

# Frequently Asked Questions

## GSME Troop Mini-Camps

### Who can sign up for Troop Mini-Camps or S'more Fun?

- Any Girl Scout troop leader and her troop.
- A minimum of two adults required, plus follow *Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints* ratios for your group size.
- Adults must be GSME members.
- No special leader training is required. Troop Camp Training is needed if troops want to have a unit campfire.

*For S'more Fun\* sessions, Troop Camp Training part 2, including Overnight Training, is required as troops will prepare all their own meals.*

### What will we do at camp?

- Troop camps and Mini-Camps are the same thing—they are short sessions (usually 2 nights) at both resident camps.
- Designed so girls and trusted leaders can together experience exciting activities such as:

- Archery
- Swimming
- Boating (kayaks, canoes, paddleboards)
- Arts
- Rock Climbing (Natarswi)
- Challenge course & bouldering wall (Pondi)
- Games & songs
- Evening all-group campfires, scavenger hunts & more!
- Lots of smiles & laughter
- Spontaneous, and zany fun!



### Camp is so much fun!

- Sites are rustic—in beautiful outdoor settings.
- Girls experience outdoor fun with trusted adults.
- Set the stage for a love of the outdoors, and a desire to want to have a resident summer camp experience.
- Girls develop an appreciation of outdoor experiences they can pursue for a lifetime.

### What is the leader's role during the weekend?

- Troop leaders supervise their group at all times, including morning prep activities, rest time & bedtime. Adhere to behavioral agreement.
- Leaders must accompany their girls to all activities and be active participants.
- Leaders must stay on the property with their girls for the duration of the program.

### Who teaches the activities?

- Qualified camp staff, often young adults, run the skills programs and are in charge of safety, instruction, and group logistics at activities.
- Please set a good example for your girls by modeling respect, adhering to the rules set up by the staff person, and following her instructions.
- Weather and other factors can affect the programs offered. Alternate activities will be provided.
- Camp directors make final decisions about any safety concerns. We trust that leaders can help their girls navigate through schedule changes.
- We try to have as many programs running as possible. Due to time constraints, leaders may not be able to participate in certain skills activities.

### Where will we sleep?

- Platform tents or tent shelters with 4 beds.
- Natarswi: metal camp cots.
- Pondicherry: built-in wooden bunks.
- Units assigned to keep your group together.
- Mosquito nets for bunks-request at check-in.



## How about meals?

- The Friday evening meal is on your own. Eat before arrival or bring packed sack dinners.
- All other meals and snacks are provided in our dining halls, unless outdoor cooking is part of a program.
- Except for Friday evening, troops should not bring food to camp, unless by prior arrangement.
- No food is allowed in sleeping quarters; it will attract woodland creatures.

## Are there toilets and showers?

- Camps have outdoor latrines, porta-potties, and flush toilets in shower houses.
- Hot showers available during established times.

## What else should I know?

### Camp life is the best life!

- Plan to get a little grubby as you have fun with your girls.
- Plan to walk—cars are parked in a central lot and all transportation is on foot.

### How do we register?

- Mini-Camp registration opens on April 1, 2024.
- Register your troop in CampInTouch at [www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/campregistration](http://www.girlscoutsofmaine.org/campregistration).
- If desired, specific troop registration steps can be downloaded on the same web page.
- **Payment in full is required at registration. Plan to make one payment for the group. The system cannot take individual payments from families.**
- For questions about sessions or about any special circumstances, the camp directors are always happy to talk with you.
- **Barbara Irleand, Camp Natarzwi**  
[bireland@gsmaine.org](mailto:bireland@gsmaine.org) | 888-922-4763
- **Tonia Stewart, Camp Pondicherry**  
[tstewart@gsmaine.org](mailto:tstewart@gsmaine.org) | 888-922-4763

**Cancellations: Entire troop or individual-3 weeks or more prior: \$10 per person cancellation fee. Less than 3 weeks prior—no refund.**