



GSGWM Summer Day Camp

Addendum to the [Day Camp Family Guide](#)

COVID-19 Guidelines

Note: Procedures may change as guidelines change
Update: June 1, 2021

Welcome! GSGWM has created this plan for our summer day camps so families and campers can understand what to expect at summer camp while under COVID-19 guidelines. We are confident that we can meet the guideline requirements and that girls will have a summer camp experience where they will try new activities, make new friends, and explore the outdoors together. GSGWM is uniquely prepared to welcome girls from both New Hampshire and Vermont at our summer camps, and experienced at working with multiple state guidelines to ensure the safety of our campers.

As you review these guidelines, you will see that we meet the guidelines of both states in many ways: as Girl Scouts, we already participate in activities as a unit or patrol, and in this way we are using the “cohort” approach that is recommended for COVID-19 safety. Additionally, girls arriving at camps and programs have a health screening; and our day campers already use well-ventilated Adirondacks as their home base during camp.

We are confident that summer day and resident camp will run this summer, and that girls from New Hampshire and Vermont will be able to attend summer resident camp at Camp Farnsworth in Vermont. While each state has their own guidelines around COVID-19 and travel, all the New England states have agreed to work together to permit summer campers to move across state lines to attend residential summer camps.

This GSGWM guide is based on recommendations of many agencies and over our two-state footprint. Please review these guidelines for an overview of what summer camp will look like this summer. If you have additional questions about some aspect of camp, please contact us at customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org or 888-474-9686.

For more information on the resources and guidelines used to create this plan, please see these resources:

- [GSUSA Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- [American Camp Association COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- [State of New Hampshire DHHS camp licensing guidelines](#)
- [State of New Hampshire: Day Camp Guidance](#)
- [State of Vermont Resident Camp Licensing](#)
- [State of Vermont COVID-19 Guidance](#)

June 1, 2021 Update:

The State of NH has issued requirements for licensed day camps which require mask wearing unless swimming or eating; GSGWM will follow this guideline, even when most businesses may not require masks, or when participants may be fully vaccinated. The CDC has updated guidance (May 28, 2021) which recommends mask wearing outdoors particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, and those who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Due to our camps being located in counties and towns of high/substantial transmission, and because the majority of day campers are under 12 and not vaccinated, we will be requiring our staff and campers to wear masks unless 3' apart outdoors with campers in their patrol or engaging in water activities.

During summer 2020, we offered family camps and our staff know first hand how hot and sweaty it is to wear a mask in the summer heat all day. Our camp staff practice many ways of keeping campers spread out on our large camp properties and while engaged in activities, and that means that when campers are spread out, they won't need to keep their masks on. We've added extra picnic tables to units to spread out campers, and we've hired extra staff to keep campers in smaller patrols of girls so they have lots of room to spread out. We know we'll need to wear masks when in the adirondack shelters or in buildings; when on a bus together, and when working closely together on a project (firebuilding, for example); but we also expect that our campers will have lots of time to safely breath the fresh air without a mask on while outdoors and spread out.

We also have hope that as our community transmission status drops below high transmission, we will be able to further amend this guideline for outdoor spaces for summer camps and that there will be a change before our day camps begin in July. We will keep our camp families informed of any changes; please know that there have been no additional updates to the state covid -19 day camp guidelines since they were issued in March.

General Information

These are the most commonly asked questions; please review this entire guide for more detailed descriptions. From our experience, and those of all camps operating last summer, we know that there is not a stand-alone quick fix which will protect everyone from COVID-19. The best approach is consistent application of all safety procedures - masks, temperature checks, handwashing, distancing, cleaning, disinfecting, sanitizing. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that our campers and staff have the best 2021 summer camp experience possible.

