

ARE YOUR GIRLS READY TO CAMP?

Girl Scout Camping Standards - Readiness Indicators



EMOTIONAL READINESS

- is not afraid to be away from home or parents overnight (and parents are prepared to let daughter go!)
- wants to go
- is willing to sleep, eat, play with all girls, not just with best friends
- can cope with unknowns
 - ◆ strange places, including bathrooms
 - ◆ darkness (no electricity)
 - ◆ woods and night noises
 - ◆ spiders, bugs and worms
- can manage with little or no privacy
- can function as a member of a group
- doesn't always have to have own way, can give in graciously

PHYSICAL READINESS

- has stamina, does not tire easily
- strong enough to carry own suitcase, bed roll, bucket of water, pot of food, arm load of wood, etc.
- has strength and coordination needed for planned activities; can sweep and mop a floor, hike the mile, move tables and chairs, etc.

HAS NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- can plan a simple trip
- can read and follow a recipe or kaper chart
- can use kitchen implements: hand operated can opener, grater, peeler, paring knife, etc.
- can wash dishes, clean up kitchen/cooking area, and store food properly
- can make a bed, clean a toilet
- can cut wood, build a fire, build fireplace and/or can operate a camp-stove
- knows how to operate a flashlight, camera, etc.

HAS EXPERIENCE - PROVEN ABILITY

- has followed orders/instructions previously -- satisfactorily
- has been on a series of day trips, cookouts and/or has been to day or resident camp
- has done all the camp jobs usually found on a kaper chart
- has demonstrated in troop meetings her ability to pack and repack a suitcase, roll and tie a bedroll, etc.

Remember this is a guideline! These standards are intended to ensure that each girl will feel capable and comfortable while on the campout and will have an enjoyable experience.

So how do you get your girls ready to camp? Here are some ideas:

Camping Progression

If you have been in Girl Scouts long you will have heard the word "progression". According to GSUSA's 1996 version of Outdoor Education in Girl Scouts this means "acquiring the skills needed to progress to more difficult or highly skilled activities". We believe that girls enjoy experiences best if they have previously had other experiences to prepare them. This is particularly true when it comes to camping.

Taking a group of girls camping with no preparation is likely to lead to frustration and confusion on the part of both girls and adults. Here is a progression that was published in to GSUSA's 1984 version of Outdoor Education in Girl Scouts . It is very detailed and it is not necessary to stick to it strictly step-by-step, but it does give a good idea of how to proceed in preparing Girl Scouts for camping. Note: The Try-its and Badges listed after each section are only suggestions and are taken from the newest program materials.

Look Out

- Wonder what it is like
- Learn what to wear
- Learn good outdoor manners

Meet Out

- Use senses to look, listen, feel and smell in the out-of-doors
- Brownie Try-its to earn: Earth and Sky, Plants
- Junior Badges to earn: Outdoor Creativity, Your Outdoor Surroundings

Move Out

- Learn the 8 Basic Outdoor Skills - level one: Outdoor manners (includes using Kaper Charts), dressing for the weather, knots, knife safety, fire use and safety, outdoor cooking (including sanitation), simple first aid, protecting the environment
- Visit an outdoor spot
- Record your observations
- Brownie Try-its to earn: Watching Wildlife
- Junior Badges to earn: Earth Connections, Outdoor Fun in the City, Wildlife

Explore Out

- Go with a purpose
- Take a snack to eat outdoors
- Take a short trip, walking, biking
- Brownie Try-its to earn: Water Everywhere
- Junior Badges to earn: Walking for Fitness, Horse Fan (used to be Horse Lover), Small Craft, Water Fun

Cook Out

- Junior badge to earn: Outdoor Cook, Outdoor Fun

Sleep Out

- Plan an overnight
- Brownie Try-its to earn: Outdoor Adventurer, Ready, Set, Go Camping

Camp Out

- a fun first campout could be in your own backyard
- Junior Badges to earn: Camp Together (used to be Troop Camper), Eco-Action

Pack Out

- Plan a trip extending over several days
- Explore new interests in the out-of -doors
- Help others learn about outdoor wonders
- Junior Badges to earn: Finding Your Way, Hiker

Note: Be sure to have a trained first aider along on any activity away from the regular meeting place and have a signed permission form for each girl.

*****Always check SafetyWise for safety guidelines for any activity*****

For helpful links for many of the above, visit: www.geocities.com/tejas155/camping.html. All of the above information came from this site!