



# Day Camp

## Area Event Module for Volunteers

**Girl Scout Area Event Module** - step by step planning guide to support volunteers in carrying out a purposeful Girl Scout Leadership Experience event in their local community

All events will follow the standards in *Safety Activity Checkpoints* for the health and safety of all participants and all aspects of the program.

## Table of Contents

Purpose of Girl Scout Day Camp	Page 3
Brief description of Girl Scout Day Camp	Page 3
Supporting the Girl Scout Leadership Experience	Page 3
Getting Started	Page 4
Market the Day Camp Idea	Page 4
Involving Older Girls	Page 4
Setting the Details	Page 5
Planning Themes that Support the GSLE	Page 6
Deeper Dive into Themes	Page 6
Excited to Plan A Day Camp? Next Steps...	Page 6

## Purpose of Girl Scout Day Camp

The purpose of day camp is multi-fold:

- 1) To provide the Girl Scout experience to girls who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Can be used as a great recruitment tool as well. Gives girls space to build on the Girl Scout community and meet new Girl Scouts!
- 2) To allow girls who are already in Girl Scouts the opportunity to expand on their knowledge and skills in various areas, depending on the theme of the camp.
- 3) To give girls who might not yet be ready for resident camp a progressive camp experience based on the following objectives:
  - Stimulate real enjoyment and appreciation of the out-of-doors for our outdoor day camps
  - Provide training in citizenship through the give and take of community living
  - Contribute to the physical and mental well-being of every Girl Scout camper
  - Help in the development of such qualities as resourcefulness, initiative, and self-reliance

## Brief Description of Girl Scout Day Camp

Girl Scout day camp is a great way to introduce girls to the concept of a Girl Scout camp setting, having fun and learning with other girls, while giving them the chance to try something different, face new challenges, and meet other girls who share her passions. Girls learn songs, play games, make arts and crafts, and gain outdoor skills and badges, all while being encouraged to feel comfortable and be their awesome selves. From drama to science to environmental preservation – our girls explore the world around them, try new things, and build self-esteem while having a blast at day camp.

## Supporting the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

A week of day camp activities should achieve nearly all of Girl Scouts' Five Outcomes as well as provide opportunities for girls to **discover, connect** and/or **take action (three keys to leadership)**. By training and setting expectations for the volunteers who are leading activities and supervising girls, the Girl Scouts' Three Processes (**girl-led, learn by doing, and cooperative learning**) should be incorporated as determined by the participating members.

## Training and Appointment

Let your local membership director know you are interested in spearheading a day camp for the area. Upon determination that it is a good fit, once you get approval and appointment to the position you can continue to move forward. All appointed day camp directors must complete Area Event Director Training prior to beginning day camp planning. Event Director Trainings can be found listed on the council website [activities](#) tab or set up locally as necessary. Most trainings are offered during the program year so be sure to plan-ahead.

Day Camp Director training typically takes place in the late fall of the current program year. Notify the program executive once appointment has been established so you can be added to the communication list for day camp directors and invited to Rallyhood.

Day camp directors communicate through Rallyhood. Rallyhood is our one shop stop for all things day camp-communication, resources, sharing and more. We stay connected throughout the year via Rallyhood and share highlights and awesome ideas, ask questions, give shout outs- through Rallyhood!

## Getting Started

Planning and implementing a day camp is a team effort! Get started early with establishing a day camp committee. Start as early as the fall for the upcoming summer. While securing adult volunteers is mandatory and necessary to meet supervision ratios, involving and empowering older girls in the area is key to running a successful, girl led program.

## Market the Day Camp Idea

Ask to be put on the agenda at the kick-off meeting in August/September. Attend the local area volunteer meeting and announce plans and an interest meeting for adults and older girls to attend. Have the date, time and location set; stay after the meeting for a few minutes to talk with anyone who expresses interest and collect their contact information.

## Involving Older Girls

Older girls are crucial to implementing and planning a fun program for the girls- and it's a perfect opportunity to implement our mission! If there is not already a Program Aide CORE training on the council website [activities](#) tab, contact your local membership director to get connected. Plan a Program Aide Core training and Program Aide Day Camp training early in the program year to give girls the opportunity to receive training and start putting their skills to use as part of the day camp planning process. Be sure to market the training and consider offering it more than once, perhaps the fall and spring.