Group Sizes

At this time, summer camps are limited to a total 100 people gathered together, including staff and campers, and the use of small groups of the same people together if meeting over multiple days. This will result in camper groups (patrols) of 6-12 girls based on camper ages and GSUSA guidelines. Patrols are assigned their own Adirondack and Unit Assistant (Counselor), and a Unit Leader supervises multiple patrols of girls and staff. Patrols each have their own picnic tables and fire circle, and use an assigned restroom and handwashing area.

Personal Items at Camp

Campers are encouraged to pack for each day in a backpack. Adirondacks have shelves and hooks to store personal belongings; campers will have a designated space to store personal items each day at camp. Please label all your camper's items (especially her water bottle) to make it easier to return misplaced items to the correct camper, and reduce the chances of multiple campers touching her personal items.

Drop Off at Camp: Self-Assessment and Temperature Check

Before dropping your child off at summer day camp, please ask her the COVID-19 screening questions. Please also take her temperature; campers with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be allowed to attend camp. GSGWM summer camps use a touch-free thermometer. Temperatures will be taken at check in each morning. See the Drop off/Pick up section for more details.

Face Masks and Distancing

All camp staff and campers will wear face masks at all times, unless eating, at the waterfront, or when otherwise unsafe to do so. While patrols may gather more closely, distances between girls of separate patrols must be maintained at six feet or more. Masks are required at family night activities or when singing. Campers are encouraged to pack an extra mask in their backpacks; days at camp are hot and sweaty and campers might choose to wear more than one mask in a day.

Handwashing and Restrooms

Handwashing sinks and restrooms are assigned to a particular patrol to share. The daily camp schedule allows for times to wash hands and use restrooms before eating snack, lunch, and before flag time in the afternoon. Girls may use their assigned restrooms as needed; girls will take a buddy from her patrol to the restroom. All campers and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer in between activities.

Staffing

Our Unit Assistants, Unit Leaders, and Core Staff are committed to the safety and well-being of everyone in our camp community. Everyone is health screened into camp each day, wears masks, socially distances, and follows all procedures to keep our camp community healthy and having fun at camp. Per the health

department, staff are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to their supervisor.

Cleaning

Cleaning with soap and water and disinfecting with EnvirOx solution of surfaces (picnic tables, seats); shared spaces (Adirondack, patrol restrooms), and program areas shall be performed by summer camp staff before the start of the camp day, during the day, and in between patrol groups. Indoor spaces (such as bathrooms) may be sanitized and/or disinfected by fogging multiple times per week in a process completed by trained staff. During the camp day, summer camp staff will frequently wipe down high touch surfaces such as door handles. Campers will be assigned shelves and/or hooks with names so that their personal items have designated locations.

Sunscreen and Insect repellent

Please choose a product you find appropriate, and be sure your camper can apply it. Camp staff will remind campers to reapply after swimming and at lunch time; it is best if you practice this skill with your campers before camp. We will not be able to share insect repellent or sunscreen between campers.

Severe Weather Emergencies

The most common weather emergency at summer camp is a thunderstorm, sometimes with high winds and often with lightning. Campers and staff will shelter with masks on in the safest structure available to them during these severe weather events. This may mean campers gather in their open-air Adirondack (these structures are elevated off the ground, with three solid sides and metal or shingle roof; and one side is screened); a large pavilion structure (open sides, metal or shingle roof, often with plumbing and electric wiring); or lodge/building. When using a building as shelter with multiple patrols, campers shall be spread out as much as possible and only for the duration of the storm/severe weather alert. During the emergency, campers will remain with their patrol members as much as is possible, and all safety protocols will continued to be implemented, including the wearing of masks.

Mask Breaks

During the summer camp day, we will look for ways for campers to take a break from wearing their mask as needed. During mask breaks, campers will be stationary and spread out at least six feet apart (for example, lying on the playing field watching clouds for 5 minutes and having a mask break).

Drop Off/Pick Up at Day Camp and Health Screening into Camp

We are relying on everyone at camp to take responsibility for their health and the health of our camp community. Before dropping your camper off at summer day camp, please review these screening questions each day, and take her temperature; campers with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be allowed to attend camp. If you know that your camper will not pass the screening, please keep your camper home and call camp to let us know your camper will not be attending camp that day.

