



GSGWM Summer Resident Camp

Addendum to the

Resident Camp Family Guide

COVID-19 Guidelines

Note: Procedures may change as guidelines change
Update: June 11, 2021

Welcome! GSGWM has created this plan for our summer resident camp 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. With our Girl Scout resident Camp Farnsworth located in Vermont and our programs regularly serving girls in Vermont and New Hampshire, GSGWM is uniquely prepared to welcome girls from both states at our camps, and experienced at working with multiple state guidelines to ensure the safety of our campers.

As you read 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 are dropped off by their family, have a pre-camp health screening; and our campers already sleep in well-ventilated Adirondacks, cabins, and tentalows.

We are confident that summer 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](#)

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, the best approach is consistent application of all safety procedures - masks, temperature checks, handwashing, distancing, cleaning, disinfecting, and 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 living space and Unit Assistant (Counselor) and a Unit Leader supervises multiple patrols of girls and staff. Patrols each have assigned picnic tables, restrooms and handwashing area.

Personal Items at Camp

Campers are encouraged to pack so that all their items fit securely in a tote or duffel. Sleeping spaces have space to store personal belongings under bunks; campers will have a designated space to store personal items. 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 to take temperatures. See the Drop off/Pick up section for more details of how drop off at camp will be organized this summer.

COVID-19 Testing

Updated June 11, 2021: Effective June 1, 2021, the State of Vermont has updated their guidance for all overnight summer camps in the state of VT.

As of June 1, campers arriving at Camp Farnsworth overnight camp will need to show **one** of the following:

Proof of a negative test for COVID-19 taken within three days of arrival. A negative PCR test is no longer required; any negative test result (proof of antibodies) will meet this standard.

OR

proof of full vaccination with second dose completed at least 2 weeks prior to arrival

OR

proof of having recovered from a diagnosed case of COVID-19 within the past 90 days.

Campers who do not have one of the above in hand at arrival cannot be permitted to check in, per VT rules.

To read the entire summer camp guidelines for VT overnight camps, please visit the [Vermont Department of Health website](#).

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 activities or when singing. Campers are encouraged to pack at least one mask for each day of camp; plus a few extra for days at camp that are especially hot or humid and when campers might choose to wear more than one mask in a day.

Handwashing, Restrooms and Showers

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, before activities, and whenever needed. 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. Shower times are assigned, and shower buildings will be cleaned frequently and in between use.

Daily Health Screenings

Each day at breakfast, campers and staff will be screened into the dining hall. Screening will include asking each camper their overall health, the COVID-19 screening questions, and a temperature check. See meals for more details about the dining hall.

Staffing

Our Unit Assistants, Unit Leaders, and Core Staff are committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our camp community. Everyone is health screened into camp, 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. Staff time off will be taken at the camp in order to help limit exposure of staff to outside groups. Staff who come in daily (kitchen staff) are screened daily and work together as their own patrol group.

International Staff and Staff From Outside of New England

For summer 2021, we have hired international staff and staff from outside of the New England states to work as Unit Assistants at Camp Farnsworth. These staff will be prescreened before leaving their home country/state, will have quarantined before traveling from their country/state, and will quarantine as a patrol at camp before campers arrive. Should any of the staff have COVID-19 at camp, we have plans to isolate them from the camp community and to be sure they are cared for.

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 spaces 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 re-apply 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 Resident Camp and Initial 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 camp, please review these screening questions each day for 14 days before camp, and take her temperature daily; campers with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be allowed to check into 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; we will work with you to reschedule her week or refund your fees.

Initial Health Screening

During the initial screening into camp our camp staff will wear masks and gloves. Per the ACA requirements for resident camp, we will record your camper's temperature and answers to the COVID-19 questions onto her health form at this screening. We will also screen your camper for other signs of illness or injury, and check for head lice. Please refer to the Resident Camp Family Guide for details of the health screening.

Initial and 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 Resident Camp

Resident camp check-in begins at 1:00 p.m. Please have anyone accompanying your camper to drop off wear a mask. Camp staff will initially screen campers into camp at your vehicle for COVID-19. The following health screening station is for health form review and head lice check; at this time anyone turning in medication or needing to speak with a Health Supervisor can do so.

Check in may include a stop at the Trading Post to pick up pre-ordered items.