Continue to meet monthly or as necessary to plan and generate more ideas about day camp as well as assigning tasks. Be mindful that older girls will need specific direction, deadlines, and follow up to help keep them on task.

All Program Aide training material can be found on the council website or reach out to the program department for more information. Program Aides receive a special day camp guide as part of their training to support their learning and growth. Visit our older girl page on the council webpage to learn more about [Program Aide Training](#).

The program executive can help you with a marketing plan that can include constant contact emails through the council- emails that go directly to a target audience.

## Setting the Details

Once there are a few people committed to volunteering for day camp, the committee, preferably the older girls, can vote on a theme. Set a tentative camp week date and reach out to secure the location. Consider the area's school calendar when picking a date and strive to secure a central location if possible.

Attend the Day Camp Director training in the fall to engage with other day camp directors, learn new updates and continue planning. The Day Camp Director Notebook received as part of day camp director training will encompass all the planning details for a successful day camp that are not outlined in this module including timelines, budgeting, fliers, schedules, working with girls, training volunteers, confirmation packets, safety, and more!

## Planning Themes that Support the GSLE

While day camp is about fun and making friends, it should also encompass the Girl Scout processes that set us apart from other community programs- Girl-Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning. Girl Scout Journey's, Badges, Patch Programs, and the VTK are all tools that can be utilized in planning. Once a theme is decided, look to local experts as resources to visit camp to help deliver and support hands-on fun, learning.

Please be cautioned to not be so badge earning or journey centric with your theme; you may unknowingly alienate girls who have already earned the awards that may otherwise have registered for camp. Finding the right balance of Girl Scout programming mixed with other activities is key. Check out the sample schedules by theme to get started.

Examples of Day Camp themes that are popular with the girls:

- Anything having to do with animals- animal detective, animal adventures
- STEM- lots of hands on science, forensics, detective exploring and experiments
- Amazing Race- challenge and team building type activities
- Outdoor skill building and Girl Scout traditions
- Water - learning about and play
- Outdoor art
- Beats and Bops- music, fashion, self-esteem focused
- General- Girl Scout Adventure

## Deeper Dive into Themes

Check out our webpage to visit each theme to see a sample day camp plan for a one-week program. All are suggested activities that can be modified while staying true to our mission- and having fun, safely.

- ❖ Animal Adventures/Animal Detectives
- ❖ Drip, Drop, Goop, and Slime, Join the Girl Scout Mad Scientist Party and have a great time! (STEM)
- ❖ The Amazing Race
- ❖ Adventures in the Great Outdoors
- ❖ Water, Water Everywhere!
- ❖ Art in the Outdoors
- ❖ Beats and Bops
- ❖ Game on Girls!

## Excited to Plan A Day Camp? Next Steps...

1. Speak to your local membership director about becoming a day camp director for the area. If agreed a good fit, reach out to the program executive to express interest in finalizing appointment to the position.
2. Seek final approval from the program executive to be appointed as day camp director. This position is appointed by and accountable to the council program liaison- program executive. Appointment term is good for one year and renewable.
3. Sign up for and take event director training if you haven't already
4. Plan to attend day camp director training when offered. Depending on the timing, a one on one training with the program executive can take place so you can be confident in starting to gather a committee and start planning
5. Attend day camp director training and submit a signed volunteer position agreement and day camp financial paperwork
6. Follow the day camp planning guideline and reach out to program liaison as needed

7. Continue to plan, market, and implement day camp accordingly
8. After day camp, complete final paperwork and meet with program liaison for current year wrap-up and thoughts about next year

**Activities to consider including based on your resources, space, certifications, etc., that can round out any day camp schedule:**

- Canoeing
- Archery (no for Daisy's)
- Swimming
- Climbing
- Hiking and scavenger hunts
- Tie-dye t-shirts, pillowcases, socks, hats
- Make sit-upons
- Inflatable water slides and water games
- Various field trips
- Invite local community speakers based on various topics