Daily Health Screening

During the daily screening our camp staff will wear masks and temperatures will be taken at check in each morning. The only information that will be recorded at check in is that your camper was health screened into camp - temperatures will not be kept or tracked.

Daily health screening questions:

Have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms in the last 10 days: sore throat, cough, chills, body aches for unknown reasons, diarrhea?

Shortness of breath for unknown reasons, new loss of smell, loss of taste, or fever at or above 100.4°F Fahrenheit or higher?

Has anyone in your household been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Are you ready for me to take your temperature this morning? *GSGWM summer camps use touch-free thermometers.

Drop Off and Check In to Day Camp

Day camp check-in begins at 8:40 a.m. Camp staff will screen campers into camp at your vehicle. Following check-in, campers will join their camper patrols and staff.

Pick up is between 4:00-5:00 p.m.; see below for pick-up procedures.

Kettleford: Drive to the upper parking lot, passing the entrance gate and sign. Turn left into the second entrance, and line up with the cars in the check-in lines; staff may help direct you to a particular line to keep cars off the road.

At the check-in station, a staff person will ask your camper the COVID-19 screening questions, take your camper's temperature, and ask who will be picking up your camper that day (to be sure they are on your permission list). Campers, once checked in, will go join their patrol on the field. Cars will merge into one line and out of camp, turning right onto Camp Allen Road. There will be a pull-off area if you need to see the Camp Director or Health Supervisor.

Seawood: Turn in to the marked entrance to camp, form two lines of drop-off cars; staff may help direct you to the line with openings.

At the check-in station, a staff person will ask your camper the COVID-19 screening questions, take your camper's temperature, and ask who will be picking up your camper that day (to be sure they are on your permission list). Campers, once checked in, will go join their patrol near the Roost building. There will be a pull-off area if you need to see the Camp Director or Health Supervisor.

Twin Hills: Turn in to the marked entrance to camp and park in an available spot in the first or second lot. A staff person will approach your car, ask your camper the COVID-19 screening

questions, take your camper's temperature, and ask who will be picking up your camper that day (to be sure they are on your permission list). Campers, once checked in, will go join their patrol on the archery field...

Farnsworth Day: Drive in to camp, and follow the directional signs. Near the Ranger Station, a staff person will approach your car, ask your camper the COVID-19 screening questions, take your camper's temperature, and ask who will be picking up your camper that day (to be sure they are on your permission list). Campers, once checked in, will go join their patrol on the field or in Kaflik (if raining). There will be a pull-off area if you need to see the Camp Director or Health Supervisor.

Bus riders - Drop Off (mornings) and Pick Up (afternoons)

Campers riding on the bus will be screened onto the bus. Each camper will be asked the screening questions, have her temperature taken, and confirm how she will be picked up at the bus stop. Girls riding the bus may sit with other girls from their camp patrol or siblings during their ride to camp; otherwise campers sit one to a seat with an open seat in between.

Campers returning home on the bus will be able to ride with siblings or other girls from their camp patrol. Adults picking up girls from the bus will need to show photo ID and must be on the camper's approved pick up list from her health form. Buses leave camp at 4:00 p.m. daily; see the Day Camp Family Guide for bus stop times and locations.

Pick Up at Day Camps

Camp check-out begins at 4:00 p.m. at camp following the same pattern as check in. Campers must be picked up before 5:00 p.m. The adult picking up their camper will need to show photo ID and be verified; the camper will then be released from their patrol to that adult. This summer, the adult will not sign their camper out of camp; our staff will note the name of the person picking up and check the camper off. Remember that campers will not be released to any adult without a photo ID or who is not listed on the approved pick up list on the camper health form.

