

Chapter 9: Older Girl Programs

There are many roles for older girls at Diamond Crest Day Camp. Each is designed to provide opportunity to learn and practice increasing levels of leadership and responsibility.

Aide-in-Training (AIT)

- Must be entering grade 7 or higher
- Open to Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts

Aide

- Must be entering grade 8 or higher
- Has completed AIT training or equivalent*
- Open to Girl Scouts and non-Girl Scouts

Leader in Training (LIT)

- Must be entering grade 10 or higher
- Has completed AIT training or equivalent*
- Has been an Aide for 2 years
- Will be working with 2 adult leaders in a unit for the duration of camp, assisting with planning and management

Junior Unit Leader (JUL)

- Must be entering grade 11 or higher
- Has completed AIT training or equivalent*
- Has been an Aide for 2 years plus 1 year as an LIT, or an Aide for 3 years
- Under adult direction, is responsible for tasks such as programming, menu planning, camper supervision and instruction within an assigned unit

Junior Activity Leader (JAL)

- Must be entering grade 11 or higher
- Has completed AIT training or equivalent*
- Has been an Aide for 2 years plus 1 year as an LIT, OR an Aide for 3 years
- Under adult direction, is responsible for a specific program activity at camp including planning, preparation, gathering materials and presenting the activity at camp

**If equivalent, would need to submit an application verifying training and experience working with children and accompanied by three references.*

All About AIDES

Aides are a unique group of campers who are here to work, learn, have fun and share their own special brand of enthusiasm with the day camp program. (They still enjoy having fun like the other campers, but they have some of the responsibilities of an adult leader.) Our goal is to help each girl acquire the self-confidence and specific leadership and camping skills that prepare her for serving in a leadership role at day camp in the future.

What do Aides do?

Aides assist Unit Leaders, never replace them:

- Set up unit (knots, dunk line)
- Lead songs and games
- Plan, prepare and implement an activity
- Show how to wash dishes the "Girl Scout Way"
- Conduct and teach flag ceremony
- Build fires and teach fire safety
- Teach knife safety
- Lead songs and help supervise campers on the bus

Aides assist at the Aloha Tree:

- Build enthusiasm and help with activities
- Help maintain order and quiet when needed
- Assist with supervision of staff children, before and after camp sessions
- Show items from the Lost and Found Box to campers

Aides are aware of camping rules and etiquette.

Aides are more than babysitters or dishwashers – they are role models.

Aides may not supervise campers without an adult, nor take them out of the immediate camp area without an adult.

How are Aides scheduled?

- Aides are assigned to work in various units or on program activities during camp sessions.
- Aides are placed in situations that optimize their exposure to different camp experiences and/or age groupings.
- Aides have their own unit. They begin each day in that unit with their Unit Leader.
- Aides are assigned to designated duties from 10:30 AM until 2:15 PM.
- The number of Aides assigned to assist in a unit is determined by the number of campers in that unit and the experience of the adult Unit Leaders.
- Unit Leaders may NOT dismiss or re-assign an Aide without consulting with the Aides Unit Leader or the Camp Director.
- Aides must be at least 2 years older than the campers with whom they are assigned to work.

Day Camp Aide Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

1. The Day Camp Aide should know which qualified adult is responsible for her, to whom she is accountable, and to whom she can go for counseling.

2. The rules of the camp and the expectations of Day Camp Aides should be presented to the Aides before the beginning of day camp.
3. Each Aide should be treated as an individual who, like an adult, expects respect and appreciation for the dedication, care and knowledge she shows. (Of course, she will do likewise.)
4. The Day Camp Aide participates in the ongoing program of the day camp.
5. Each Aide should be given the opportunity to teach, team-teach or share her particular skills with girls as mutually agreed upon.
6. Aides are NOT:
 - errand girls (but will take her turn)
 - expected to be in sole charge (an adult should always be nearby)
 - responsible for discipline (but serves as a role model of appropriate behavior)
7. Aides will have some time to be with other Day Camp Aides.
8. Aides should be given a chance to help evaluate the camp; each Aide has an important viewpoint.
9. Each Aide should be consulted regularly to see if the responsibilities and expectations continue to match her skills and abilities and afford her the opportunity to grow. Regular self-evaluation, as well as joint evaluation, is important.

~ Girl Scouts of Northern California Council