires that girls and adults have separate accommodations. Adults cannot stay in the same tent/cabin as the girls. Adult tents/cabins/huts/hogan/tree house will be close enough to supervise the girls.

#### **Where does the staff stay?**

The staff, stay in tents/cabins/huts/hogan/tree house separate from the girls but sufficiently close by to supervise the girls.

#### **How many people does the tents/cabins/huts/hogan/tree house sleep?**

The tents and cabins sleep four people. Huts sleep six people. Hogan and tree houses sleep eight people. In accordance with ACA guidelines and fire codes more beds cannot be added to a tent or cabin to facilitate more people. If your troop does not fill an entire sleeping unit, you may need to share your tent with members from another troop (this does not apply to the *We Can Do It* program where you rent out the entire tent/cabin/hut).

#### **What are the meal services? Can special foods be provided?**

Girls will be provided with three nutritious meals a day served home style plus two snacks. The camp cooks can meet most special need. If one of your girls has special dietary needs, please have her specify this on her Camp Health History Form.

### **CAMP GUIDELINES**

#### **How many adults need to come with our troop?**

According to *Safety-Wise*, the following girl adult ratios must be met: 2 adults for every 12 Brownie Girl Scouts; 2 Adults for every 16 Junior Girl Scouts; 2 Adults for every 20 Cadette Girl Scouts; and 2 Adults for every 24 Senior Girl Scouts.

#### **Can girls call home if they get homesick or bring a cell phone to call home?**

Camp phones are not available for campers' use and campers should not come to camp with a cell phone. If there is an emergency, we will arrange a time for the camper to be near a phone to receive or make a phone call. Calling home usually makes the child even more homesick. To be successful at camp, girls need to be secure enough to be away from home without needing to call home.

#### **What if we need to come late or leave early?**

We ask that girls and adults coming to a troop camping experience be able to stay for the entire duration of the event. Under special circumstances please call the Outdoor Pathway Director (phone number is listed on the first page).

#### **What rules are people expected to follow while at camp?**

Everyone is expected to follow the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Girls are asked to follow camp rules, use the buddy system, stay with the group and stay in camp boundaries. No drugs, alcohol, pets, or weapons are permitted on Girl Scout property. Smoking is permitted by those of legal age in designated areas.

## **Information Everyone Needs To Know (continued)**

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### **CAMP GUIDELINES (Cont.)**

#### **Can people be sent home from camp?**

The Outdoor Pathway Director reserves the right to send home anybody who neglects to follow camp rules, becomes a danger to herself or others, or damages property. No refund will be given if people are sent home due to misconduct or refusal to follow policy.

#### **Disclaimer**

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa plans quality program for camp with the health, safety, and well-being of the camper as its first priority. Some sessions may be altered or canceled due to weather, fire, natural disaster, lack of staff, or lack of registrations. The camp director may determine whether a girl is competent to participate in any activity and if necessary, transfer her to another program. When necessary, campers will participate in alternate activities. No alteration or refunds will be issued if changes are made in activities due to weather, fire, or natural disaster. If a session is canceled due to lack of registrations, campers will be afforded the opportunity to select another session or receive a full refund.

### **REGISTRATION**

#### **When can I register for troop camping ?**

Registrations must be mailed. The first day registration may be postmarked is **Friday, April 3, 2009**. A \$20 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit per troop must be paid at time of registration. Deposits may be paid by individual check, troop check, credit card or money order. Confirmations will be mailed out approximately four weeks after registration begins.

#### **Refunds**

If a troop's placement in a camp is unsatisfactory, a written request for refund of the deposit must be sent to GSGI within two weeks of receiving the camp confirmation. The deposit is non-refundable two weeks after your troop has been confirmed into your camp session. If a written request is not received, the deposit is forfeited. Deposits are not transferable.

If a girl/adult does not attend camp due to illness or injury, send a physician's note and a written request for refund within one week after the camp session. The balance of the camp fee (minus the deposit) will be refunded.

No refunds will be made if a girl/adult does not show up for camp or returns home from camp because of illness, injury, homesickness, misconduct, or any other circumstance.