Wednesday Night Family Night - Join us from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at camp

Campers can stay late on Wednesdays at camp. They'll have a cookout dinner, and camper families are invited to join us beginning at 6:00 p.m. Families will be checked into camp at the upper parking lot with a health screening and temperature check; masks must be worn. Photo ID will be checked and the camper will be checked out to the family; the family can then tour camp together and join the campfire program with their camper. Please maintain 6 feet of distance between family groups when gathering at the fire circle.

Meals/Snacks/Cook Outs

Campers and staff pack and bring their snacks, lunch, and water bottle to camp every day. Please pack the lunch and water bottle in your camper's backpack to make keeping track of her items easier.

Snack

Patrols are scheduled for snack time in the morning. Patrols will use the restroom and wash their hands at their assigned locations, and are able to spread out to remove their masks and eat at their unit picnic tables. Picnic tables are cleaned before and after snack by the Unit Assistant (counselor). Per the department of health, campers may not trade or share food. Patrols go together to wash their hands after eating. Uneaten food, trash, and recycling will be collected in a trash bag by the Unit Assistant and disposed of in the camp dumpster/recycling.

Lunch

Patrols are scheduled for lunch time around noon each day. Patrols will use the restroom and wash their hands at their assigned locations, and are able to spread out to eat at their unit picnic tables. Picnic tables are cleaned before and after lunch by the Unit Assistant (counselor). Patrols go together to wash their hands after eating. Per the department of health, campers may not trade or share food. Campers may choose to bring home uneaten items. Uneaten food, trash, and recycling will be collected in a trash bag by the Unit Assistant and disposed of in the camp dumpster/recycling.

Cook Outs

The purpose of a cookout at day camp is to practice cooking and dishwashing skills in the outdoors. Girls will plan a weekly cookout of a dessert item to prepare, eat, and clean up together. Every effort will be made to plan items that girls can prepare and eat as individuals. Campers will wash their hands before cooking or baking; stirring utensils and cutting knives will be washed before being shared between campers. Campers and staff will wear face masks for all cooking and baking activities. Campers will be given separate tasks to complete and places to stand while cooking together. While dishwashing is a three step process at camp - wash, rinse, and sanitize; we recommend families rewash dishes washed at camp before home use.

Camp Traditions

A great deal of the fun at camp is the traditions we love to see year after year. For this year, please see these guidelines for keeping safe while sharing our favorite camp traditions.

Camp Songs

Singing is the most traditional part of camp, and we will continue to make this part of our camp day. Since most songs at day camps are loud, silly, and have arm and leg motions, spreading out to sing camp songs will feel much the same to our campers. We will sing with face masks on and social distance between singers. Family night singing will have campers in family units, spread out around the campfire; masks will be required.

Flag Ceremony

Flag ceremony is where we start and end our camp day, where announcements are made, and where our whole camp is gathered twice per day for a few minutes. We will still gather for flag, but we will gather in our patrols, with distance between patrols, and masks will be worn.

All-Camp Activity

The weekly all-camp based on the weekly theme of the camp is a big tradition at GSGWM camps. Generally, girls participate (or compete!) in the all-camps as a patrol, in small groups of girls. We will design the overall all-camp activity so that girls participate with their patrols, and we will wear masks and maintain social distancing from each other.

Theme Days: Tall Socks, Tutu, Tiara, Tie-Dye, Crazy Hair, Twin Days...

Any day at day camp can have a theme that invites campers to have wacky hair, dress like a twin, or anything else our campers can dream up. As long as we can safely wear a mask and maintain social distance, we are excited to see what our campers dream up this summer.

Kapers

Campers will continue to contribute to the cleanliness of their camp through kapers. Kapers may include fire-building tasks at cookout, sweeping buildings or their Adirondack, washing their picnic tables, bringing their trash to the dumpster/recycling, or tidying their restroom and handwashing area. Staff will do any task requiring sanitizing or deep cleaning.