Luggage drop will depend on the unit where your camper will live for her time at camp. Follow directions at check in. At this time, due to COVID-19 camp restrictions, camper families cannot be allowed to move their camper into her unit as we are required to limit contact between outside family members and camp staff and campers from other campers. However, we will do everything to be sure the camper's Unit Assistant (counselor) is introduced to you at check in, and show you her living unit.

Following camper luggage drop off, campers will join their unit, have a quick camp orientation, and move into their living spaces for camp. Camper families will be directed to exit camp, with an additional stop to meet the Camp Director, ask questions, or drop off camper mail.

Pickup is between 9:00-11:00 a.m.; see below for pickup procedures from Resident Camp.

Driving Pattern: (this may change as guidelines for camps change)

Families will drive in a loop at camp, stopping at stations along the way for check in. Per the health department, we are not permitted to have families gather in groups, or stand in lines this year; and we are

not allowed to have families mingle together. At this time, this is the plan we will follow; this may change before summer camp.

- Drive in to Camp Farnsworth from the main entrance. Before the main gate, a staff member will meet your car and pre-screen your camper into camp. Once passed, drive into camp, and pause along the main road as directed for the rest of the health screen.
- Following the health screen, families who need to turn in medication, complete health forms, or see the Health Supervisor will be directed to park at the dining hall.
- Proceed to the Trading Post area and stop to pick up any pre-order.
- Proceed to the luggage drop area and meet your camper's counselors. Ask any questions and say goodbye to your camper.
- As you exit, there will be pull-off parking for those families who need to speak with the Camp Director, drop off camper mail, or who have additional questions.

Pick Up at Resident Camps

Camp pick up is between 9:00-11:00 a.m. and will follow a similar drive-through pattern as check in.

- The adult picking up their camper will need to show photo ID and be verified at the gate, they will be directed to a parking area where the camper's patrol and luggage is located. That adult will be given a sticker with their camper(s) name(s) to be handed to the staff person when picking up the camper. 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.
- Camper medications will be returned to the camper at breakfast to be added to her luggage. Please check with your camper to ensure she has her medications returned and packed.
- Once families have turned in their sticker to collect their camper and her luggage, they can drive through the camp, stop at the lost and found area, and exit camp.

Meals/Snacks/Cookouts

Meals are served in the dining hall and camper units and patrols have the option to plan their own cookouts for meals, snacks, or desserts. Every unit in camp will also plan a unit dinner cookout once per week. Campers will carry their own refillable water bottle every day.

Eating in the dining hall requires that campers and staff eat together in their assigned patrols, at tables that are distanced from each other. Patrols will wash hands before entering the dining hall and enter through their assigned entrance door. Everyone will use hand sanitizer as they enter the dining hall.

During meals, we are required to limit trips up from the table. Campers and staff must wear their masks unless seated at their table and eating. Tables will be distanced within the dining hall and on the covered singing porch; tables will be assigned to specific patrols. Patrols will set and clear their own table at each meal. Tables will be cleared and prepared for dishwashing, and patrols will exit the dining hall as called and through their designated door. For menu or other dining hall information, please see the Resident Camp Handbook.

The best news of all is that theme meals, especially dinners, such as shipwreck, silent, outdoor formalwear, pajama, and others our campers will dream up are still on the menu as long as we can still maintain distance and stay at our seats!

Breakfast

As campers and staff enter the dining hall for breakfast, each person will be health screened, to include an overall health assessment "How are you feeling today?," the COVID-19 screening questions, and a temperature check.

Breakfast will be a buffet-style meal where campers, one patrol at a time, can pass along the salad bar and choose individual items (cereals, yogurts, juices); then through the pass through kitchen window to choose hot items that change daily. Patrols will join their table and eat with their patrol. Once the dining hall is full, seconds will be collected by the Unit Assistant from each table to minimize contact between groups.

Lunch

Lunches are grab-and-go. After the patrol has washed and sanitized their hands, campers enter the dining hall and choose lunch items at the salad bar. At this time, lunches will be boxed ahead of time and campers choose a prepared lunch; this may change to choosing individual items as permitted. Camper patrols take their lunches and may eat outdoors at picnic tables, in program areas, or in canoes (floating lunch) as planned by the campers. Uneaten food, trash, and recycling will be collected in a trash bag by the Unit Assistant and disposed of in the camp dumpster/recycling.

