

# Preparation for Day Hike/Overnight Parents' Meeting

by Debi Lapidus, Master Trainer GSHH

Parents--Please feel free to make notes/questions as we go over this information.

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The purpose of this meeting is so that we can plan and discuss our girls' outdoor adventure together. Some of us have done troop camping before, others of us have done family camping and some of us will be experiencing this for the first time.

Our goal is that we all have a successful and fun - but most importantly - **SAFE** trip.

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## **SAFETY FIRST:**

Every person (girl & adult) must keep **SAFETY** in mind on both the hike and the overnight.

Most basic rule at camp is: **No Girl Goes Anywhere Alone**. She must have a "buddy". Girls must be reminded not to explore on their own, always tell an adult where they are going, and never to put their hands or bottom where they can't see what is inside or around.

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## **READINESS:**

Each of you as a parent must decide if your daughter is ready for this experience - in particular the overnight trip.

Girl Scouting's "Outdoor Education" handbook outlines READINESS as follows:

1. **She wants to go.** Please don't make her go. It will not be a happy experience for her or the rest of the group.
2. **She is not afraid to be away from home or parents overnight.** (and parents are prepared to let their daughter go - without having any means of direct contact-**no cell phones** except for the Leader). Keep in mind - Leaders must be able to contact a responsible adult throughout the duration of the hike and especially during the overnight. This IS NOT the time to take advantage of going out for the day/evening. If there is any problem - no matter what time of the day/night - we will not hesitate to call you to come to camp to pick up your daughter.
3. **She is willing to sleep, eat, and play with all the girls on the trip - not just with best friends.**
4. **She can cope with unknowns: strange places** (including latrines), **darkness** (no electricity), **woods at night - noises** (trees in wind, animal noises, etc.), **insects and other small creatures** (one girl over-reacting with screaming because an ant happened to crawl on her leg at 2:00 AM will disrupt the entire camp. We will not be the only troops there).
5. **She can manage with no privacy (there is none).** Everyone gets dressed/undressed out in the open (in the cabin or tent). Some have perfected doing this inside a sleeping bag or inside a large t-shirt. It provides entertainment for the rest of the group - and most bashful people take this opportunity to quick get their dressing done while everyone else is watching someone else.
6. **She doesn't always have to have her own way.** She can give in graciously - so that everyone in the group can have a good time.
7. **She can function as a member of the group.**
8. **She is willing to do her share of the work** - washing dishes, cleaning latrines, preparing food, setting table/clearing table, carrying in wood, etc.
9. **She can roll and unroll her sleeping bag, use a flashlight.**

**10. She can take care of her own clothes & belongings.** (There is limited room for everyone's "stuff" - "Stuff" cannot be left piled around the room or the tent.)

**11. She can take care of her own personal routine.** Washing up, combing hair, etc. (Troop 360 - We will have sanitary napkins available for the older girls - in case her first time happens during the camping trip--"**Be Prepared!**")

**COOPERATION:** We will be a large family living in close quarters under sometimes inconvenient circumstances. We all need to cooperate with each other. Leaders need to be able to depend on the adults to solve some "common sense" difficulties. Adult going on Girl Scout trips are chaperones and supervisors. Yes, adults are allowed to enjoy the trip - but it is the responsibility of every adult going to keep track of where our girls are and what they are doing.

Adults are expected to pitch in and help where they are needed. ("let someone else do it" is NOT ACCEPTABLE). Adults have been needed to drive a girl home in case of emergency. We need your cooperation.

Matters involving "**Correct Procedure**": Firebuilding, Dishwashing, setting up dunk lines, grease pits, - will be done under supervision/ guidance of Leader or Girl Scout who knows the correct procedure.

Cooperation Needed: If someone has to leave early - No one is permitted to leave until all sites have been inspected. Make sure all kapers are done by everyone. If necessary, have the girl leaving early the next day do extra kapers the night before.

Therefore, we must work together to get the girls up, fed, and packed up so that cleaning chores can be done. Easier said than done. Most of the girls will be too tired to get up (most of them were up most of the night chit-chatting long after lights-out). Adults also, will be crabby --having been (not necessarily having slept) uncomfortably in a sleeping bag all night.

This is where we need cooperation & every bit of **GOOD HUMOR** as can be mustered up.