Activity Areas

For every activity area, campers will wash their hands before the activity, and have hand sanitizer available at the activity to use between contacts with equipment. At all activity areas, masks will be worn unless it is a safety hazard and expressly written. Campers attend activities in their patrols, and will maintain social distance from other patrols.

Field Games/Gaga Pit

Materials that are easily cleaned will be available for play (such as balls, hula hoops, and others with non-porous surfaces). Campers will wash hands prior to and post play, and hand sanitizer will be available. Field games that support physical distancing will be allowed, for example, tag will be played by tagging with pool noodles; fishy, fishy can also be played with pool noodle tagging.

Arts and Crafts

Campers will spread out at picnic tables in the craft area. All shared supplies (paintbrushes, scissors, etc.) will be cleaned between uses.

Low Ropes Course: Bouldering Wall/Balance Beam/Spiderweb

Campers will participate in patrols, so girls can “spot” (support) each other in climbing activities. Campers will hand sanitize after each climb on the bouldering wall.

Target Sports: Slingshots/Archery/Airsoft/Hatchet Throwing

Each camper will be assigned their own safety gear and equipment to use over the course of the activity time. Equipment will be cleaned between camper groups.

Hiking Trails/Nature Center

Campers will spread out along the trail in their patrol groups. Activities will be completed individually or within patrols. Picnic tables will be used to spread out for table activities.

Water Games/Swimming

Girls will have assigned swim or water games time with their patrol. There is ample space in the swim area for girls to distance from each other; water games involve transfer of water from one space to another on a big field, that water will be treated to reduce transfer risks. Girls will not wear masks while swimming or at the designated water games area. Lifeguards at swimming may remove their masks when guarding and when socially distanced for safety and to be better heard.

Canoeing/Funyaks

PFDs (lifejackets) are cleaned between uses by submersion in an approved disinfecting solution and dry. Campers will have a clean, dry PFD every time they go to boating. Boats and paddles will be cleaned by staff in between camper groups. Campers will not wear masks in boats due to the risk of sudden submersion. Lifeguards and Boating Specialists may remove their masks when guarding and when socially distanced for safety and to be better heard.

COVID-19 Exposure at Home or at Camp

Exposure at home

Campers or staff who refuse to be screened at arrival, who display symptoms, or who answer yes to any of the screening questions will not be allowed to attend camp. Those who display symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend camp.

If a staff member, camper, or anyone in the camper's family has been exposed to COVID-19, they will not be able to attend camp, and they are advised to complete a two-week quarantine. Per the health department, staff are required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to their supervisor.

Exposure at camp

If a camper or staff in a child's group has tested positive for COVID-19 and notifies camp, the staff member and campers in that group will be contacted (the name of the individual will be withheld for confidentiality) and asked to quarantine for 14 days. The remaining camp session days will be pro-rated and refunded. Camp will cooperate with the local health department as needed to reach out to exposed campers as advised.

COVID-19 Symptoms appearing at camp

To investigate any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 that appear during the camp day, staff will wear full PPE- N95 mask, gloves, face shields, and gown. Staff will address immediate health needs up to and including activating EMS. If no emergency or urgent care is required, campers showing symptoms will isolate with two staff wearing full PPE while waiting for the camper's adult/emergency contact to arrive

Return to camp: Per the department of health: person(s) with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 must not return to camp until symptom-based criteria are met for discontinuation of isolation:

- a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. AND
- b. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (recovery is defined as resolution of fever off any fever reducing medications plus improvement in other symptoms)

Vaccination against COVID-19

Due to the changing state of vaccination groups and availability in states, please refer to your state's vaccination definitions regarding exposure to COVID-19 and quarantine. Those vaccinated individuals will still be required to health screen into camp, wear masks, and follow all camp COVID-19 procedures.

Camp Closure Due to COVID-19

Camp closure for 14 days will occur as below, or as otherwise advised by the state department of health.

- More than two camper patrols have been quarantined, or
- More than two camp staff have tested positive for COVID-19 at any one time