



general info

Who should come to camp and what's it all about?

Our summer activities are open to all girls, including non-Girl Scouts. Any girl entering first grade through twelfth grade is welcome at camp. You don't have to have any camping experience to come to camp, and you don't have to come with friends or a troop. You'll make new friends while you're here. The GSCI summer camp experience is available in many forms: resident camp, day camp, family events, and core camping where troops stay at camp and camp staff run activities.

American Camp Association (ACA)

All of GSCI's camp facilities are proud to hold current accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA accreditation is the best evidence parents have of a camp's commitment to a safe and nurturing environment for their children. This voluntary accreditation assures parents that camp practices have been measured against national standards and go a step beyond a state's basic licensing requirements. Accreditation is based on a commitment by the camp to undergo a thorough review of its operations – from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. The American Camp Association has created a website for parents and families which includes tips on getting your camper ready for camp. www.campparents.org



Campership Assistance Fund

On the registration forms you will notice a place to make an optional contribution to our Campership Assistance Fund. This fund allows families to make a gift on behalf of girls who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend Girl Scout camp and summer activities. Your support will help provide the Girl Scout experience to girls with a financial need, thereby assisting us in our goal to give every girl within our jurisdiction access to the leadership development, character building, and fun that Girl Scouting provides. To apply for Campership assistance please see page 37.

Who are the camp staff?

Our camp staff are enthusiastic, talented, and caring adults who are excited about having lots of fun at camp and building girls of courage, confidence, and character. The selection process for camp staff includes screening their experience, their ability to serve as role models for girls, and their genuine desire to work with children. Interviews, reference checks, and thorough background screening are all part of the selection process. Staff training includes a full week of first aid, CPR, safety and emergency management, outdoor skills, team building, helping children deal with homesickness, understanding age level characteristics, and more. Staff who facilitate high adventure, horseback riding, water activities, and trips are trained and/or have certifications. Many of our camp staff return year after year, building relationships with returning campers and furthering their own development as camp professionals. Volunteers and council staff also assist as necessary.

camp directors

Billie “Skeeter” Waddell

Skeeter has spent eleven summers working at Girl Scout camp and has been a director for nine years. She grew up as a Girl Scout in the Glasford area and hopes that girls will come to day camp looking for a super silly fun time and willing to try new activities and make new friends. Skeeter wants girls to know that day camp is a great way to learn about camp and hang out with your friends during the day and then be able to go home at night. It's a great way to get an introduction to camp before progressing to resident camp. When camp is not in session Skeeter works as a program specialist leading age-level programs for GSCI. Contact Billie at bwaddell@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Katie “Bugs” Nolan

Bugs is looking forward to her sixth summer as a GSCI camp director and her ninth summer working at Girl Scout camp. Bugs has shared her experience and expertise with other camp professionals at the American Camp Association's Mid-States Convention in 2010 and 2011 as a workshop co-leader. She is pleased to offer several camp sessions this summer that are the direct result of campers' requests while also keeping those tried and true favorites. In order to keep up with all our teen campers we've created more traveling camps, high adventure camps, and camps that give you plenty of time to hang out and relax. Bugs hopes you'll consider resident camp this summer, and if you're not up for a full week she suggests you check out one of our three-day sessions. Whether you are a returning camper or brand new to the experience, Bugs looks forward to greeting you at the camp front gate and joining you for campfires, swimming, outdoor cooking, and stargazing. Contact Katie at knolan@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Lisa “Deli” Sons

Deli loves the outdoors and has worked in various positions with children and environmental education for 13 years. Deli has helped with camp since she started working for the council in 2007. As a program specialist Deli creates fun and interesting programs for Girl Scouts throughout the year and at camp. You might have seen her helping at camp in years past, especially if you registered for the older Girl Scout resident camp, Trailblazers. Deli believes that each girl has the ability to grow in confidence, independence, character, and her ability to do everything and anything she sets her mind to. Join Deli at day camp this summer at Camp Peairs and Camp Tapawingo and explore all that camp and Girl Scouts can offer. Contact Lisa at lsons@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Jennifer “Sherwood” Kernan

Sherwood has been a camper since she was five, a counselor for two years, an Assistant Camp Director for three years, and is getting ready for her second summer as Camp Director at Camp Widjiwagan. Sherwood has presented at professional camp conferences for two years, sharing her camp knowledge with other directors. She holds a degree in elementary education and is excited for another summer of girls trying new things and making new friends while discovering the great outdoors! She is also excited to offer new opportunities at Camp Widjiwagan for girls of all ages and looks forward to seeing you all this summer! Contact Jennifer at jkernan@girlscouts-gsci.org.



skeeter

bugs

deli

sherwood

gsci camps

Camp Kiwanis

Camp Kiwanis is a 55 acre forested camp facility adjacent to Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and the American Heritage Museum. Located 12 miles from Champaign, it features three lodges, a tent unit, and a nature center. Environmental education, creative arts, and archery are highlights of the programs offered here.



Camp Kiwanis



Camp Peairs

Camp Myra S. Peairs is an 88 acre camp facility located 15 miles from Bloomington/Normal on Lake Bloomington. It features two miles of lakefront property with hiking trails and a dining hall that overlooks the lake. Highlighted programs include sailing and aquatics, creative arts, archery, and outdoor living skills. Campers utilize three main units – Sunset, Hilltop, and Aramoni – that provide either cabins or platform tents. Each unit has wash stands, latrines, fire circles, picnic tables, and unit shelters.



Camp Peairs



Camp Tapawingo

Camp Tapawingo is a 640 acre camp facility located 15 miles from Peoria. The cornerstone of this property is Mary Morgan Lodge, a 12,000 square foot multi-level program center. Camp Tapawingo features an in-ground pool, adventure course, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, and miles of hiking trails. Campers utilize four main rustic living units – Rustling Oaks, Setting Sun, White Cloud, and Shining Star – that provide platform tents and unit houses. These unit houses have electricity, inside bathrooms, hot water, and kitchen facilities.



Camp Tapawingo



Camp Widjiwagan

Camp Widjiwagan, a 67 acre camp facility on Lake Springfield, is located six miles south of Springfield. The facility features a new adventure course, two main lodges, an in-ground swimming pool, platform tents, covered wagons, and an art and craft shack. Programming highlights include swimming, canoeing, creative arts, outdoor living skills, and environmental education.

Campers stay in rustic units that are tucked into the woods and typically consist of six to ten open-air platform tents. Campers may choose their own tent and tent mates. Counselors sleep in a nearby tent that oversees the unit and are responsible for all girls assigned to the unit. Platform tents are situated on wooden decks on the ground and are approximately 12' x 14' with weather treated canvas sides and roof. Each tent contains four sleeping cots with mattresses. All of our camp facilities have a shower house which all girls utilize. Security lighting is located throughout camp properties.



Camp Widjiwagan



All Girl Scouts of Central Illinois camps are proudly accredited by the American Camp Association.