Dinner

Dinner is eaten family style in the dining hall. After patrols wash and sanitize hands, patrols enter the dining hall and join their designated table. Grace will be sung with campers spread out and masks on. The Unit Assistant will go to the kitchen pass through window and collect dinner items, then will serve items to the campers in their places at the table to minimize shared utensils and utensil-to-plate contact. Campers with special food needs will be served at the kitchen pass through window by patrol. Seconds will be collected by the UA to minimize contact between groups.

Cookouts

The purpose of a cookout at resident camp is to practice cooking and dishwashing skills in the outdoors. Girls will plan a weekly cookout to prepare, eat, and clean up together; they can plan as many additional cookouts as they wish, including desserts and snacks. Every effort will be made to plan items that girls can prepare and eat as individuals (individual foil pack meals, individual kabobs). 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. Dishwashing is a three step process at camp - wash, rinse, and sanitize.

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. Many songs at camp are loud, silly, and have arm and leg motions, so 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. Singing grace before dinner will continue.

Opening and Closing Campfire

Always a camp tradition, these special campfires with COVID-19 restrictions will require that girls participate in their patrols, and distanced from each other. Camp staff will work to make sure that skits, songs, and talent highlights are shared with distancing in place and masks worn. These may not look exactly the same, but the spirit of opening and closing campfire will remain part of camp this summer.

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 activity 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 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 unit spaces, washing their picnic tables, bringing their trash to the dumpster/recycling, or tidying their restroom and handwashing area. Campers will set and clear their tables in the dining hall. Staff will do any task requiring sanitizing or deep cleaning.

Ice Cream Social

A favorite tradition for socializing one last time after the closing campfire, the ice cream social will continue with the addition of handwashing, sanitizing, and ice cream and toppings set out at patrol tables in the dining hall. Girls look forward to this time to say goodbye to their new camp friends and write notes to their favorite counselors at camp.

Overnights

Overnights away from our regular units often involve sharing tents or mixing up sleeping groups, so we will need to plan more carefully this summer. Patrols must be maintained, so girls can't mix and match their overnight groups. Priority will be given to programs that promise an overnight in the program description. Units or patrols can plan hammock overnights, but must have a clear plan for rainy weather. Girls can sleep in individual tents; or they can share a large space (like the barn) with 6 feet of space around each girl. Large groups (like all the riding groups sharing the barn on the same night) may not be allowed this summer due to space constraints. However, with careful planning, we expect we can have overnights away from units.

Activities and Program 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 is 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 nonporous 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 and built in tables in and outside the Joiner. All shared supplies (paintbrushes, scissors, etc.) will be cleaned between uses.

Low Ropes Course: Bouldering Wall/ Spiderweb/Whale Watch/Bouldering Cave

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.

Climbing Tower: Climbing Wall, Cargo Net, Giant’s Ladder, Caterpillar, Crate Stacking

Campers will participate in patrols, and girls will be able to spot each other in climbing activities. Gear (harnesses, helmets) will be cleaned between uses.

Target Sports: Archery/Airsoft

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.

Woodshop/Building Programs

Campers will participate in their patrol groups, and will spread out as appropriate. There are times in building programs when close proximity (lifting and stabilizing structural elements, etc.) or supervision (using band saw, etc.) is required; these times will be brief and masks worn.

Water Games/Swimming (Pool or Lake)

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, that water will be treated to reduce transfer risks. Campers will not wear masks while swimming or at the designated water games area.

Canoeing/Kayaks/Paddleboards/Sailboat

PFDs (lifejackets) are cleaned between uses by submersion in an approved disinfecting solution and dried. 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.

Horseback Riding

Safety gear (boots, helmets) borrowed will be assigned to a camper for her time at camp. In the event that equipment is shared (saddles, rakes, shovels) items will be cleaned in between uses. Masks are worn at the barn and while riding. Riding staff who are teaching lessons in the ring may take off their mask while actively teaching when socially distanced and to be better heard.

Camper Choice, All Camp Swim, and other Large Group Activities

Under the current guidelines, we are not permitted to have campers from different patrols mix for activities. This means that some activities cannot be permitted. The afternoon Camper Choice, where individual girls can choose from a variety of activities will be reimagined. Other large group activities that mix girls into groups other than their patrols will have to be avoided for this summer.

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 for their session. 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 14-day quarantine. Per the health department guidelines, note that 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

Once camp has begun, 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 be asked to leave camp and 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 session, 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 to pick up.

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