

Chapter 6: Overnight Camping

Campers who are entering 4th grade and up may camp overnight on Wednesday of the second week. AITs and Aides may also stay on Tuesday of the second week to participate in the AIT “graduation”/initiation into the Aides unit.

PREPARING GIRLS TO CAMP OUT

Spend time with your unit discussing plans and expectations for the camp out and anticipating the fun ahead. Be supportive and positive, but do not pressure girls who are unsure – there will be other opportunities for them to camp during their Girl Scout years.

Emphasize the importance of packing in a duffel bag or “Stuff Sack” (NOT a hard suitcase.) Remind girls NOT to bring gum, candy, “smelly” lotions or chapstick, and electronic devices.

What to bring:

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| ρ sleeping bag - outdoor type | ρ TOILET KIT |
| ρ ground cloth (waterproof, tablecloth sized) | * toothbrush and paste |
| ρ small pillow (optional) | * comb or brush |
| ρ flashlight (check batteries) | * washcloth and towel |
| ρ warm pajamas or sweats (pants and shirt) | * chapstick (optional) |
| ρ warm jacket or sweatshirt | |
| ρ extra change of clothes, including jeans, shirt, undies, and socks | ρ unbreakable plate, bowl, cup & eating utensils in dunk bag |

Please, remind campers to label everything!!!

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CAMP ON WEDNESDAY

Gear will be unloaded from the buses and will remain in the parking lot throughout the day until it is time to set up camp in the late afternoon, after the fire drill.

All units will be assigned a site in the Oak or Redwood areas for the overnight only. Please be flexible! Maps will be in mailbox files on Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Gather the campers who are staying over and take roll immediately after the Camp Show, before going to the road to wave good-bye to the buses. Make sure that girls who are scheduled to go home connect with their drivers or get on the bus.

There will be a fire drill after the buses leave on Wednesday afternoon. Please do not begin setting up camp until after the fire drill. Remind girls NOT to get into their sleeping bags with their clothes and shoes on, and NOT to walk anywhere in camp without their shoes.

DINNER

Food and cooking equipment should be ready for pick up about 5:00 p.m. Please wait for the usual cookout signal -- 1 long horn blast.

The cooking equipment basket will provide pans and utensils for both dinner and breakfast. Unused food can be stored in the coolers in the food truck.

As with lunch cookouts, you can expect that cooking and clean-up may take two hours, and you will want to save time to prepare everyone to arrive at the campfire on time.

CAMPFIRE

The All-Camp Campfire begins at 8:30 p.m. Thank you for helping to make the campfire a wonderful Girl Scout memory for us all.

- Have all girls make a trip to the bathroom before the campfire.
- Make sure everyone wears or brings their jackets so that girls don't have to go back to their units.
- Leaders and parent helpers please sit with the girls during the campfire.
- Bring your flashlights, but please keep them turned **off** during the campfire.
- Spend a little time with the girls talking about how their behavior can add to the special mood of the campfire. Encourage them to walk quietly to and from the event, talk quietly, and most importantly, carry the mood back to their campsites after the campfire is over.
- Keep girls together going back to the campsite; count girls before you leave the campfire.

PREPARING FOR BED

When the campfire ends, it is time to get ready for bed quickly and quietly. The goal is for all campers to be tucked into their sleeping bags and quiet by 10:00 p.m.

Please enforce the following: Quiet time is at 10:00 p.m.
 Lights out by 10:30 p.m.
 Quiet time is in effect until at least 6:30 AM

Please remember that SOUND CARRIES A LONG WAY OUTDOORS...it creates noise pollution and irritated neighbors!

Caution: Do not leave any **food** in sleeping bags or out on tables--it attracts raccoons and other critters. Keep it stored in the trunk of a car.

Tip: Snuggling in with a bedtime story can be a wonderful way to end the busy day. But beware: This is NOT the time for “ghost stories.” Although some children enjoy a scary tale, the outdoor setting in an unfamiliar place is more than many children can handle without provoking nerves and fears.

THURSDAY MORNING

The park is to remain QUIET until at least 6:30 a.m. Be sure your campers get dressed (including shoes) to make and enjoy breakfast.

Breakfast food may be picked up in the morning from the food truck near the Oak Shed. Equipment returned to the Shed must be as clean and dry as possible, ready to be stored away until fall.

Be sure to save enough time to make sure your coals are cool, your area is absolutely spotless, and to spend a bit of time reflecting on the camp session and bidding each other a fond farewell. Everyone should have gear packed and be ready to head to the buses by 10:00 a.m. Campers should carry their gear to the Oak parking lot and follow instructions for loading and boarding the correct bus. (Several buses may be combined for the trip home.)