## Overnight Camping Trip Tentative Itinerary

### FRIDAY -

**4:15-4:30pm--Meet** at Leaders home by 4:15-4:30 PM  
(Need to car pool girls & supplies to camp. May need 1-2 cars to transport supplies but not stay)

**5:15 pm--Arrival** at main camp & check in--5:15 pm  
Park in assigned lot. No vehicle permitted at cabin.

**5:30 pm--**All personal gear & troop supplies carried up to sight in wagons. Deer Run sight. All food in cabin. Gear outside tent or cabin. Youngest troop & first timers in cabin  
Older troop in tents (first timers will be given the option of staying in the tent or in the cabin.)

Girls who choose to sleep in the tents must be serious about this decision--there will be no changes after sleeping arrangements have been done. There will be limited extra space in the cabin.

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Please Note: from this point on -- the Time is approximate (add at least 1/2 hour to time listed)

**5:45 pm--Incoming Kaper Chart posted.** (Food storage, Latrines swept out, toilet paper & towels set up, Dunk Line & Grease filter set up. Tents swept out. Tables & benches moved into middle of room).  
Fire started for hot water (large pot & outside grate)

**6:15 pm--Set up for dinner.** Dinner Kapers.  
(Fire builders, cooks, hostesses, clean-up)

**7:00 pm--Clean-up:** Dishwashing Line (each does own)  
(Scrape off dish; Wash plates, etc. in hot soapy water; Rinse in cool water; Put in dunk bag; Swish dunk bag in boiling hot water & bleach solution (disinfectant); Hang on dunk line to dry.

**7:30 pm--Campfire Time** - Snack & Sing Along

**9:00 pm--Possible craft project** (preplanned by girls)

**10:00 pm--Set up for Bedtime**

**Cabin Kapers:** Table & Benches moved (outside if necessary). Wood brought in & put in bin. All garbage taken to dumpster or secured inside. Sweep cabin floor. Pull out mattresses, sleeping bags

**Tent Kapers:** Set up sleeping bags & gear, tie down corners of tent. Move gear away from sides of tent. Do not hang anything from guide- lines. Use bows for tent tabs-no knots if possible.

**NO FOOD or Drink in Tents at any time. It Attracts Animals!!**

**Grease Filter** down and secured inside cabin or to dumpster.

**11:00 pm--Lights Out! Quiet Time!** Be considerate of your fellow Girl Scouts. SOME of us want to go to sleep.

**Night Procedures:** One Qualified Camper (has training) will be in charge of the Cabin and another Qualified Camper will be in charge of the tents. Girls who need to use the Latrine during the night MUST let the person in charge of their unit know. **No Girl Goes Out To The Latrines Alone.**

**Emergencies:** Parents at home cannot be in touch with girls. Please do not call the camp or your daughter. In case of an emergency at home - Contact \_\_\_\_\_ (Adult with cell phone on at camp)

**Reminder:** We will not hesitate to call you to pick up your daughter if she is "sick" "uncooperative" or simply "wants to go home". Someone must be available to pick her up. Be sure to write a correct phone number on the permission form and know how to get to camp. We will have your daughter waiting for pick-up at the Camp Director's Office (by the totem pole), do not come to the unit.

## **SATURDAY -**

**7:00 am--Wake-Up Call.** Before this time, please be considerate of those still asleep. **Tent Campers:** Remember-noise carries in camp and other troops may not need to get up at 7:00 pm. Please be considerate by keeping the noise down until others are up and about.

**7:15 am--Get dressed, packed up, and washed up.**

**7:30 am--Gear goes outside cabin. Tables & benches come in.**

**7:45 am--Breakfast Kapers & Breakfast: (list menu)**

### **8:15 am--Clean-Up and Outgoing Kapers:**

Tables & benches put back along walls

Kitchen area - packed up & cleared out

Refrigerator - emptied, washed

Latrines - swept out, all toilet paper rolls removed

Dunk Line down, grease filter removed

Garbage bags gathered

Replace all wood used

Cabin/Tent floor swept

Turn off all burners on electric stove top and turn off circuit breaker

Start bringing food/supplies to leader's vehicle

Close all cabin windows - check water faucet

Police area for paper/garbage, etc.

**10:30 am--Unit Inspection** (see check out card)

**11:00 am--Parent Pick-Up at Camp.** Do not enter at the exit gate. Please observe One-Way traffic. Park in lots in camp, do not drive to cabin. Please Do Not Bring Pets into camp. Please Be On Time.

### **Supplies Needed for Overnight:**

Each girl needs to supply: 1 roll of toilet paper & 1 large roll of paper towels.

We Need: (List any supplies that parents can donate)

Other Needs: (List anything a parent can do to help)

**Please Note:** Troop funds may not cover expenses. Those who attend will be told an amount they need to contribute to cover additional expenses.