#### **Payments**

All fees must be paid 30 days prior to your camp session. A late fee of \$5 per girl/adult will be added to your balance due if payment is not made by the due date. If payment is not made 30 days prior to your camp session, GSGI reserves the right to cancel your reservation.

#### **Cookie Dough, Go-Grant Campership**

Girls may use cookie dough for the remainder of fee (Cookie dough may not be used for deposit). To request Go-Grant Camperships, use the Go-Grant Campership application found in this packet. It may be photocopied. All Go-Grant Campership applications must be received no later than April 27, 2009 to be considered for financial assistance.

## **Information Everyone Needs To Know (continued)**

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### **Substitutions**

If a participant, girl or adult, for any reason cannot attend this event, another girl or adult can come in his/her place with no additional fee. The person must be a registered Girl Scout, bring a release and health history form, and meet the qualifications for the event.

### **SECURITY**

Joy Hollow, Camp Sacajawea and Camp Tanglefoot each have a full-time or part time site manager, a locked gate, and are patrolled by local law enforcement agencies.

### **Tag-a-long/visitors**

For the safety and security of all participants and to ensure quality programming, tag-a-longs or visitors not registered for this event (boys, girls, adults, siblings, children, parents etc.) **may not** stay or visit this event.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **Health Supervisor**

All camps have a qualified health supervisor on site. A doctor is on call and medical facilities are readily available. Parents will be notified in the event of a serious illness or injury.

#### **Medication**

Any medications or vitamins for girls or adults need to be turned into the health supervisor at check-in. **All medications must be in their original container and labeled with the person's name.** A medication log must be filled out and turned in with the medications.

#### **Health Insurance**

Campers are covered by accident insurance while they are at camp. Pre-existing illnesses or conditions are not covered. Sickness or illness is not covered.

#### **Health History, Release Forms, Physical Examinations**

Every girl and adult needs to submit a completed health history and release form. These forms will be mailed to you with your confirmation packet. The health history needs to be updated annually. Physical examinations by a licensed health care provider are not required for any troop camping events.

#### **West Nile Virus**

Experts advise those spending time outdoors after dusk take precautions against mosquito bites such as: wearing long sleeves, long pants, and mosquito repellent.

#### **Disclaimer**

The camp health supervisor has the right to refuse admittance to any girl/adult who does not meet acceptable health conditions. The camp director reserves the right to request that any child who is ill or unable to adapt to camp living be returned home.

## **Works Level I & Meet You In the Middle Registration Information**

The troop camping registration forms were developed for troop use. Registrations will be accepted by mail only to ensure fairness to all troops and must not be postmarked before April 3, 2009.

1. Register only one troop per form. (The *We Can Do It!* Program has a separate registration form.)
2. Adult/girl ratios must meet *Safety-Wise* (2000) guidelines. (Standard 13, page 69).
3. Select a camp and write the title, and date in the appropriate space. Please list a second and third choice.
4. Complete the payment section. A \$20 deposit per troop must be paid at the time of registration. Individual check, troop check, credit card or money order must accompany form. Make checks payable to Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa (GSGI).
5. At time of final payment or 30 days prior to the first day of the camp session, troop leaders must provide names of all girls and adults planning to attend the event. All girls and adults must be currently registered Girl Scouts.
6. The balance of the camp fee is due 30 days prior to the first day of the camp session. Balances not paid 30 days prior to camp will be assessed late fees. Failure to pay on time may result in cancellation of the registration and forfeiture of fees.
7. Cookie dough may be used for girl camp fees, but not the deposit. Cookie dough must be sent with the registration form. Earning cookie dough does not guarantee placement.
8. If the camp assignment is unsatisfactory, a written request for refund of the deposit must be sent to GSGI within two weeks of receiving the camp confirmation. No exceptions will be made to this policy. All troops that cannot be placed will be notified by mail. Deposits will be refunded.
9. No refunds will be made if a girl and/or troop returns home from camp because of illness, injury, homesickness, misconduct, and/or any other circumstance.
10. If a camper from your troop does not attend due to illness or injury, send a physician's note and a written request for refund within one week after the camp session. The balance of the camp fee (minus the deposit) will be refunded.
11. Allow four weeks for confirmation of your troop camp registration.
12. No changes will be made to your camp session once confirmations are sent out.